

Bylaws

Revised January 2016

Grace Community Church
424 N. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93292
Phone 559.733.3966 • Fax 559.733.1274
www.gccvisalia.org

Table of Contents

Article 1	Name	Page	3
Article 2	Purpose	Page	3
Article 3	Statement of Faith	Pages	3-5
Article 4	Policy of Affiliation	Page	6
Article 5	Church Covenant	Page	6
Article 6	Ordinances	Page	6
Article 7	Relational Commitments	Pages	7-9
Article 8	Membership	Pages	10
Article 9	Board of Elders & Church Officers	Pages	11
Article 10	Board of Deacons	Page	12
Article 11	Executive Committee	Page	12
Article 12	Meetings	Page	13
Article 13	Pastoral Staff	Pages	14
Article 14	Elections & Vacancies	Pages	15-16
Article 15	Property	Page	16
Article 16	Amendments	Page	16
Article 17	Parliamentary Procedure	Page	17
Article 18	Bylaw Reviews	Page	17
	Tax Exempt Status	Page	17

BYLAWS

NAME

Article 1

The name of this church shall be Grace Community Church of Visalia.

PURPOSE

Article 2

Grace Community Church of Visalia is a community of people that exists because of the life changing person of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are committed as a church to so live as to inspire Christ-likeness by REACHING OUT (to others), by RAISING UP (each other), and REVERENCING CHRIST TOGETHER. It is with this vision that we endeavor to fulfill the instruction of the New Testament and evangelize, make disciples, and worship our God. *Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:21-24; Acts 1:9; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 14:21-22; Acts 24:14; Romans 10:14-15; I Corinthians 14:25; Colossians 1:28*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Article 3

In Beliefs that are essential, we have unity. *Ephesians 4:4-6*

In beliefs that are nonessential we, have liberty. *Romans 14:1, 4, 12 & 22*

In all our beliefs, we show charity. *1 Corinthians 13:2*

Section 1

We believe that the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) is the inerrant and plenary Word of God and that "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of god may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." *I Corinthians 2:13-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21*

Section 2

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfection. *Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; I Corinthians 2:13-14*

Section 3

We believe in the Personality and Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, eternally preexistent and eternally God, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly Man. *Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-3, 14, 10:30; Galatians 4:4; Colossians 2:9; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8*

Section 4

We believe in the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the coming again of Jesus Christ is the blessed Hope set before us for which we should be constantly looking. "Our citizenship is in heaven from whence we look for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."

John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:11-14; I John 2:28, 3:1-3; Revelation 22:20; I Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18

Section 5

We believe that Jesus Christ became the sinner's substitute before God and died as a completely satisfactory sacrifice for the sin of the whole world, that He redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming accursed in our place, dying the just for the unjust according to the Scriptures. We believe that He rose, bodily, from the dead and with that victory accomplished the opportunity for the sinner to receive salvation. *Matthew 28; Mark 16; John 1:29; Romans 1:4, 3:26; I Corinthians 15; II Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:14-23; Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:13, 4:9-11; I Peter 1:18-19, 23, 2:24, 3:18*

Section 6

We believe that man was created in the image of God to serve God and enjoy Him forever, but that with Adam's sin, man fell from his relationship with God. We believe that the only salvation from our condition is the free gift of Grace offered by God through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. *Genesis 1:26, 3:6; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:5; John 3:3-8, 16-18, 36, 14:6; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:12, 6:23*

Section 7

We believe Marriage has been ordained by God as the lifelong union of one man and one woman in the mutual and exclusive covenant of loving fidelity. In all matters of sexuality, the Biblical standard is defined by the Holiness of God and His instruction on marriage which prohibits all other forms of sexual activity. *Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33; I Corinthians 7:1-5; I Corinthians 6:15-20; Romans 1:21-27*

Section 8

We believe that the Church is composed of all who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. It is the body and bride of Christ. We believe that every believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit and that no second work of grace manifested by special signs is necessary for salvation. We believe that having thus become members of one another, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Matthew 16:16-18; Romans 12:4-5; Colossians 3:14-15; I Corinthians 1:10-13, 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22*

Section 9

We believe our Lord established two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion), and that as often as we do, we do it remembering His death and resurrection. *Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-32; Acts 2:41, 19:4-5*

Section 10

We believe in heaven and the eternal reward of the saved. We believe in hell and the eternal punishment of the lost. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and that he works to keep men from God and to frustrate the growth of the individual Christian and the growth of the Church, both spiritually and numerically. *Matthew 25:26; John 4:14, 5:24, 28-29; II Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 2:6-7, 6:11-12; Hebrews 2:14-15; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9, 20:1-3, 10*

Section 11

We believe that Christ in all His fullness is received by faith alone and that the moment we trust Him as our Savior and Lord we pass out of death into everlasting life, justified from all things, accepted before the Father according to the measure of His acceptance, loved as He is loved, and made one with Him. *John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 6:47, 10:27-29, 20:31; Colossians 2:6; Romans 4:5, 24-25, 5:1, 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:3-8, 2:4-9*

Section 12

We believe that all believers should be careful to maintain good works and walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. We believe that though the flesh is never eradicated in this life, it can be controlled by the indwelling of the Spirit of God as the believer increasingly submits to the indwelling of the Spirit of God, a life of purity expresses the sanctification of God in the believers' life. *Romans 12:1-2, 14:13-21; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:2-3; Titus 2:11-14; I John 1:4-10, 2:15-17*

Section 13

We believe in the Great Commandment, that we should love God with all of our being. We believe in the Great Commission, that it is our responsibility to make disciples of all nations, beginning at home, neglecting neither those in foreign countries nor those in our neighborhoods. *Matthew 22:37, 28:19-20*

POLICY OF AFFILIATION

Article 4

The government of this church shall be vested in the body which composes its membership. The church may, by action of its Board of Elders and confirmation by two-thirds vote of the members present at a Regular or Special Business Meeting, choose to affiliate and cooperate with other churches or groups of churches.

CHURCH COVENANT

Article 5

As a summary of objectives for Christian conduct among its members, this Church adopts the following Church covenant:

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Christian faith and confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and relying upon the Holy Spirit for guidance, we solemnly enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We resolve, by God's help, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment.

Recognizing that God, who reconciled us to himself through the death of His Son, has now given to us the ministry of reconciliation, we shall constantly seek, as ambassadors for Christ, to bring reconciliation between men, and between men and God, both here and around the world.

We pledge ourselves to strive for the advancement of this Church in spiritual knowledge, holiness, and effectiveness of ministry; to work for its prosperity, harmony, and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances and disciplines, and to give Christ's Church sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin.

We further covenant to watch over each other in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being ready to forgive as we wish God to forgive us.

We moreover agree that when we shall remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ORDINANCES

Article 6

Section 1: Baptism

Grace Community Church practices believer's baptism by immersion to those who have confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Concerning the manner of baptism, any exemption to immersion for reasons of special circumstances must be approved through petition to and action of the Board of Elders.

Section 2: Communion

The ordinance of Communion shall be observed at times determined by the Board of Elders.

RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Article 7

Section 1: Definition - Are designed to help the people who attend our church relate to one another in a way that honors God and promotes authentic relationships. These commitments are required for membership and are intended to help us build a strong community of faith. By community we mean a group of people who inspire Christlikeness by reaching out, raising up and reverencing Christ together.

Section 2: The Commitments

- A. To Protecting our Children and Students – Children are a blessing from God, and He calls the church to support parents in their responsibility to train children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The following are required to protect the children and students of our church.
1. Read and have a working knowledge of the particular ministries handbook.
 2. Complete the volunteer application for the particular ministry.
 3. Submit to a criminal background check.
 4. Church membership is required to serve in our children's and student ministries.
 5. Church membership isn't required, although encouraged, for some special or annual ministries, but all who serve in these ministries must be approved by the director or pastor of the ministry.
- B. To Peacemaking and Reconciliation – In all conflicts as members of Grace Community Church of Visalia our primary goal will be to glorify God in all that we do by...
1. Acting in love towards other members. 1 Peter 3:8; John 13:34-35
 2. Overlooking minor offenses. Proverbs 19:11
 3. Going promptly in the case of serious offenses to the one that offended you to seek reconciliation with gentleness and respect. Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:29
 4. Refusing to Gossip. 2 Corinthians 12:20; 1 Peter 1:22
 5. Seeking the help of wise people in our church as directed by scripture when you and the other person can't solve the issue. Matthew 18:16
 6. Obeying God's command in legal disputes to not go into civil court but to seek assistance from church leaders. 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Hebrew 13:17

C. To Preserving Marriage - We believe God established marriage to be a life-long, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. But we also recognize that some marriages fail for a wide range of circumstances. Some go through divorce before having a relationship with Christ, others experience divorce through no desire or decision of their own, and some make wrong choices but have since experienced the repentance and forgiveness of our Lord, therefore, we welcome everyone no matter their marital status or situation. In order to preserve marriage as members of Grace Community Church of Visalia we...

1. Require and provide premarital counseling to ensure that couples enter into marriage advisedly and well prepared.
2. Provide counseling and support to couples who face difficulties.
3. Recognize that divorce is prohibited in scripture and therefore with only a few exceptions is not an option for our members. Malachi 2:16; 1 Corinthians 7:10
4. Believe divorce is permissible when a spouse has violated the marriage covenant. Matthew 5:31-32; 1 Corinthians 7:12-16
5. Recognize that even though divorce under these conditions is permissible, it is not encouraged. Reconciliation should be sought in all situations. Colossians 3:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19
6. When a member considers divorce at Grace Community Church, a Pastor's counsel is essential to discerning if divorce is permissible or not. Proverbs 10:13; Hebrews 13:17
7. Separated spouses who have filed for divorce should consider themselves married until the day a civil court issues a divorce decree and, therefore, should not date or be involved in any activity that is inconsistent with being married.

D. To Confidentiality - The Bible teaches that Christians should carefully guard any personal and private information that others reveal to them. Protecting confidences is a sign of Christian love and respect. Our leaders will carefully protect information they receive through pastoral counseling and are subject to the following guidelines.

1. We cannot promise unqualified or unconditional confidentiality. 1 John 1:7
2. Confidentiality means that the leader is trusted to take the appropriate action with the information that is given. Hebrews 13:17
3. In pastoral counseling our leaders do not share personal information with other leaders, but, our leaders reserve the right to seek advice when they are unsure how to counsel in extreme situations.
4. We will take action with any information that puts a person in imminent danger or harm. Proverbs 24:11
5. According to the law we are mandated reporters and required to report suspected cases of abuse. Romans 13:1

E. To Accountability and Church Discipline – God has established the church to reflect His character, wisdom and glory in the midst of a fallen world (Eph. 3:10-11). This doesn't mean that God expects the church to be made up of perfectly pure people (Rom. 3:23). We are called to spur one another on towards maturity by encouraging and holding each other accountable to love, seek after, and obey God. The Bible sometimes refers to this process of mutual encouragement and accountability as discipline. The Bible never presents church discipline as being negative, legalistic or harsh, as modern society does. True discipline originates from God himself and is always presented as a sign of genuine love. Therefore, we as a church are committed to helping one another obey God's command to be "self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined" (Titus 1:8)

1. Most discipline is private, personal and informal and takes place as our members study God's word, seek him in prayer, are filled with the spirit and interact with his people through His church. 2 Timothy 1:7
2. On occasion believers are blinded to sin. We are committed to giving and receiving loving correction within our church. Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18:15
3. If repeated personal counsel does not lead to repentance, the direction of Jesus to involve others is followed. Matthew 18:16
4. If the individual still persists in their sin, the leadership of the church is informed and they will strictly follow the commands of Jesus. Matthew 18:15-17
5. If the individual still refuses to change, then our leaders may formally remove the individual from membership. Matthew 18:17
6. The membership of the church will be informed of the action taken and instructed to follow the commands of God's word for these rare situations. Titus 3:10; 1 Corinthians 5:11
7. Voluntary resignation from membership cannot be used to preempt or preclude church discipline.
8. While under discipline if the individual attends another church we reserve the right to inform the leadership of the church they are attending.
9. Someone who is under biblical discipline from another church will not be allowed to join our membership until reconciliation has been pursued at their former church.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 8

Section 1: Definition - Membership of this church shall consist of those who have been recognized by the church through the right hand of fellowship in a public service and are 16 years of age or older. All members must confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and must subscribe to the church's Statement of Faith. Believer's baptism by immersion shall be a prerequisite to church membership. (See Article 6, Section 1)

Section 2: Admission - Prospective members must attend the membership class and fill out the application for membership. Once this is complete prospective members will be interviewed by a pastor or elder. The interviewing elder or pastor will accept or reject the application, and all applications will be reviewed by the Board of Elders. All applicants who are accepted will be extended the right hand of fellowship at a public service of the church.

Section 3: Dismissal from membership and recommended follow-up procedure

- A. Members who have moved out of the area
 - 1. They are removed from membership.
 - 2. They are removed from the mailing list at the directory update.

- B. Members who left without notice
 - 1. Personal contact will be made as soon as possible by the Pastoral staff or elders.
 - 2. Effect reconciliation if needed.
 - 3. We then remove them from membership.
 - 4. They are removed from the mailing list at the directory update.

- C. By removal
 - 1. Should any member become an offense to the Church, or become a threat to the harmony of the body, or fail to maintain membership requirements, the Church may, by action of the Board of Elders, terminate his membership, but only after due faithful efforts have been made to bring such matter to repentance and amendment, in accordance with Galatians 6:1, Matthew 18:15-17, and I Corinthians 5:1-5.

Section 4: Membership Maintenance Committee

- A. Composition to be two staff members and an Elder as appointed by the Board of Elders. Changes to the membership can only be effected by this committee.
- B. The committee shall meet during the months of September and March of each year.
- C. The source of names to investigate shall come from staff and concerned parties.
- D. Follow up shall be achieved by assigning a contact person, friends of the involved person(s) and or committee members themselves.

BOARD OF ELDERS AND CHURCH OFFICERS

Article 9

The Board of Elders shall consist of men who have been elected by the church membership. From its members, officers are to be elected annually: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. These three positions must be held by lay elders and not by members of the Pastoral Staff. These Officers shall be officers of the corporation: the Chairman shall be church Moderator and President; the Vice-Chairman shall serve on the Executive Committee. The Board of Elders shall act in all matters pertaining to the Church in its spiritual life and in the administration of its ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership and also in the administration of the discipline of the Church.

Section 1: Quorum - A two-thirds majority of the Elders shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2: Qualifications for Elders - As those called upon to be exemplary overseers of God's flock, the qualifications for Elder are those listed in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.

Section 3: Church Moderator - The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall act as the Moderator (Chairman) of all Church Business Meetings.

Section 4: Vice-Chairman - The Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve as the Chair of the Board of Elders and the Moderator of Church Business Meetings in the absence of the Chairman. He shall serve as Chairman of the Pulpit Committee in the event this committee is necessary.

Section 5: Church Secretary - The Church Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Elders and of the annual and special business meetings of the Church.

Section 6: Meetings - Both boards shall meet at least once a month. Any member of the Church may attend any meeting of the Church Board, except when the Board is in executive session.

Section 7: Personnel Committee - The Board of Elders shall be responsible for the appointment a Personnel Committee. Members will be drawn from the Elders and Deacons or by special appointment of the Elder Board. This committee shall develop and implement a system of evaluation of the pastoral and directorial staff. Regular¹ performance evaluations shall be prepared and presented to the Board of Elders. Such reports may be used by the board for performance and compensation evaluation.

¹ Revision ratified, Annual Business Meeting 1/31/16 Changed Annual to Regular

BOARD OF DEACONS

Article 10

The Board of Deacons shall consist of men appointed by the board of Elders. They shall function as directed by the Board of Elders, primarily in the areas of finance, property, buildings, and oversight of the care of the needy of the church family. Other tasks and responsibilities may be assigned from time to time.

Section 1: Quorum - A one-half majority of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2: Election - In accordance with Acts 6, Deacon candidates may be suggested by the congregation with approval by vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 3: Qualifications - Their qualifications shall be those listed in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7.

Section 4: Officers - The Board of Elders shall appoint a Chairman from among the Deacon Board members. The Deacon Board shall appoint a Vice-Chairman and a secretary from among their number.

Section 5: Treasurer - The Board of Elders shall appoint a Church Treasurer from among the Deacons. He may be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with oversight of the finances of the Church. He shall make an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Board of Elders and a summarized report to the Church yearly. His accounts shall be subject to audit under the direction of the Board of Elders.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 11

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders and Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

Section 1: Duties

- A. Provide communication and direct channels between Staff and the Boards of Elders and Deacons.
- B. Provide initial review for new concepts and new ideas of the Senior Pastor and other staff members
- C. Be an advisory group to difficult counseling situations.

MEETINGS
Article 12

Section 1: Public Services - Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day (Sunday) and during the week, as may be provided by the Board of Elders.

Section 2: Annual Business Meeting - There shall be an annual business meeting of the Church, held as soon as possible in the new year, no later than the last day of February. The election of Elders and adoption of the annual budget shall take place.

Section 3: Special Business Meetings - Special business meetings of the Church may be called by the Board of Elders or by a petition signed by twenty percent of the membership of the Church, due notice for such meeting to be given.

Section 4: Due notice defined - Due notice for calling a Church business meeting is defined as announcing the business meeting in a Sunday morning service or in the Church Bulletin over two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. In the event the meeting is held after a service on a Sunday, that Sunday may be counted as one of the two Sundays required.

Section 5: Quorum - Twenty percent (20%) or more of the membership must be present for any business meeting of the Church to be considered an official meeting.

THE PASTORAL STAFF
Article 13

Section 1: Senior Pastor - The Senior Pastor shall preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the ordinances, and as a member of the Board of Elders, watch over the membership and have in his charge the spiritual welfare of the congregation and stated services of public worship. The Senior Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the Church and an ex-officio member of all committees, in addition to his responsibilities as an Elder and member of the Executive Committee. In the event the Church is temporarily without a Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders will see that all the responsibilities of the Senior Pastor are fulfilled and may choose to appoint an interim pastor.

Section 2: Pastoral Staff - Pastoral Staff as needed may be employed by the Church. Pastors are hired by the two-thirds vote of those present at a Church business meeting. Ministry Directors may be hired by action of the Board of Elders. All staff members shall be ineligible to serve as Elders, excepting the Senior Pastor. All Pastoral Staff shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor.

- A. Senior Staff Pastors - Full time Pastoral Staff who have oversight of specific areas of ministry may oversee Assistant Pastors and Ministry Directors and attend Elder or Deacon Meetings as assigned by the Sr. Pastor.
- B. Assistant Pastors - May be full or part time Pastoral Staff with oversight of specific areas of ministry and responsible to a member of the Senior Staff.
- C. Ministry Directors - May be full or part time Ministry Staff with oversight of specific areas of ministry and responsible to a member of the Senior Staff.

ELECTIONS & VACANCIES
Article 14

Section 1 - Nomination and Elections

- A. Senior Pastor - In the event the position of Senior Pastor is vacant, the Board of Elders shall appoint a pulpit committee, who, with the Board of Elders, will determine the process for contacting and screening applicants. The Senior Pastor shall be nominated by the pulpit committee and approved by the Board of Elders prior to recommendation to the Church. Recommendations for candidates may be made to the pulpit committee by any member of the Church. Election shall be by secret ballot at a special Church business meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect the Senior Pastor. Each member present will be entitled to one vote for each vacancy to be filled.

- B. Elders & Deacons - The Board of Elders shall appoint a nominating committee annually during the August meeting of the Board of Elders. A Chairman shall be named. They shall first meet as a committee prior to September 10th. The Committee shall be comprised of three (3) Elders, one of whom shall be named chairman and one of whom shall be the Senior Pastor, two (2) members at large, and one (1) Deacon (as elected by the Board of Deacons). The committee shall select a slate of possible candidates. The list must then pass a screening of both the Financial Secretary and the Pastoral Staff before submission to the Board of Elders as a potential candidate slate. Following this process the potential candidates shall be interviewed by the Nominating committee. The committee shall then supply nominees for election by the congregation as well as the Deacons for appointment to that Board. A final list of such nominees shall be posted 30 days prior to the Church Annual Business meeting.

Section 2: Terms of Office

- A. The Pastoral Staff - Shall serve an indefinite period of time.
- B. Elders - Will be elected to serve for three years. After two terms in succession they must take one full year off.²
- C. Deacons - Will be appointed by the Board of Elders to serve for three years. After two terms in succession they must take one full year off.³

² Revision ratified, Annual Business Meeting 1/30/11

³ Revision ratified, Annual Business Meeting 1/30/11

Section 3: Vacancies

A. The Senior Pastor - The tenure of office in the Senior Pastorate shall be terminated by resignation, death, or removal. Power is vested in the Board of Elders to ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor at a Board meeting. If such resignation is refused, the Senior Pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Elders is confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

1. When a vacancy in the Senior Pastorate shall occur, an interim pastor may be arranged for by the Board of Elders.

B. Elders and Deacons

1. Vacancies - When a vacancy arises in an Elder or Deacon position, the Board of Elders may appoint a qualified man (See Article 10, Section 3 & Article 9, Section 2)⁴ to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. In the case of an Elder, the action must be confirmed by two thirds vote of the membership at the next church business meeting.
2. Removal - Any Elder or Deacon may be removed from office if he becomes physically incapacitated, spiritually unqualified, or his inability to serve is established in the minds of a majority of the Board of Elders.

PROPERTY

Article 15

No real property of the Church shall be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered without the same having been authorized by a two-third vote of the membership present at any regular or specially called Church business meeting.

AMENDMENTS

Article 16

These Bylaws may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Church who are in attendance at any regular or special called meeting for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change(s) shall have been made either from the pulpit or in the Sunday bulletin for the two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting. (In the event the meeting is held after service on a Sunday, that Sunday may count as one of the two Sundays required.)

⁴ Revision ratified, Annual Business Meeting 1/30/11

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Article 17

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard in deciding all question of parliamentary procedure not otherwise covered in these Bylaws.

BYLAWS REVIEW

Article 18

The Board of Elders shall establish a committee to review the Bylaws periodically.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Grace Community Church of Visalia is a tax exempt organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

The tax exempt number of the church is EIN: 94-2659937

This active status was confirmed in writing on February 6, 1985.