

# **Constitution and Bylaws**

## **Amazing Grace Community Church, Inc.**

Established August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013

# AMAZING GRACE

Hope Empower Love

# Constitution

## Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers (Community) working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of New Jersey we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

## Article I Name

The name of this corporation shall be Amazing Grace Community Church, Inc.

## Article II Purpose

The purpose of this corporation shall be:

1. To establish and oversee places of worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Titus 1:5; Ps. 107:3; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Heb. 10:25).
2. To create departments as may be necessary in order to establish places of worship, to spread the Gospel by all necessary means, and to support other religious activity as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders to further our exempt purposes (Matt 28: 19, 20).
3. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
4. To license and ordain ministers of the Gospel and be their covering (1 Thess. 5:12; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:4; Heb. 13:17).

## Article III Tenets of Faith

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

### The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to men, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12).

### The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self---existent, self---revealed "I AM," and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and

association, by simultaneously existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10, 11; Matt. 28:19).

### **Man's Fall and Redemption**

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness." Man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31; Gen. 3:17; Ro. 5:12-21).

### **The Salvation of Man Conditions of Salvation**

The Grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by grace, has become heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Ro.10:13-15; Luke 24:47).

### **Evidences of Salvation**

The inward evidence to the believer of his/her salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Ro. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of holiness (1 Thess. 4:7, 2 Tim.1:9).

### **Baptism in Water**

The ordinance of baptism by burial with Christ should be observed (as commanded in the Scriptures) by all that have repented of their sins and in their hearts have believed on Christ as their Savior and Lord. In doing so, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been released to walk with Him in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Ro. 6:4).

### **The Lord's Supper (Communion)**

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing in a memorial to His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined to all believers "until He comes" (John 6:48,51,53-57; Luke 22:19,20; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 11:25).

### **The Promise of the Father**

All believers should ardently expect and earnestly seek the Promise of the Father, which is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. With it comes the infilling of power for life and service, and the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31). This experience may be distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the New Birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

### **Sanctification Process**

By the power of the Holy Spirit we strive to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word (Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16; 1 Thess. 5:23, 24; 1 John 2:6).

## **The Church**

The church (Community) is the holy Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer is an integral part of the church (Community), and their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (I Thess. 2:4)

## **Ministry**

Divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose:

- (1) The evangelization of the world, and
- (2) The edification of the Body of Christ (Mark 15:16, 20; Eph. 4:11-13).

## **The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation, together with those who are alive and remain unto the Lord, is imminent and is the blessed hope of the church (1 Thess. 4:16; Ro. 6:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51,52).

## **The Millennial Reign of Jesus**

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth are Scriptural promises and our hope (2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 19:1-16; Ro. 11:25; Rev. 20:1-7).

## **The Lake of Fire**

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15).

## **The New Heavens and New Earth**

We, as promised in the Scriptures, look for a new heavens and a new earth wherein righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1).

## **Marriage and Family**

We believe that marriage was ordained by God at creation as the sacred union of one man and one woman. All sexual relations must therefore be reserved for that union. Christian marriage is a representation of Christ's relationship to His church. We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord. Thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception. We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and

agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. At no time shall any staff, leadership or property support or condone any activities that promote such actions. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:24; Psalm 127 & 128; 139:13-16; Matthew 19:1-10; I Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrew 13:4.)

## **Article IV Ordinances**

### **Water Baptism**

The ordinance of water baptism (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered by all established places of worship to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls (Ro. 6:3-5; Col.2:12).

### **The Lord's Supper**

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly by all established places of worship, as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1Cor. 11:23-26).

## **Article V Membership**

This Organization shall have a non-voting membership. The Board of Elders may create a membership program that details the requirements of membership and procedures for dismissal. This membership program is known as "Community Member Covenant".

## **Article VI Government**

At Amazing Grace Community Church, we make every effort to obey the Scriptures and have leadership organized as the Bible teaches. This means that we have the following offices:

- Jesus, our Shepherd
- Senior Pastor/Elders
- Deacons
- Community Members

### **Shepherd**

What does it mean that Jesus is our "Shepherd"?

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church (Eph. 1:9, 22–23; 4:15; 5:23), the One who builds the church (Matt. 16:18), and Shepherd who rules the church (1 Pet. 5:4). It is ultimately Jesus who closes down churches when they have become faithless or fruitless (Rev. 2:5). Therefore, it is absolutely vital that a church love Jesus, obey Jesus, imitate Jesus, and follow Jesus at all times and in all ways, according to the teaching of His Word (Col. 3:16).

## **Elder**

What is an Elder?

Elders are the male leaders of the church chosen for their ministry according to clear biblical requirements after a sufficient season of testing in the church (1 Tim. 2:11–3:7; Titus 1:5–9). Elders are nearly always spoken of in plurality because God intends for more than one man to lead and rule over the church, as a safeguard for both the church and the man. This is illustrated by Paul when he speaks of a council of multiple elders ruling in a local church (1 Tim. 4:14; Titus 1:5).

What are the qualifications for of an elder?

The Bible defines the qualifications of elder in two primary places in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, and the lists are virtually identical.

### From 1 Timothy 3:1–7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

### From Titus 1:5–9

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

In addition to the qualifications of an elder, the Bible also provides the duties of elders and pastors:

- Praying and studying Scripture (Acts 6:4)
- Ruling/leading the church (1 Tim. 5:17)
- Managing the church (1 Tim. 3:4–5)

- Caring for people in the church (1 Pet. 5:2-5)
- Giving account to God for the church (Heb. 13:17)
- Living exemplary lives (Heb. 13:7)
- Rightly using the authority God has given them (Acts 20:28)
- Teaching the Bible correctly (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:2)
- Preaching (1 Tim. 5:17)
- Praying for the sick (James 5:13-15)
- Teaching sound doctrine and refuting false teachings (Titus 1:9)
- Working hard (1 Thess. 5:12)
- Rightly using money and power (1 Pet. 5:1-3)
- Protecting the church from false teachers (Acts 20:17-31)
- Disciplining unrepentant Christians (Matt. 18:15-17)
- Obeying local, state, and federal laws (Rom. 13:1-7)
- Developing other leaders and teachers (Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:1-2)

An elder is a leader who trains other leaders to lead various aspects of the church. Therefore, no man should be an elder unless he has proven that he can effectively train people to be not only mature Christians but also mature Christian leaders who train other leaders.

Amazing Grace Community Church is an elder-led church. Therefore, the leadership and governance of Amazing Grace is established within the office of Elder. Elders are nominated within the Elder Board and after testing, are affirmed before the members/congregation by the Elders.

### **Board of Elders and Voting Power**

1. The Board of Elders is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.
2. The majority shall serve without remuneration and not be related by blood or marriage.
3. Each member of the board of elders shall have equal voting power among all of the other members.
4. A decision of the Board of Elders is considered valid with a unanimous vote.

### **Process for removal from the board**

An Elder may be removed from the board in the following manner:

1. By letter of resignation submitted to the Elders;
2. By action of the board of Elders in which a unanimous decision of the board in favor for removal due to disqualification according to scripture.

### **Term of an Elder**

Each Elder serves for a year to year commitment.

## Deacons

What is a deacon?

Unlike members or elders, the New Testament says very little about deacons. When senior spiritual leadership is overburdened to the degree that they are unable to simultaneously get time for prayer, Bible study, and the care of needy people, they are free to appoint deacons to help alleviate some of their burden (Acts 6:1–7). This is the pattern of the New Testament: elders are continually appointed first in local churches, and once they are overburdened they appoint deacons to aid them.

Deacons are mentioned on two occasions in the New Testament. Both occasions are in relation to elders because the two groups of leaders work so closely together (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1–13). Practically, elders and deacons work together like left and right hands, with elders specializing in leading by their words and deacons specializing in leading by their works.

Deacons can be male or female and serve the church by overseeing and caring for God's people. They must have theological convictions that are true to Scripture (1 Tim. 3:9). Deacons are appointed only after they have proven themselves to the elders as faithful and mature church members (1 Tim. 3:10).

The Greek word for deacon simply means “servant,” and beyond that title we are given little indication of what a deacon should do. This is because while the duties of an elder are universally constant in every church, in every place, in every age, the duties of deacons vary according to the needs of local churches and their elders. In this way, the Bible brilliantly establishes a theologically grounded, morally qualified group of senior elder leaders and grants them the freedom to appoint whatever deacons are needed to help them lead the church in whatever areas they deem require a deacon to lead. The primary list of qualifications for the office of deacon is found in 1 Tim. 3:8–13.

### 1 Tim. 3:8–13

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

These qualifications are nearly identical to the qualifications of elders—minus the teaching and preaching gifts. Deacons will be nominated by the members of Amazing Grace Community Church and after testing, affirmed by the Elders before the members/congregation.

## **Community Covenant**

What is a Community Covenant?

Throughout the New Testament you will see countless examples of real community. Here at Amazing Grace, we try to model that same example with the Community Covenant. The Community Covenant is our form of membership. It is a covenant between highly invested people within Amazing Grace who deeply resonate with Grace's commitment to make disciples of Jesus and teach them to make other disciples. These individuals are the "horizontal gravity" of Amazing Grace that draw others toward maturity in Christ and involvement in the Kingdom of God, and ultimately change the world. Becoming a Community Member of Amazing Grace is a commitment to the work of the gospel and the common good of the Amazing Grace Community Church family.

Community Covenant Members are Christians whose eyes are capable of seeing beyond themselves to the well-being of the whole church. They realize that God died not just for them but also for their community (Acts 20:28). They also realize that He commands them to give selflessly of their money (2 Cor. 8-9) and abilities in order to build up their community (1 Cor. 14:12).

Community Covenant Members are, in a sense, leaders of and servants in the church. Each one serves the church community according to his/her abilities in accordance with Jesus' commands to love God and your neighbor. This shows up not just in what they feel but also in what they say and do. We are one body, and in a healthy body, every member must function (Romans 12:4). The Community Covenant Members must be trained and released to use their spiritual gifts in various ways so that they too are leading the church, behind the elders and deacons, as the priesthood of believers that Scripture speaks of throughout the New Testament. Community Covenant Members also benefit from primary care from church leadership, as the Bible prescribes (Galatians 6:10).

How to become a Community Member at Amazing Grace

A Community Covenant Member must be a Follower of Christ (professing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, repenting of their sin and making a decision to live every day for Christ).

A Community Covenant Member must be water baptized as a demonstration that Jesus died and rose to wash them from sin and following in the example set by Jesus and commanded in Matthew 28:18

Community Covenant Members must agree with our church Constitution and By-Laws which explains the essential beliefs of Christianity as well as the philosophy of our ministry and organizational structure.

Community Covenant Members agree to serve in the church, pray for the church, give to the church, read their Bible regularly, love their brothers and sisters in Christ in word and deed, respect the authority of church leaders including submitting to discipline if necessary, attend church services, and share the Gospel with others in word and deed. Community Covenant Members also agree to resolve all conflicts according to Matthew 18:15-17.

## **Article VII Meetings**

### **Church Services**

In any established place of worship the Senior Pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

### **Corporation Meetings**

The corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st, and running through December 31st. The Elders will call the official board meeting to discuss the direction of the corporation. The Elders shall set dates and times for board meetings. The board may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the Elders have approved it.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed at any board meeting. He/she then has to submit them at the next board meeting for discussion by the official board and approval by the Elders. Upon approval by the Board of Elders, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

### **Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Elders without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Board of Elders to so act and such statement shall be prima facie evidence of such authority.

## **Article VIII Quorum**

Two-thirds of the Elders at an official board meeting constitutes a quorum.

## **Article IX Ecclesiastical Power**

This organization is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God. Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these bylaws shall be deferred to the highest human authority of this church, the Board of Elders, who shall remain under the authority of the Biblical Head of the church, Jesus Christ. In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that "Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them

## **Article X Prohibited Activities**

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines.

This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

## **Article XI Ministry of Helps**

This recognizes the ministry of helps during worship services and shall train and equip ushers to assist the Senior Pastor in maintaining order and decency. To that regard, ushers shall:

1. Be trained in the policies and procedures of the altar ministry
2. Maintain a worshipful atmosphere in the church
3. Attend to any disruption or emergency situation during worship services.

The department head in charge of the usher's ministry shall:

1. Be trained in CPR
2. Ensure that at least one usher, or duly appointed person, trained in CPR be present in the building during all worship services
3. Designate at least one usher to keep a cell phone available to call for help in case of an emergency.
4. Train all ushers on the church's altar ministry policy and procedures.

## **Article XII Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a unanimous vote of the official Elder board.

Revised January 9th, 2017

May 1st. 2017.

# Bylaws

## Article I Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the Elders shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

## Article II Finances

### Audit

The Treasurer and or other Board appointed person shall complete an internal audit. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of February.

### Checks and Withdrawals

1. Any check or withdrawal at or more than \$500.00 shall require the signatures of two officers who are also authorized signees on the bank account.
2. The signature of the Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) must be on any check or withdrawal at or more than \$1,000.00.

### Salaries

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

1. The Senior Pastor shall consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be approved by the Board of Elders. All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

## Article III Property Rights

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name. No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Elders. The Elders of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages. In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of THIS CHURCH shall at the discretion of the Board of Elders be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) and/or 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The receiving organization must be of similar purpose.

## Article IV Other Considerations

Anything that has not been discussed in this constitution and bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official board meeting.

## **Article V Pastors**

### **The Senior Pastor**

The Senior Pastor shall be selected by a unanimous vote of the Elders. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: the Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Senior Pastor upon giving him one month's written notice of its intention to dismiss with an unanimous vote. The Senior Pastor must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of the Senior Pastor's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Senior Pastor and the Elders by mutual agreement provide otherwise. The Senior Pastor should meet the qualifications of an Elder and be an active member of the Board of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.

### **Other Pastors**

All additional pastoral and Church staff positions shall be created in the Annual Budget as approved by the Board of Elders. The hiring and dismissal of the Church staff shall be upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor with the approval of the Board of Elders. The church staff shall operate under the supervision of the Senior Pastor.

## **Article VI Ministers of the Gospel**

The Senior Pastor of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

### **Classes of Ministers**

This ministry shall have four classes of ministers. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

#### **Commissioned Minister:**

This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitation, ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

#### **Chaplain:**

This recognition is for ministers of the gospel that are called by God and recognized by the Senior Pastor to minister primarily in prisons, hospitals and government agencies.

**Licensed Minister:**

This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are somewhat seasoned in the ministry, but need further experience. Many of these are individuals that have been working in their chosen vocation, but for some reason or another have never entered full---time ministry, or have only been in full---time ministry for less than three (3) years. Such persons are authorized to perform the following religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the board of directors of a church
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut-in
  - F. Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

**Ordained Minister:**

This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions, and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Ministry administration
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut---in
  - F. Minister in prisons He/she must be capable, as determined by the Senior Pastor, to take charge of a congregation.

**Senior Pastor and Elder's Authority**

The Senior Pastor shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the four classes mentioned above (Matthew 16:13-19).

## **Article VII Privacy**

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

## **Article VIII Amendments**

Amendments to the bylaws may be made by a unanimous vote of the official board. These bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addendums and these bylaws supersede and replace all previous bylaws voted on prior to this day.

## **Amendment I**

### **Elder Board and the Advisory Board – January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017**

First and foremost, we want Jesus to lead Amazing Grace. At the core, our leadership role is to seek God, to see where He is moving, to follow Him, and to bring others with them.

This Amendment is to establish an Advisory Board in the event the Elder Board is unavailable or unable to lead Amazing Grace.

As a church, we are Pastor-Directed and Board-Protected. The Senior Pastor drives the vision, while the Elder or Advisory Board protects the vision. The main role of the Advisory Board is to protect, advise and give consent to vision and financial decision made within the church. The Advisory Board oversees the calling and commissioning of the Senior Pastor, prepares and gives final approval to the annual budget with the assistance of the staff, oversees long-range financial planning for the church, reviews all staff salaries, and provides for the care and maintenance of all properties owned by the church.

With that said, we are convinced that church leadership is meant to be carried as a team. From our Advisory Board to our Staff and Leadership structure within Amazing Grace, we are huge fans of the team approach. This provides for a stronger leadership with stability, strengths and ultimately, decisions made with a broader perspective and greater accountability.