

# **Bylaws of Living Grace Community Church**

4301 Calloway Drive  
Bakersfield, California 93312

## **Article I NAME**

The name of this church shall be  
LIVING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## **Article II PURPOSE**

Three words exemplify the life and body of Living Grace Community Church: Worship, Grow and Serve. Worshiping is our life purpose; growing in the Lord is our life pursuit; serving the Lord is our life practice.

## **Article III STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **1. God**

We believe in one God, <sup>1</sup>Creator of all things, <sup>2</sup> holy<sup>3</sup>, infinitely perfect<sup>4</sup>, and eternally existing<sup>5</sup> in a loving unity<sup>6</sup> of three equally divine Persons<sup>7</sup>: the Father<sup>8</sup>, the Son<sup>9</sup>, and the Holy Spirit<sup>10</sup>. Having limitless knowledge<sup>11</sup> and sovereign power<sup>12</sup>, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself<sup>13</sup> and to make all things new<sup>14</sup> for His own glory.<sup>15</sup>

### **2. The Bible**

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures<sup>16</sup>, both Old and New Testaments <sup>17</sup>, through the words of human authors.<sup>18</sup> As the verbally, dictated, inspired Word of God<sup>19</sup>, the Bible is without error in the original writings<sup>20</sup>, the complete revelation of His will for salvation<sup>21</sup> and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches<sup>23</sup>, obeyed in all that it requires<sup>24</sup>, and trusted in all that it promises<sup>25</sup>.

### **3. The Human Condition**

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image,<sup>26</sup> but they sinned when tempted by Satan<sup>27</sup>. In union with Adam<sup>28</sup>, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice<sup>29</sup>, alienated from God<sup>30</sup>, and under His wrath<sup>31</sup>. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ<sup>32</sup> can we be rescued<sup>33</sup>, reconciled<sup>34</sup>, and renewed<sup>35</sup>.

#### 4. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ<sup>36</sup> is God incarnate<sup>37</sup>, fully God<sup>38</sup> and fully man<sup>39</sup>, one Person in two natures<sup>40</sup>. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah<sup>41</sup>—was conceived through the Holy Spirit<sup>42</sup> and born of the virgin Mary<sup>43</sup>. He lived a sinless life<sup>44</sup>, was crucified under Pontius Pilate<sup>45</sup>, arose bodily from the dead<sup>46</sup>, ascended into heaven<sup>47</sup> and sits at the right hand of God the Father<sup>48</sup> as our High Priest<sup>49</sup> and Advocate<sup>50</sup>.

#### 5. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative<sup>51</sup> and substitute<sup>52</sup>, shed His blood on the cross<sup>53</sup> as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrificial payment<sup>54</sup> for our sins to a Holy God<sup>55</sup>. His atoning death<sup>56</sup> and victorious resurrection<sup>57</sup> constitute the only ground for salvation<sup>58</sup>.

#### 6. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>59</sup>, he convicts the world of its guilt<sup>60</sup>. He regenerates sinners<sup>61</sup>, and in Him they are baptized<sup>62</sup> into union with Christ<sup>63</sup> and adopted as heirs<sup>64</sup> in the family of God<sup>65</sup>. He also indwells<sup>66</sup>, illuminates<sup>67</sup>, guides<sup>68</sup>, equips<sup>69</sup>, and empowers<sup>70</sup> believers for Christ-like living and service<sup>71</sup>.

#### 7. The Church

We believe that the true church<sup>72</sup> comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone<sup>73</sup>. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ<sup>74</sup>, of which He is the Head<sup>75</sup>. The true church is manifest in local churches<sup>76</sup>, whose membership should be composed only of believers<sup>77</sup>. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism<sup>78</sup> and the Lord's Supper<sup>79</sup>, which visibly and tangibly express the Gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer<sup>80</sup>.

#### 8. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose<sup>81</sup>. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially<sup>82</sup> and to live out our faith with care for one another<sup>83</sup>, compassion toward the poor<sup>84</sup>, and justice for the oppressed.<sup>85</sup> With God's Word, the Spirit's

power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we<sup>86</sup> are to combat the spiritual forces of evil<sup>87</sup>. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people<sup>88</sup>, always bearing witness to the Gospel<sup>89</sup> in word and deed.<sup>90</sup>

#### 9. Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan.<sup>91</sup>

#### 10. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily<sup>92</sup> return of our Lord Jesus Christ<sup>94</sup>. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God<sup>95</sup>, requires constant expectancy<sup>96</sup> and, as our blessed hope<sup>97</sup>, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission<sup>98</sup>.

#### 11. Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere<sup>99</sup> to believe the Gospel<sup>100</sup> by turning to Him in repentance<sup>101</sup> and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>102</sup>. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily<sup>103</sup> and judge the world<sup>104</sup>, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal, conscious punishment<sup>105</sup>, and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord<sup>106</sup>, in the new heaven and the new earth<sup>107</sup>, to the praise of His glorious grace<sup>108</sup>.

### **Article IV COVENANT OF FELLOWSHIP**

Having been called by the divine grace of God to repent and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves up to Him, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully declare our covenant with one another.

We will strive and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian church, exercising an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as circumstance may require.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for one another.

We will strive together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel to all nations.

We will endeavor to bring up those entrusted to our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example seek the salvation of our family and friends.

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

We will seek to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation to lead a new and holy life.

We will uphold and adhere to the provisions of the documents which govern this fellowship, including its Bylaws and Policies of Spiritual Practice (i.e. Marriage Policy).

We will pray for our leaders and esteem them highly as we live in joyful submission and obedience to their leadership as those who have watch over our souls.

We will, if the Lord should lead us away from Living Grace, unite with another body of believers where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

## **Article V MEMBERSHIP**

1. Persons presenting themselves for membership in this church must subscribe to the Statement of Faith, Covenant of Fellowship, and all the other provisions of these bylaws.
2. Application for membership shall be considered by the Board of Elders or by a Membership Committee. The applicant for membership shall be a minimum of 18 years old, shall attend required membership classes, shall give satisfactory evidence of having personally trusted Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and Lord, shall have been baptized, and shall have demonstrated an affection and attachment to the body of believers of Living Grace Community Church. If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, or if there is a lack of evidence of a godly lifestyle, membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

Each member shall be presented with a certificate of membership, which shall be signed by the new member and shall include a provision stating that upon becoming a member of Living Grace Community Church, "I agree to be bound by and follow the church's Bylaws of this church." Each member agrees that the church may expel any member who is in violation of, or fails to conform to, the Bylaws, including the Statement of Faith, and/or Covenant of Fellowship, provided the church first gives the member a reasonable notice of such proposed action and an opportunity to be heard before the Board of Elders or duly appointed committee of the Board.

The member understands that the Board of Elders may exclude from fellowship any person who holds a false and heretical doctrine or who lives inconsistently with a

Christian profession (Galatians 1:8-9); any person who violates the laws of public morals or walks disorderly (2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11); or any person who would disturb the unity and peace of the church (1 Corinthians 5:11).

3. Termination of Membership. Membership in this church will terminate in the following ways:

- a. By death
- b. By written resignation
- c. By exclusion (see paragraph 2 above)
- d. By transfer. It will be the policy of this church to issue letters of transfer upon request of the church with which the member is uniting.
- e. By inactivity (see Sec V, 5.)
- f. By condition of church discipline

4. Church Discipline

- a. The threefold purpose of church discipline is to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1), to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), and to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20).
- b. Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture, as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18. Before such dismissal, however, (1) it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then (2) the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then (3) it shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed committee of the Board, at the sole discretion of the Board). If the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed committee of the Board, at the sole discretion of the Board) determines-after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19-that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the elders shall inform the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring

individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then (4) he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed committee of the Board, at the sole discretion of the Board), then he or she shall be restored to membership in the church. The Board reserves the right to review and/or limit said member's service in the church based on the severity of the infraction.

- c. The members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
  - d. Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), a member, non-member regular attendee, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with the church discipline of that person.
5. Members deemed inactive in the sole discretion of the Board of Elders may be removed from the membership rolls.

## **Article VI GOVERNMENT**

### **A. BOARD OF ELDERS**

- 1. The management and control of the affairs of this church shall be vested in a Board of Elders (this board shall be legally called the Board of Directors), duly affirmed from the male membership of the church as we understand is mandated by Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7). The Lead Pastor will be a permanent member of the Board of Elders. The other members of the Board of Elders shall consist of those members of the Board that have been duly appointed or elected. Members of this board will serve for renewable five year terms, unless otherwise specified by the Board of Elders.

2. The members of the Board of Elders shall be members of the church and shall emulate the conditions specified in 1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-3. The Board of Elders will determine the number of paid staff members that will serve on the board.
3. All corporate power (subject to limitations of the articles and to the provisions of law requiring action to be authorized or approved by the members) shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Elders. The board shall also have the power:
  - a. To appoint, compensate, and discharge officers and employees of the church, and to create and appoint committees designed to carry out the works of the church. Such officers, employees, and committees will have such powers and terms as may be delegated by the Board of Elders.
  - b. To make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law or with the Bylaws of this corporation for the guidance of the officers and management of the affairs of the church and its organizations.
  - c. To define, interpret, and defend church doctrine according to the Scripture. All teaching of Living Grace Community Church will be subject to approval by the Board of Elders.
  - d. To disburse of funds and properties and to enter into contracts, including the borrowing of money on behalf of Living Grace Community Church.
  - e. To administer church discipline according to Biblical criterions and to arbitrate disputes between members.
  - f. To select and remove the officers, agents, pastors, staff, and employees of the Corporation; to prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, with law, and with the Articles of Incorporation, or with these Bylaws; and to affix the terms of their offices.
4. Any church member with an appeal or request, desiring consideration by the Board of Elders, may submit the same in writing to an elder, who will call it to the attention of the Chairman. All regular Board meetings (executive sessions conducted at the discretion of the Board of Elders excepted) are open to any member of Living Grace Community Church.
5. The Board of Elders shall cause to be kept open to the inspection of any member of Living Grace Community Church, making written demand thereof, a book of minutes of all meetings of the elders and membership of this church; adequate and correct books of account of the properties and business transactions of the church; the membership register; and all the forms prescribed by the law, showing the details required by law.
6. Members of the Board of Elders will be nominated to the Board of Elders by a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of members of the elder and pastoral staff. All candidates for the Board of Elders shall submit a written Elder Application Form. The Nominating Committee shall review all nominations and determine each nominee's qualifications. A proposed slate of nominees prepared

by the Nominating Committee shall then be submitted to the Board of Elders, along with any relevant comments. The Board of Elders shall be unanimous in bringing these names before the congregation. An annual congregational meeting will be conducted in the month of November. At least thirty days prior to the annual congregational meeting the names of the nominees for election will be submitted in print or electronic form to the membership of the church. The members of the Board shall be elected by at least a three-fourths majority of the church membership, present and voting at this meeting. Elected elders shall assume office immediately after said Annual Congregational Meeting.

7. Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall normally be held at least once each month at a location designated by the Board of Elders. Given a minimum two-week notice, unless such notice is waived by unanimous consent, the board meetings may be held at an alternate location off-campus. In all congregational, Board and committee meetings, all the rules of order not provided in the Bylaws shall be decided by the Chairman of the Board of Elders.
8. A special meeting of the Board may be called by the chairman or by written request of two members of the Board to the chairman. Notice of special meetings shall also specify the day, time, place, and nature of business to be transacted. In accordance with the provisions of Section 9211 (a)(2) of California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, special meetings of the Board shall be held upon four days' notice by first-class or electronic mail or notice given personally or by telephone or other similar means of communication.
9. Quorum. No meeting of the Board of Elders shall transact business unless the majority of the Board is represented, except to adjourn, from day to day or until such time as may be deemed proper. Members of the Board may, upon mutual agreement, be deemed to be represented at the meeting by telephone or similar communications equipment, as long as all members can hear all conversations of each other.
10. Decisions of the Board of Elders. Decisions shall be made by majority vote. However, with prayerful consideration, the Elders shall strive to make all decisions by unanimous agreement in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding the Lord, His church, and one another before himself.
11. Action without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a vote of the Board and shall be documented by attaching the signed resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.
12. Subject to the provision of Section 9226 of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, any elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the



Chairman of the Board or the Secretary of the Board, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation.

13. Any elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board Elders is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), after thorough corroborating investigation by the elders (or a duly appointed committee of the Board, at the sole discretion of the Board), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. When an elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service, as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.
14. Interim additions and filling of vacancies. Additional elders may be appointed to the Board by unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. The candidate will be subject to election at the next Annual Meeting of the congregation.
15. Indemnification. Living Grace Community Church shall indemnify any person who is or was a director, officer, employee, or other agent of the Corporation or any other person defined by California Corporation Code Section 9246 to the full extent allowed and provided for in said California Corporation Code 9246, which is (and any successor provision in the law) incorporated in its entirety herein and made a part hereof. Said indemnification shall include but not be limited to any threatened, pending, or completed action or proceeding as defined in said section and shall include expenses as defined in said section, including but not limited to attorney fees, defense costs, and any expense of establishing a right to indemnification under said section. These indemnification provisions shall apply only if a person acted in good faith and in a manner believed to be in the best interest of Living Grace Community Church.
16. Fees and Compensation. Elders shall not receive any stated or fixed salary for their services; however, nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any elders from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation. Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from Living Grace Community Church shall abstain from the determination of the nature or amount of said compensation.

## B. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

1. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the congregation shall be held during the month of November at the church for the following purposes:
  - a. The election of elders
  - b. The adoption of a budget for the following fiscal year

2. Conducting such other business as is deemed appropriate
2. The membership must be notified by regular or electronic mail at least thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting. The notification will include the proposed annual budget, slate of proposed new elders, and any other business that is to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
3. Special Meetings. A special meeting of the congregation can be called by the Board of Elders, specifying the nature of business to be transacted, by a two weeks' written, notice (regular or electronic mail) to the members. The action will become binding with a majority vote of those present and voting.

## **Article VII OFFICERS**

1. Election. The officers of the Board of Elders shall be elected from the membership of the Board of Elders by the elders as soon as possible following the Annual Meeting of the congregation.
2. The officers of the Board of Elders shall be a Chairman, one or more Vice Chairmen, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Elders may deem necessary. One elder may serve as both Secretary and Treasurer.
3. The officers shall hold offices beginning after the Annual Congregational Meeting for one year and/or until their successors are elected. They shall be subject to removal or replacement at any time by the remainder of the Board of Elders.
4. Duties:
  - a. Chairman. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the congregation and of the Board of Elders. He shall execute jointly with the Secretary and in the name of the church all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and instruments authorized by the Board of Elders or the congregation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees. The Chairman shall also have such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Elders.
  - b. Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall be vested with all powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chairman in the event of the absence or disability of the Chairman. The Vice Chairman shall also have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Elders.
  - c. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings of the congregation and of the Board of Elders in books provided for that purpose. He shall attend the serving of all notices of meetings of the congregation and of the Board of Elders. He shall execute jointly with the Chairman and in the name of the church all deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations and other instruments authorized by the Board of Elders or the congregation. He shall

keep and have charge of the minutes of the meetings of the congregation and of any such other books and papers as the Board of Elders may specify. He shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the control of the Board of Elders. The secretary shall cause the minutes to be maintained along with the corporate records of the church.

- d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have the general responsibility of overseeing the financial affairs of the church. When directed by the Board of Elders, he shall have the authority to select an independent qualified accountant to perform an audit of the church's financial records. The audit shall be reasonably designed to disclose any improper past financial procedures.

## **Article VIII FINANCES**

1. The work of this ministry is entirely dependent upon the prayers, personal services, and love gifts of its membership and other friends. Funds shall be received through free-will offerings, donations, and special gifts, as each member faithfully supporting the work gives according to 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 2 Corinthians 9:7. Funds may also be received from any other authorized activity not contrary to church policy (as church policy is defined by the Board of Elders) or the non-profit laws of this state or the federal government.
2. The Board of Elders is authorized to disburse funds as needed for unexpected and unbudgeted amounts, not to exceed 2 percent cumulative of the annual church budget in any one budget year. Any additional funds needed will be brought to the congregation for their approval.
3. The fiscal year for the corporation shall be January 1 through December 31.

## **Article IX STAFF**

3. Lead Pastor
  - a. Selection. The Board of Elders will locate and screen candidates for the position. The candidates must meet the same Biblical qualifications as an elder and must be in agreement with these Bylaws.
  - b. Calling. A call will be extended to a candidate who has been approved by the Board of Elders and elected by at least a three-fourths majority of votes cast by church members by secret ballot at a called meeting of the church.
  - c. Privileges. By virtue of his position, the Lead Pastor shall be a member of the church, a member of the Board of Elders, and an Ex-officio member of all committees.

- d. Duties. The Lead Pastor shall be devoted to the service of the church, preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering the ordinances, and faithfully giving himself to pastoral work. It is his responsibility to arrange for and conduct all regular services of the church. In his absence, the Board of Elders will be responsible to delegate this responsibility.
- e. Dismissal. If the Board of Elders deems it necessary to dismiss the Lead Pastor, the Board will communicate to the membership outlining the reason(s) for termination.
- f. Resignation. If the Lead Pastor desires to resign, he shall submit a letter of resignation to the Board of Elders. It must provide a one month's minimum notice, unless otherwise agreed upon by the pastor and Board of Elders.

## 2. Associate Pastors

- a. Selection. The Board of Elders will locate, screen and approve candidates for the position. The candidates must meet the same Biblical qualifications as an elder, and be in agreement with these Bylaws.
- b. Privileges. By virtue of his position an Associate Pastor shall be a member of the church, but shall attend the membership class as a function of the orientation process.
- c. Duties. Associate Pastors shall be devoted to the service of the church, preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering the ordinances, and faithfully giving themselves to pastoral work, according to the directions provided by the Board of Elders.
- d. Dismissal. The Board of Elders will administrate any and all discipline and dismissal of Associate Pastors or other pastoral staff members.
- e. Resignation. If the Associate Pastor desires to resign, he shall submit a letter of resignation to the Board of Elders. It must provide a one month's minimum notice, unless otherwise agreed upon by the pastor and Board of Elders.

## 3. Other Staff Members

- a. Other staff members may be hired by the Lead Pastor at the direction of the Board of Elders. Refer to the Employee Handbook for additional information.

# Article X LICENSING

## 1. Licensing

A ministry license may be issued by the Board of Elders and is given in recognition of a man's call to that ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses will be evaluated and issued on an annual basis.

## **Article XI STANDING**

This church shall remain free and independent and shall not join itself to any denomination. It shall remain its own highest earthly authority and conduct its business through its business sessions. This church, however, may cooperate or affiliate with any body of believers in conference and missionary activity where opportunity for Christian fellowship and missionary endeavor (both home and foreign) is afforded without surrendering its independence.

The Board of Elders of Living Grace Community Church may also govern other church bodies for prescribed periods of time and may set up new Boards of Elders for church plants.

## **Article XII AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special congregational meeting of the church by a three-fourths majority of votes cast, when said proposed amendments have been presented in written form and discussed at the meeting. At least fourteen days advanced notice shall be given prior to any special or regular congregational meeting for the purpose of amending these Bylaws.

Any and all changes to these Bylaws shall be recorded in the Official Minutes along with the dates on which the changes were made.

## **Article XIII PROPERTY RIGHTS**

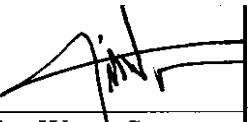
1. If division occurs in the church, the name and all property are retained by those adhering to these Bylaws.
2. Any member who has withdrawn or has been excluded or expelled shall have no right to claim any real or personal, tangible or intangible property of this church.
3. The assets of this corporation are irrevocably dedicated to charitable and religious purposes, and upon dissolution, liquidation or abandonment of this corporation, the assets, if any, shall not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder, individual, or member, and will be distributed to an organization which is both organized and operated exclusively for charitable and/or religious purposes, which is exempt from state and federal income tax, and which furthers the cause of Christ.

## Article XIV DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In any dispute arising between church members, pastors, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders of the church. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding one another before himself, and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6).

I, the undersigned, being the Secretary of Living Grace Community Church, do hereby certify that the above Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws hereof on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010 by the Board of Elders of said Corporation in a regularly called meeting on the same date, to wit, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010. Said Bylaws are, as of the date of the certification, the duly adopted and existing Bylaws of this Corporation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

  
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Jim Wren, Secretary

<sup>1</sup> Dt. 6:4; Mt. 12:29

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3

<sup>3</sup> Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 57:15

<sup>4</sup> Dt. 32:4; Job 1:7-10; Ps. 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matt. 5:48

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 33:11; 102:25-27; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Jn. 5:26; Acts 17:24-25

<sup>6</sup> Jn. 3:35; 17:24; 1 Jn. 4:8,16

<sup>7</sup> Jn. 17:11; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2

<sup>8</sup> Dt. 32:6; Mt. 6:6; Rom. 8:15; 1 Cor. 8:6

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 3:17; Jn. 1:14; 3:16; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:5

<sup>10</sup> Jn. 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9, 26; Gal. 4:6

<sup>11</sup> Ps. 139:1-16; 147:5; Isa. 46:10; Jn. 21:17

<sup>12</sup> Jer. 32:17; Eph. 1:11; Rm. 8:28; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:20; Rev. 1:8

<sup>13</sup> 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:11; 3:10,11; 2 Tim. 1:9; Tit. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8

<sup>14</sup> Matt. 19:28; Acts 3:21; Rom. 8:19-21; Rev. 21,22

<sup>15</sup> Ps. 19:1-2; Isa. 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Col. 1:15-23; Rev. 4:11; 5:9-14

<sup>16</sup> Matt. 1:22; 4:4; 19:4,5; Heb. 1:1-2

<sup>17</sup> 2 Pet. 3:15,16

<sup>18</sup> Lk. 1:1-4

<sup>19</sup> 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20,21

<sup>20</sup> Num. 23:19; 2 Sam. 7:28; Prov. 30:5; Ps. 119:96, 160; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 17:17; Tit. 1:1,2

<sup>21</sup> Lk. 16:29-31; Gal. 1:8,9; 2 Tim. 3:15

<sup>22</sup> Jn. 17:17; 1 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Ps. 119:44, 45, 165

<sup>23</sup> Matt. 22:29; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16

<sup>24</sup> Matt. 28:20; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1 Jn. 2:5

<sup>25</sup> Rom. 1:2; 4:21; Heb. 10:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:13

<sup>26</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; Jms. 3:9

<sup>27</sup> Gen. 3:1-6; Jn. 8:44; Rom. 5:12-14; 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14

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<sup>28</sup> Job 14:4; Ps. 51:5; Jn. 3:6; Rom. 3:12; 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 15:22a; 1 Jn. 1:8  
<sup>29</sup> Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Isa. 6:5; Rom. 5:15; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-2; 4:17-19  
<sup>30</sup> Rom. 5:10  
<sup>31</sup> Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 3:9-19; 3:23; Eph. 2:3  
<sup>32</sup> Act 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5  
<sup>33</sup> 1 Thess. 1:10  
<sup>34</sup> Rom. 5:1,2,10; Col. 1:20  
<sup>35</sup> Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Phil. 3:21; 1 Jn. 3:2  
<sup>36</sup> Matt. 1:21; 16:18  
<sup>37</sup> Jn. 1:14, 18; 1 Jn. 4:2  
<sup>38</sup> Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:6; Jn. 1:1; 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9  
<sup>39</sup> Matt. 2:2; Lk. 2:40, 52; Jn. 11:35; Heb. 5:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-3  
<sup>40</sup> Jn. 3:13; 10:30; 17:5  
<sup>41</sup> Gen. 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; 2 Sam. 7:11b-16; Matt. 1:1, 17; Lk. 4:16-22; 24:25-27; Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Rom. 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9  
<sup>42</sup> Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34,35  
<sup>43</sup> Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34,35  
<sup>44</sup> Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4,5; Matt. 3:15; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 4:15  
<sup>45</sup> Dt. 21:23; Ps. 16:10; Matt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Lk. 23:16; Jn. 19:16; Acts 2:27, 37  
<sup>46</sup> Matt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:39; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:20, 44-45; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5  
<sup>47</sup> Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Eph. 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16  
<sup>48</sup> Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Pet. 3:22  
<sup>49</sup> Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1  
<sup>50</sup> Rom. 8: 34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1  
<sup>51</sup> Gen. 2:15-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13; Rom. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 1:30; 15:45, 47; Phil. 3:9  
<sup>52</sup> Mk. 10:45; Heb. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18  
<sup>53</sup> Lev. 17:11; Mt. 26:28; Heb. 9:14, 22; 10:19; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 12:10-11  
<sup>54</sup> 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 9:23-24, 26, 28; 10:1; 13:11, 12  
<sup>55</sup> Isa. 53:5-7, 12; Jn. 1:29; Rom. 3:21-26; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 3:5  
<sup>56</sup> Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10  
<sup>57</sup> Col. 1:13; 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15  
<sup>58</sup> Rom. 4:25; 6:4, 11, 14; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:20; 2 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 1:19-20; 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:3  
<sup>59</sup> Jn. 16:14  
<sup>60</sup> Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14  
<sup>61</sup> Ezek. 36:25-27; Jn. 3:3, 5; 1 Cor. 12:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; Tit. 3:5; Jms. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3  
<sup>62</sup> Mk. 1:8; Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13  
<sup>63</sup> Rom. 3:24; 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 5:19; 15:22b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 1:22; 2:17; 3:28; Eph. 1:4; 2:12; 3:6; 4:32; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Thess. 4:16  
<sup>64</sup> Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5; Tit. 3:7  
<sup>65</sup> Matt. 12:49-50; 2 Cor. 6:18; Eph. 3:14; 1 Jn. 3:14-18  
<sup>66</sup> Jn. 14:16-17; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16  
<sup>67</sup> 1 Cor. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4-15; Eph. 1:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11  
<sup>68</sup> Jn. 16:13; Acts 15:28; Rom. 8:4, 14; Gal. 5:16, 18  
<sup>69</sup> Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12: 4-10; Eph. 4: 7-11; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)  
<sup>70</sup> Acts 1:8; 10:38; Rom. 15:13; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:7  
<sup>71</sup> Acts 6:8; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 3:3, 5; 5:22-23, 25; Eph. 2:22; 4:3; Phil. 2:1-2  
<sup>72</sup> Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:4-6; 5:25; Heb. 12:28  
<sup>73</sup> Ps. 103:12; Isa. 44:22; Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:20-28; 4:3; 5:1, 21; 8:1, 30, 33-34; 10:4, 9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 3:9; Tit. 3:7; Heb. 10:14  
<sup>74</sup> 1 Cor. 12:12-27  
<sup>75</sup> Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18; 2:19  
<sup>76</sup> Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 16:19; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philem. 1-2  
<sup>77</sup> Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:41, 47; 14:23; 20:7; 1 Cor. 1:2, 9; 11:20; 12:13; 14:40; 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:1- 13; 5:9; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25

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- <sup>78</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12
- <sup>79</sup> Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:15-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
- <sup>80</sup> Jn. 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29-30; Col. 2:12
- <sup>81</sup> Matt. 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23; 2 Thess. 2:13; 5:23; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:9; 5:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 6:11, 14; 1 Pet. 1:15; Phil. 2:12-13; Heb. 12:1, 14; Rom. 6; 2 Tim. 1:9; Js. 2:17; 1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11
- <sup>82</sup> Dt. 6:5; Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:37-39; Mk. 12:30; Lk. 10:27
- <sup>83</sup> Rom. 12:10; 14:13; 15:7, 14; Gal. 5:26; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thess. 3:12; 5:11, 15; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:9
- <sup>84</sup> Dt. 15:11; Ps. 82:3,4; Ps. 140:12; Prov. 14:21,31; 19:17; 22:9,16,22,23; 28:8; 29:7; 31:8,9; Jer. 22:16; Gal. 2:10; Js. 1:27
- <sup>85</sup> Ex. 23:6; Lev. 19:15; Ps. 82:3,4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isa. 1:17; Jer. 9:24; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 7:9,10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 4:18
- <sup>86</sup> Eph. 6:10-18; Heb. 3:13; 10:25
- <sup>87</sup> 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11, 12; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Jn. 5:3-4
- <sup>88</sup> Matt. 28:19; Jn. 20:21; Rev. 7:9
- <sup>89</sup> Acts 1:8
- <sup>90</sup> Matt. 5:13-16
- <sup>91</sup> Matt. 4:1-11; 25:41; Lk. 13:16; Jn. 14:30; 2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 2:2; 6:11-12; Heb. 2:14; Js. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9; Jn. 8:44; 1 Thess. 2:18; Isa. 14:12-15
- <sup>92</sup> Matt. 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7
- <sup>94</sup> Matt. 25:31; Tit. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-8; Rev. 19:11-21
- <sup>95</sup> Matt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32
- <sup>96</sup> Matt. 24:42-51; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Js. 5:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 3:3
- <sup>97</sup> Tit. 2:13
- <sup>98</sup> 2 Thess. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 4:8; Tit. 2:14; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2-3; 2 Pet. 3:10-14
- <sup>99</sup> Acts 17:30; 20:20
- <sup>100</sup> Mk. 1:15; Jn. 6:29; 8:24; 11:26; 14:1; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:22; 10:14; Gal. 3:22; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:8; 1 Jn. 3:23
- <sup>101</sup> Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:37-38; 3:19; 14:15; 17:30; 20:21; 26:17,18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:9-10
- <sup>102</sup> Jn. 1:12
- <sup>103</sup> Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:13
- <sup>104</sup> Ecc. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; 26:31-32; Acts 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 20:12
- <sup>105</sup> Matt. 25:46; Lk. 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15
- <sup>106</sup> Matt. 25:34, 46; Jn. 14:2; Rev. 21:1-3
- <sup>107</sup> Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Rom. 8:19-21; Heb. 12:26,27; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; 22:3
- <sup>108</sup> Eph. 1:6, 12