

**GATEWAY GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH INC.  
CONSTITUTION**

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**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 "Gateway Grace Community Church, Incorporated" commonly referred to as "Gateway 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 State of Pennsylvania, under which it is registered as the "Gateway Grace Community Church, Inc."

**Section 2: Property**

- (a) The title for 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. Upon dissolution, such assets will not benefit any private citizen, but will be distributed in a manner consistent with its Articles of Incorporation.

**ARTICLE IV – MISSION – VISION - PURPOSES**

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: Matthew 28:18-20 "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

THE VISION OF THE CHURCH: To be determined

## THE PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH:

### **Section 1 - Worship:**

“To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions.” (John 4:24)

### **Section 2 – Ministry/Service:**

“To serve unselfishly, in Jesus’ name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community, and in the world.” (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

### **Section 3 – Evangelism/Missions:**

“To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world.” (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).

### **Section 4 – Discipleship/Education:**

“To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching.” (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, Timothy 2:2)

### **Section 5 - Fellowship:**

“To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together.” (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5, 7, John 13:34-35)

This Church seeks to benefit people by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and cultural development. (Luke 2:52)

## **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 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 Gateway Grace Community Church Operations Manual.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP/PARTNERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Application**

- (a) Any person who repents from sin, and trusts in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and eternal life may apply for membership/partnership in this church.
- (b) Attendance at the Membership/Partnership Gathering along with a signed application and signed covenant agreement.
- (c) The application and qualification process shall be directed by the Campus Pastor according to policies approved by the Directional Team and placed in the Operations Manual.

## **Section 2: Expectations**

- (a) Keep the covenant expressed in the Membership/Partnership Gathering and encourage others to do the same.
- (b) Attend corporate worship on a weekly basis and participate in communion ordinances, unless providentially hindered by God.
- (c) Meet with other individual believers on a regular basis for the purpose of accountability.
- (d) Read the Bible devotionally and communicate with God every day.
- (e) Serve the Lord in a regular responsibility.
- (f) Manage the Lord's money in a way that honors Him, giving a tithe and beyond in worship.
- (g) Learn how to witness and seek regular opportunities to tell others about Jesus.
- (h) Maintain a relationship of peace with others, seeking to encourage, not criticize.

## **Section 3: Privileges**

- (a) Multiple opportunities for worship and service under the direction of the Directional Team and Campus Pastor.
- (b) Pastoral care by members of the pastoral staff and members of our congregation's volunteer leaders.
- (c) Ministry opportunities to serve in areas where the Holy Spirit has revealed spiritual giftedness.

## **Section 4: Discipline**

- (a) Those that follow and obey Jesus Christ are called disciples. The fellowship of this church is organized in such a way as to encourage disciplined belief and behavior.
- (b) When members flagrantly disregard the things expected of them for a period of twelve months, they may suffer the loss of privileges. The Directional Team is authorized to declare such members inactive.
- (c) The principles outlined in Matthew 18 will be followed as it relates to brothers or sisters who fall out of fellowship. Restoration will always be the goal of church discipline.

## **ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1: Lead Pastor**

- (a) The Directional Team will make one recommendation to the congregation who then shall elect a Lead Pastor to serve the church as a shepherd and leader of the flock of God. He will be responsible for the oversight of the church, feeding and equipping the saints in the spirit of Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 5:1-3, and Acts 20:28.
- (b) He shall meet the qualifications for the office of elder as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- (c) The Lead Pastor shall have authority to hire and/or fire paid staff, under the direction of the Directional Team, as deemed necessary to support church operations.
- (d) The Lead Pastor shall lead the Directional Team in its oversight of all church operations.
- (e) The Lead Pastor serves at the discretion of the Directional Team and the members/partners of the Church

### **Section 2: Directional Team**

- (a) The authorized number of Directors shall be determined by the Directional Team, provided that such number shall not be less than three (3), nor more than ten (10).
- (b) The Directional Team shall include the officers of the church. These are the Lead Pastor/Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Chief Operational Officer.
- (c) Directors shall be appointed via the nomination, approval, and training process documented in the Church Operations Manual. This process will be primarily driven by prayer, consensus and collective agreement within the Directional Team with final approval by the Lead Pastor.
- (d) Each Director may serve successive terms (two years) and shall hold office until resignation or removal.

- (e) A Director may be removed from office via the process described in the Church Operations Manual. This process will be primarily driven by prayer, consensus and collective agreement within the Directional Team with final approval by the Lead Pastor, except in the situation involving the performance of the Lead Pastor, wherein the final decision will be made by the other members of the Directional Team and presented to the Membership/Partnership of the church for a vote. In either situation, if further input is necessary a vote shall be taken by those that make up the Core Leadership Team along with those approved and actively serving Elders. The Directional Team collectively shall hold the Lead Pastor and all Campus Pastors accountable in all areas of oversight.
- (f) The Directional Team shall assume primary responsibility for all ministry and business direction. It shall establish the direction for the church and then delegate appropriate responsibilities to ministry teams.

### **Section 3: Elders and Trustees**

- (a) The Directional Team shall recognize Elders who shall provide spiritual oversight, care and counsel to the Directional Team, Pastors, Ministry and Life Group leaders, and members of the Gateway congregation.
- (b) Elders shall be appointed by the Directional Team via the nomination, approval, and training process documented in the Church Operations Manual. This process will be primarily driven by prayer, consensus and collective agreement within the Directional Team.
- (c) Those confirmed to eldership shall meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- (d) The Elders shall have the following responsibilities:
  - i. To provide spiritual counsel to the Directional Team, Pastoral Team and Ministry, Life Group Leaders, and members of the Gateway congregation. Such counsel shall be provided at the discretion of the Directional Team
  - ii. To conduct such other duties and activities as the Directional Team or Campus Pastor may designate from time to time.
- (e) The Directional Team shall, from time to time, designate the authorized number of Trustees of the Church. A Trustee may only be removed by a vote of the Directional Team.
- (f) The Trustees shall have the following responsibilities:
  - i. To provide financial counsel to the Directional Team. Such counsel shall be provided at the discretion of the Directional Team...
  - ii. To provide financial counsel and assistance to the Directional Team when determining the compensation of the paid staff of the Church. Such counsel shall be provided at the discretion of the Directional Team...
  - iii. To conduct such other duties and activities as the Directional Team may designate from time to time.

### **Section 4: Officers**

The officers of the Church shall be the Lead Pastor / Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Operations Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. The Lead Pastor shall serve as the President of the Church and shall act as the moderator of the Church. The Chief Operations Officer shall serve as the Vice President of the Church and shall act as the moderator of the Church in the absence of the Lead Pastor. The Chief Financial Officer shall serve as both the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Church and shall act as moderator in the absence of both the Lead Pastor and the Operations Officer. The Lead Pastor may not serve concurrently as the Chief Financial Officer of the Church.

### **Section 5: Lay Pastors / Core Leaders / Life Group Leaders**

- (a) The Directional Team shall confirm lay pastors to provide spiritual and material care to the members of the church.
- (b) Those confirmed, whether married couples or individuals, shall meet the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- (c) Lay pastors / Core Leaders / Life Group Leaders are prepared and directed in their work by the Campus Pastor and appropriate Campus leadership.

- (d) A Core Leader is determined by the Directional Team as set forth by the Gateway Grace Community Church Operations Manual. The number of Core Leaders is determined by the number of determined "Core Ministries" set forth by the Directional Team in any of their official meetings.
- (e) A Core Leader shall have the following responsibilities:
  - i. To provide leadership to a specific area of ministry under the leadership of the Directional Team and Lead Pastor.
  - ii. To serve the members in a specific area of ministry.
- (f) Core Leaders are prepared and directed in their work by the Campus Pastor and Campus Development Officer.

#### **Section 6: Meetings**

- a) The annual budget meeting of the corporation shall be held at a time announced by the Directional Team. A two-week notice is considered sufficient.
- b) The purpose of the annual budget meeting shall be to solicit the affirmation of the Membership/Partnership for the proposed budget.
- c) Special meetings may be held at the discretion of the Directional Team. An 8-day notice is considered sufficient as long as an announcement is given on two successive Sunday mornings.
- d) The Directional Team shall meet regularly as documented in the Operations Manual.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - ASSOCIATIONS**

This church may become a member of other associations. The congregation will assume no legal or financial obligations beyond the payment of fees for services rendered.

Membership in district and national organizations and associations is encouraged for networking, equipping and encouragement in the greater Body of Christ.

#### **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members/partners eligible to vote and present at any regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

At least 30 days notice of the proposed amendment shall be given.