



The Path to Membership

## **Grace Redeemer Community Church** *Steps to membership....*

### **READ: THINGS YOU WILL WANT TO KNOW**

- “Why Church Membership” by Pastor Carl
- Doctrinal Statement (*What we believe*)
- Our Values (*What matters to us*)
- Constitution (*How we are governed*)

### **MEET: With an elder to...**

- Discuss your written statement of faith
- Discuss how you can serve at Grace Redeemer

### **AGREE & SIGN:**

- Church Covenant
- Church Discipline Statement

## WHY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?

Why should I bother with Church Membership? The phrase 'Church Membership' isn't found in the Bible, so why should I care about this?

That's a good question!

Let's begin with the famous question Jesus asked his disciples: *"Who do people say the Son of Man is?"* The apostles gave several answers, but it was Peter, by the revelation of God, who responded, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."* Jesus responded with the famous saying, *"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the forces of hell will not overpower it."* Notice that Jesus calls the church "my church." The Church is Christ's church. He is the Lord of the church for whom He gave His life. Here in this passage we see the word "church" used to describe *the* Church, that is, the universal church comprised of all who have come to Christ by repentance and faith.

While there are several other places in the New Testament where Jesus refers to the universal church, the most common use of the term "church" is the *local* church, made up of believers who gather regularly to worship, to serve, and to care for others. In these local churches there was structure and accountability in the congregations. For example, in Matthew 18:16-17 Jesus taught about what to do when a "brother" sins against you. Jesus taught that we were to go to that person privately. If that person did not respond they were to go again with another believer. But if that person failed to respond, Jesus said, *"If he pays no attention to them, tell the church. But if he doesn't pay attention even to the church, let him be like an unbeliever and a tax collector!"* Obviously Jesus understood the local church to be an outpost of the Kingdom of Heaven in which believers live in accountable relationships with one another. The church was not a club, an association, nor a gathering of friends. The church was, and should be today, a place where our commitment to Christ is lived out in our commitment to one another in that church. Church membership means that we take seriously our love and care for one another, even if that care could result in church discipline when a brother or sister in our church gets off the path.

**Church membership means** that we recognize our oneness in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another"* (Romans 12:4-5). In

our conversion we become not only one with Christ but one with each other! That is why sometimes we find ourselves closer to our fellow brother or sister in the church than we do with unbelievers in our own family. Our relationship with our unsaved family members may be limited by time, but fellowship as believers goes on for eternity.

**Church membership means** that we acknowledge our need for each other. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 about how the church depends on the various gifts given by the Spirit for the full functioning of the church. He wrote, *“But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted. And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? Now there are many parts, yet one body”* (1 Cor. 12:18-20). As members of the church we remember that we are dependent on each other’s gifts and skills to live out Christ’s commands to be the church that God has called us to be.

**Church membership means** even more at Grace Redeemer Community Church because we are part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. In the EFCA, and in our own constitution, the congregation has a significant role in the life of the congregation. Grace Redeemer is an elder-led church, but all major issues require congregational affirmation. This means that our church needs members who seek God’s direction in the life of our congregation and will participate in the decisions of the congregation.

**Membership means** that we consciously move away from the prevalent “Me-ism” and self-absorption so common in our society today. Mark Dever in his book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* writes, *“Joining a church increases our sense of ownership of the work of the church, of its community, of its budget, of its goals. We move from being pampered consumers to becoming joyous proprietors. We stop arriving late and complaining that we don’t get exactly what we want; instead, we arrive early and try to help others with what they are doing. We must begin to view membership less as a loose affiliation useful only on occasion and more as a regular responsibility involving us in one another’s lives for the purpose of the Gospel.”*

At Grace Redeemer Community Church we encourage you to seriously and prayerfully consider becoming a member. One of the common slogans of the EFCA is *“We are better together.”* As we work and serve together we can grow in our love for Christ and for one another. Please prayerfully read through this material. As elders we would be happy to discuss any questions you might have.

## **The Doctrinal Statement of the Evangelical Free Church of America**

### **God**

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### **The Bible**

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### **The Human Condition**

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

### **Jesus Christ**

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

### **The Work of Christ**

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for

our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

### **The Holy Spirit**

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

### **The Church**

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, 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.

### **Christian Living**

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

### **Christ's Return**

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

### **Response and Eternal Destiny**

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge

the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

# Our Values

## *Grace Redeemer Community Church*

**WE VALUE WORSHIP** as our highest privilege and calling.

We delight to praise the Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—together each week and reverently to proclaim His majesty, character and work in our world.

**WE VALUE THE SCRIPTURES**, both Old and New Testaments, as God's authoritative revelation without error. We proclaim and study the Scriptures primarily through expository preaching in corporate worship but also in small groups and individually that we might be faithful doers of His truth and not hearers only.

**WE VALUE THE LORD'S SUPPER** and share it weekly at Christ's invitation. We remember His sacrifice on our behalf, are strengthened through His presence with us at His table, and are reminded of our new identity in Him.

**WE VALUE PRAYER**, both corporate and personal, to communicate with our Father through the power of His Holy Spirit. We believe God chooses to work through the prayers of His people.

**WE VALUE MUSIC** as an essential part of our corporate worship. We enjoy hymns that we might delight in their timeless truths, and choruses that we may meditate on God's majesty and greatness.

**WE VALUE GODLY LEADERSHIP** through elders, deacons and appointed ministry leaders who seek to guide, encourage, strengthen and serve those within our congregation.

**WE VALUE OUR HISTORICAL CONNECTION** to the Church over the centuries and treasure that legacy. We confess the Nicene Creed as a faithful expression of the essential beliefs of the Church over time. We mark the seasons of Advent and Lent that we may prepare ourselves for the high points of the Christian calendar, Christmas and Easter.

**WE VALUE COMMUNITY** within the congregation. As members, we are a local Body of Christ, each using our spiritual gifts to serve and care for one another.

**WE VALUE OUTREACH** both locally and globally to share Christ with lost people and to disciple life-long followers of Him. We want to extend care to the broken and needy around us in our community.



## **Grace Redeemer Community Church**

### **Constitution**

*Adopted July 21, 2012*

#### **Article 1: Organization**

1. **Form of Government:** The members of Grace Redeemer Community Church through the leadership of the Senior Pastor and elected Elders, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, shall determine the programs and policies of this Church. The congregation will vote on the following important issues: 1) calling or termination of the Senior Pastor 2) selection and termination of elders, 3) the annual budget, 4) major facilities and property decisions including purchase or sale of real estate, and 5) amending the Constitution. All other organizational, administrative, and ministry decisions are delegated to the Senior Pastor, Elders and Deacons.
2. **Qualification of Pastors, Elders and Deacons:** Any person who accepts any of the offices or positions defined in this Article, or who serves in any capacity shall, upon acceptance, give unreserved acceptance of the doctrinal statement and shall commit themselves unreservedly to the peace and harmony of the church.
3. **Structure:** There shall be two primary Boards:
  - A governing board: (the Elders)
  - A serving board: (the Deacons)
4. **Duties of Board of Elders:**
  - a. **Composition:**
    - i. The Board of Elders shall consist of a number of members determined by the Board itself, having not fewer than three (3) nor more than nine (9).
    - ii. The Elders shall nominate and vet prospective Elders and recommend their election to the congregation no later than two weeks before a called congregational meeting.
    - iii. Each Board member shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or such lesser period specified when elected. The terms shall be staggered to maintain continuity of the Board. A Board member may serve two consecutive terms with the approval of the existing Board and congregation. After a year sabbatical, an Elder may then return to the Board if approved by the current Elder Board and congregation.
    - iv. The Board of Elders shall be self-organizing. The various functions and areas of responsibility of the Elders shall be delegated among the Board members on an annual basis. A Moderator of the Board of Elders, other than the Pastor, shall be selected each year by the Board. He shall call meetings and preside over both the Board as well as Congregational meetings. An Elder can serve as moderator for no more than 6 years.
  - b. **Qualifications:** To qualify for the position of Elder, an individual shall exhibit the characteristics described in *1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9*. They shall be in agreement with the Doctrinal statement and shall have been an active member of Grace Redeemer Community Church for at least two years.

c. **Duties:**

The Board of Elders shall serve with the pastoral staff in ensuring the fulfillment of the Mission Statement of this Church. In doing so the Board shall:

- Ensure that the Bible in all its truth is accurately taught and applied throughout the church
- Assign members of the body to individual elders as their “flock” to provide ongoing contact and care. They will update the Elder Board of areas of concern or need.
- Ensure that all pastors and paid personnel are hired, compensated, supervised, and discharged in accordance with Grace Redeemer Community Church policies. No other church staff member besides the Senior Pastor shall be a member of the Board of Elders.
- Act on behalf of and at the direction of the church in legal matters related to its duties as described herein in accordance with the law.
- Establish additional committees as appropriate.

d. **Actions of Elders**

The Elders shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of Elders present and voting at a previously announced meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the Elders unless the act of a greater number is required by the Constitution. The Moderator or Vice Moderator must be present. Moreover, two-thirds (2/3) of the board must be present. The meeting must follow standard parliamentary procedures. An Elder who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered to be present.

e. **Removal of Elders**

The Elders may recommend removal of an Elder. A congregational meeting to consider the removal of an Elder must be called with notice. The notice of the meeting shall state that the issue of possible removal of the Elder will be on the agenda. The Elder shall have the right to present evidence during the meeting as to why he should not be removed. At the meeting, the Elder Board shall consider possible arrangements for resolving the problems that are in mutual interest of the church and the Elder. The congregation must approve this recommendation for removal by a two-thirds vote of those present.

5. **Structure and Duties of the Board of Deacons**

Deacons are called according to Scripture and work under the authority of the Elder Board. Both men and women may serve as deacons/deaconesses. A Deacon will be appointed by the Elders and will serve for three years on the Board of Deacons. A Deacon’s term may be renewed at the discretion of the Elder Board, attempting to stagger terms for continuity of the Board.

Deacons, except as otherwise expressly provided herein, shall have charge of the temporal matters of Grace Redeemer Community Church, specifically, the Board of Deacons shall be responsible for:

- Holding in trust and caring for all tangible property of this church.
- Appointing such officers and committees for which it has administrative oversight as elsewhere authorized herein.

6. **Pastor**

- a. **Calling the Pastor:** The Board of Elders shall appoint qualified persons to the Pastoral Search Team. The Pastoral Search Team shall have at least one Elder and shall make recommendation to the Board of Elders. Once the Elders determine it has a man to recommend as a candidate for a call, the congregation shall be convened for a special business meeting. The recommendation will be presented with all the reasons for suggesting him as a candidate. The congregation shall then vote as to whether or not it desires to send the recommended candidate a call. If he receives three-fourths majority vote of the members present, the call shall be extended. If not, the matter goes back to the Elders and Pastoral Search Team.
- b. **The Senior Pastor** shall be a voting member of the Elder Board and shall meet biblical qualifications for Elder. He shall be responsible to the Elder Board. He shall not serve as an officer on the Elder board. The Senior Pastor is the only church staff member that may serve on the Elder Board. Moreover, no other church staff may become the Senior Pastor of this church unless 1) the Senior Pastor recommends this and 2) the members approve this by a three-fourths vote.
- i. **Responsibilities:** The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the following:
- a. Preaching and teaching the Word of God and administering the ordinances of the church.
  - b. Equipping the body to do the work of the ministry.
  - c. Exercising general leadership, administrative and pastoral oversight.
  - d. Caring for the members with the love of a shepherd.
  - e. The Senior Pastor shall have the freedom to choose his pastoral staff with the advice and consent of the Elders.
- ii. **Termination and Conflict Resolution**  
If at any time the relationship between the Pastor and the Church shall be deemed unsatisfactory, the Board of Elders shall meet with him and endeavor to resolve the matter. Both the Senior Pastor and the Elder Board are held accountable by Scripture and the congregation to make a good-faith effort to resolve any conflict. If the relationship continues to be unsatisfactory, the Board of Elders or the Pastor may bring the matter before the church. A meeting for such purpose shall be held, and all active voting members shall be notified by mail of such a meeting at least two weeks prior thereto. The Pastor or his chosen designee shall have the right to attend the meeting and to present his side of the matter. Two-thirds of the eligible voting members are required to declare the Pastor's position vacant.

## **Article 2: Membership**

### **1. Requirements for Membership**

- Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- Agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of the Evangelical Free Church of America as stated at the end of the Constitution
- Baptism. "Believer's Baptism" (immersion) will be the normative form of baptism and shall be encouraged, although exceptions can be made at the discretion of the Elders.
- Not under discipline by another church

- Members under the age of eighteen are not voting members
2. **Procedures for Membership**
    - Request for membership application
    - Completion of required reading material (provided)
    - Interview with an Elder(s)
    - Signature of Church Discipline disclosure document and the Church Covenant
  3. **Termination of Membership**

Membership in this church may be terminated by any of the following:

    - Transfer
    - Written request of the member
    - Removal by discipline
    - Removal by the Elders of any member who has been absent without justifiable reason for a period of over six months after three or more attempts to contact the individual have been made.
  4. **Church Discipline**
    - a) **Purpose:** The holiness of God requires within the church, having as its aim the glory of God, the welfare, purity and edification of the church, and the repentance, restoration, and spiritual growth of the offender (*1 Corinthians 5:6-7; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Timothy 5:20; Hebrews 12:11*)
    - b) **Authority:** The authority to discipline comes from Scripture and is administered through the Elders. (*Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:20; Titus 3:10*)
    - c) **Procedure:** The Board of Elders shall be responsible for the discipline of any member whose life conduct is not consistent with the spiritual walk of the believer as set forth in Scripture. The Board shall proceed with due consideration for the spiritual welfare of both the member and the church. The purpose of discipline shall be restoration of the erring member and the purity of the church.

### **Article 3: Meetings**

An Annual Business Meeting shall be held in the month of January at which the annual appointment of Elders shall be held and the annual budget approved. At least two weeks notice shall be given to members before the date of the annual meeting. Votes shall be cast by church members in good standing who are at least eighteen years of age. A written report of the ministries of the church for the preceding year shall be prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting.

Other Business Meetings may be called by the Elders. A two-week minimum notice shall be required before any Business Meeting. On the Sunday of the business meeting the congregation will be notified of the meeting at the beginning of the worship service. A description of the business matters to be considered at any such meeting must be included in the announcement of the meeting. Unless described in the advance notice, other items of business may not be discussed.

### **Article 4: Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. Written notice of the proposed amendment must be given or mailed to each voting member at least one month prior to the meeting. Such

meeting must be announced at the worship service on the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.

#### **Article 5: Dissolution**

The corporation is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for financial gain or profit, or dividends to its members; it is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, and net income of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes. In the event that Grace Redeemer Community Church is dissolved, assets shall first be used to pay any debts. Any remaining assets shall be given to the Texas/Oklahoma District of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

## **Grace Redeemer Community Church**

### **My Testimony of a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ**

Please share with us how you came to know Christ personally, how you know for sure that you have a personal relationship with Jesus, and how you have grown spiritually since beginning that personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

# Grace Redeemer Community Church

## Church Covenant

By the enablement of the Holy Spirit, we covenant personally:

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

We will deal with conflict as Jesus taught in Matthew 18:15-20. We will approach conflict with humility, with a goal of restoring the relationship.

We will work together for the furtherance of the Gospel as we sustain the ministry of this church in worship, doctrine, and discipline.

We will contribute our time and resources to support the ministry of the church and the ongoing task of sharing the good news of the Gospel locally and globally.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# GRACE REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE STATEMENT

*“And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’” Hebrews 12:5-6*

### **I. Definitions**

#### **A. The Church**

The church is a holy community created by God and intended to reflect His character and glory in the midst of a fallen world. God loves the church and His ultimate purpose for His church is to make it a gift to His Son; thus He calls it the Bride of Christ. For this reason the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are constantly at work to purify the church and bring her to maturity (Eph 4:7-16; 5:25-27).

#### **B. Life in the Church**

The Bible provides standards from God for the faith and life of all who are a part of the church. Elders are commissioned by God to instruct, govern and preserve local churches within these bounds of doctrine and practice. In addition, He calls individual church members to both apply the Word to themselves and also to encourage and admonish one another in it.

#### **C. Church Discipline**

Church discipline is the corrective process that God has given to the church when a member persists in sin. Such persistent sins may be:

- Personal – sins which wrong or injure particular individuals; e.g. slander, anger, bitterness, theft (Matt 18:15-20)
- General – sins which are not directed at a particular individual; e.g. heresy, divisiveness, immorality, drunkenness (Gal 1:8-9; Rom 16:17-18; 1Cor 5)
- Private – sins known only to a few (Matt 18:15; Prov. 25:9)
- Public – sins which are conspicuous and widely known (1Cor 5:13)

Church discipline is neither intended to humiliate someone nor to seek revenge. It is an expression of God’s fatherly love (Prov. 3:11-12). Those involved in bringing this correction are to be motivated by sincere love and their words and actions are to combine both grace and truth.

### **II. Purpose**

The purpose of this gift from God is threefold:

- The glory of God (Eph 3:20-21)
- The unity and purity of the church (Eph 5:25-27)
- The restoration of the straying church member (Matt 18:15-17)



### III. Practice

A. *Self-discipline.* God calls every believer to be conformed into the image of His Son. This involves hearing and obeying God's Word and results in each believer disciplining himself so as to conform to his Savior. We recognize that most "church discipline" situations start and end here, with the believer diligently applying God's Word to his life (1Tim 4:7).

B. *Minor offenses.* Though in Christ every believer has been declared righteous, the Christian life is a process of gradual change, of becoming in character what God has declared us in standing. This means that every Christian will exhibit flaws and imperfections and every relationship will include some measure of tension and disharmony. Minor offenses are those that do not endanger the safety or well-being of a believer, a relationship or a church. In light of the gospel, these are best overlooked, in the manner in which God forbears and overlooks many such traits in us (Prov. 19:11; Rom 15:1; 1Pet 4:8).

C. *Process for addressing sin in a fellow believer.* Where self-discipline fails and where a believer sins in a manner that should not be overlooked, God provides direction for what to do. Ordinarily the process moves through stages, as described by Jesus himself in Matthew 18:15-17. At each stage the goal is to secure the repentance and restoration of the sinning brother or sister. For this reason each stage may include more than one meeting. The process ceases whenever the straying member evidences believable repentance and is restored to the Lord and others.

1. *Private inquiry.* When a Christian sees another church member that appears to be engaged in sin that is repeated or serious, normally he should privately, gently and graciously approach that person to inquire and, if necessary, to confront. If repentance is required and takes place, the process ends. If there is disagreement over the need for repentance or if there is refusal to repent, he should involve one or two others (Matt 18:15; Gal 6:1; Luke 17:3).

2. *Establishing the matter with witnesses.* The concerned Christian should now involve one or two other church members, perhaps including a leader or elder, and return to the brother or sister caught in sin. If this group confirms that the brother or sister is in fact sinning, is unrepentant and is unwilling to change, then the pastors of the church should be informed so that they can confirm the facts and appeal for change (Matt 18:16; Deut 19:15).

3. *Telling the church.* If the straying brother or sister remains unwilling to change, failing to heed various appeals from members and/or elders, the elders normally will inform the church of the member and the sin. Church members will be urged to pursue the erring member and appeal for repentance (Matt 18:17; 1Tim 5:20).

4. *Excluding from church membership.* If, after a reasonable period of time, the member under discipline does not change, then the elders will inform the church again, this time acting to remove that person from church membership and instruct the church to treat the excluded member as an unbeliever. (Matt 18:17; 1Cor 5:5; 2Thes 3:14-15; 1Tim 1:20).

5. *Appeal.* If at any point a church member believes he is being treated unjustly or inappropriately in the disciplinary process, he is welcome to appeal to the elders.

D. *Public sins.* The elders may decide to abbreviate or eliminate the above process if the sin is especially conspicuous or serious, or if the member proves to be divisive, disruptive or is seen as a threat to lead others into sin (Rom 16:17; 1Cor 5:13; Titus 3:10-11).

E. *Disciplinary actions.* As the disciplinary process progresses through the above stages, the actions that may be taken include, but are not limited to, private and public admonition, withdrawal of fellowship and removal from membership (1Cor 11:17-34).

F. *Restoration.* The restoration of the straying believer stands at the heart of the practice of church discipline. Throughout the disciplinary process the elders will seek to define a biblically informed pathway of repentance for the sinning member. If a member is removed from membership, the elders will urge the church members to continue to seek opportunities to call the person to repentance and faith in Christ. When the church has been made aware of an individual's sin, they will also be made aware of an individual's repentance in a way that is appropriate to the situation and the good of the church, ensuring that as many people as possible may rejoice (Gal 6:1; Luke 15:7; 2Cor 2:5-11).

G. *If a member leaves the church to avoid or cut short the disciplinary process.* At times a member may withdraw from the church to avoid or cut short church discipline and its consequences. The elders and members of our church recognize our obligation and opportunity to restore the wandering member to the Lord and to His church. While the church cannot force a withdrawing member to remain in this congregation, the church has the right and responsibility to restore, to bring the disciplinary process to an orderly conclusion, and to make final determination as to the person's membership status at the time withdrawal is sought or acknowledged. If the elders learn that a member who left under church discipline is now attending another church, the elders may inform that church of the situation, seeking to encourage the brother or sister to repent and be restored to the Lord and to any people he or she have offended. The elders may also warn the other church to be on guard against harm that the accused might do to their members (Eph 4:1-6).

H. *Receiving excluded members.* People who attend our church, but have been excluded from another church, will not be allowed to partake of the sacraments, become members or participate in the fellowship of the church until they have repented of their sins, made a reasonable effort to be reconciled, and satisfied any biblically legitimate requirements of their former church.

# Grace Redeemer Community Church:

## *Church Discipline Statement*

- I have read the document entitled “Church Discipline Statement” provided by Grace Redeemer Community Church and understand that Grace Redeemer Community Church can and will exercise appropriate church discipline if deemed necessary as determined by the Elders. The goal of such discipline is for repentance and restoration of the person into renewed fellowship with God and with the church.
- I willingly resolve to not bring any legal action against Grace Redeemer Community Church in as much as this church is in compliance with its own procedures and policies as stated above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application for Membership at Grace Redeemer Community Church

### Contact Information (please print clearly)

|                                                                  |                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Last name                                                        |                                                                             |
| First name                                                       |                                                                             |
| First name you like to go by                                     |                                                                             |
| Physical address + City, St, Zip                                 |                                                                             |
| Mailing address + City, St, Zip<br><input type="checkbox"/> Same |                                                                             |
| Home phone number                                                |                                                                             |
| Cell phone number                                                | <u>Receive texts?</u><br>Yes No .                                           |
| Business phone number                                            | <u>Okay to call you here?</u> <u>Direct ?</u><br>Yes No Not really   Yes No |
| Fax number                                                       | <u>Circle one:</u><br>Bus Home                                              |
| Primary email address                                            |                                                                             |
| Back-up email address                                            |                                                                             |
| Your age range                                                   | <u>Circle one:</u> Teen   20s   30s   40s   50s   60+                       |
| Spouse's full name                                               |                                                                             |
| Spouse's cell phone number                                       |                                                                             |
| Children names and ages                                          |                                                                             |
| Best ways to get you information (please circle all)             | Email   Text   U.S.Mail   Fax   Phone call (which number?)                  |

September 9, 2012