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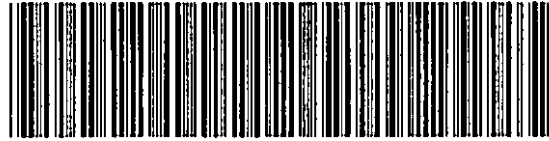
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# GRACE UNITED BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

## Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation November 2020

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### ARTICLE I - History

These Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, approved by majority vote of the membership on November 22, 2020 replace the Articles of Incorporation approved by the membership on March 25, 1975, and all revisions and amendments thereto.

### ARTICLE II - Church Name

The name of this corporation is GRACE UNITED BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, Inc., formally known as Living Hope Community Church, Inc., and its permanent location is and will be in Marion County, Florida. Its current address is 4817 NE 2nd Loop, Ocala, FL 34470.

### ARTICLE III - Governing Documents

We, a congregate body of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ, declare and establish these amended and restated Articles of Incorporation and By-laws as the governing documents of this Church. The purpose is to develop a fellowship of believers, to reach out compassionately and creatively to all persons, to minister to the whole person in His name, to develop good stewards of all God's gifts, to maintain an attitude of Christ likeness by being yielded to His Spirit; and to preserve, secure and promote the principles of our faith.

### ARTICLE IV - Purpose and Object

The general purpose and object of the Corporation is to establish and maintain Christian worship, to build and maintain churches, parsonages, schools, hospitals, chapels, and such other religious, educational or benevolent institutions as may be necessary or proper, to maintain missionary undertakings in the United States or in any foreign country, and to perform all other acts as provided by and permitted under the laws of the State of Florida to accomplish the general purpose and object.

### ARTICLE V - Statement of Faith

#### The Scriptures

We believe the Bible, consisting of the 39 Books of the Old Testament and the 27 Books of the New Testament, is God's absolute, objective truth for all people for all times. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of Scripture. It is without error in concept or detail in the original writings. It is inspired in every word, divinely preserved and therefore trustworthy. It is God's written, propositional revelation. It is complete in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It is the supreme and only authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Holy Spirit directed the human authors so that through their

individual personalities and literary styles they composed and recorded God's Word. We believe the true meaning of Scripture is found as one diligently applies the literal, grammatical, historical and contextual method of interpretation under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Support: II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; John 10:35; II Peter 3:16; John 16:7-14; I Corinthians 2:7-16.

### **The Trinity**

We believe in the one personal, living God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They execute distinct, but harmonious roles in creation, providence, and redemption. They are equal in nature, attributes and perfections. Nevertheless the Son and the Spirit are submissive to the Father's will. The triune God is worthy of our worship, confidence and obedience.

Biblical Support: Deuteronomy 6:4; I Kings 8:60; Psalm 90:1-2; Isaiah 45:5-6; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 16:16; Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-14; Luke 22:70; Luke 11:13; John 10:30; John 14:10-11; John 14:16-17; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6.

### **The Father**

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity. We believe He works everything in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty does not eliminate or minimize human responsibility. God's providence is exhaustive and not dependent on human decisions and actions.

Biblical Support: Genesis 1:1; Psalm 34:6; Psalm 147:5; John 1:3; John 3:36; John 6:27; Romans 6:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:2-4; Colossians 1:16-26; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 1:5; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 3:20; Revelation 19:6.

### **Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's one and only eternal Son and is fully God and fully Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe in His sinless life, His accuracy and truthfulness in all He spoke, His death on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead and His substitutionary atonement. He ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of God the Father. He is our High Priest and advocate.

Biblical Support: John 1:1; John 1:29; 1 Timothy 2:6; Romans 3:25-26; 1 Corinthians 5:14; Hebrews 10:5-14; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10; Revelation 19; Revelation 20.

### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. His ministry glorifies Jesus Christ and implements Christ's work of redemption. He regenerates, baptizes, seals and

indwells all believers, securing them in Christ forever, and empowers them for godly living and service. His presence is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit and the building up of believers into Christ-likeness. The Spirit controls, leads and gifts believers, but no one specific gift is a sign of His baptism or filling, nor do they provide extra Biblical revelation contrary to the Word of God, but all are for the common good.

Biblical Support: 1 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:30; John 16:13-14; John 15:26; John 16:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Genesis 1:2; II Peter 1:21; Acts 5:3-4; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 5:5; II Corinthians 1:22; I Corinthians 12: Ephesians 5:18.

## **Humanity**

We believe that humanity, male and female, was uniquely made in the image of God and for His glory, to exercise dominion over the earth, and to enjoy a relationship with Him forever. God created Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from Adam's rib. Subsequent human life, which begins at conception, is a gift from God deserving of respect, care and protection. Sin entered the world when Adam, representing us, disobeyed God. The effect is that all people are sinners by nature and choice, are spiritually dead, and are in need of a Savior. The family is established by God and is the foundation institution of society.

Biblical Support: Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15-25; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; James 3:9; Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 5:22-23; Ephesians 6:1-4.

## **Salvation**

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, and is received by faith, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works and culminating in glorification in God's presence in heaven.

Biblical Support: Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:5; John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 16:19-20; Romans 6:13; Colossians 3:17; John 5:24; Romans 8:29-39; John 17:15; II Timothy 1:12.

## **The Church**

We believe the Church of God, launched on the day of Pentecost, is the spiritual body of Christ of which He is the head. This local church administers the ordinances of Believer's Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. This local church is made up of all who having made a credible confession of faith for the purpose of publicly declaring their relationship with Jesus Christ. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is administered in obedience to His command for the purpose of remembering His death and burial, anticipating the return of Jesus Christ. The church is built into Christ-likeness through the preaching and teaching of the Word, prayer, evangelism, and worship in the context of accountable community.

While the local church is autonomous and congregational, we commit to Biblical interdependence with other churches. Her leaders are responsible first to Jesus Christ and then to the congregation. We recognize the calling and giftedness of men and women to serve together in ministry; however, we believe the office of Elder and Pastor are intended to be filled by biblically qualified men. It is imperative that every believer be an active part of a local church.

Biblical Support: Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:46-47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 18:15-18; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 2:4-6; Acts 2:38-41; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.

### **Separation of Church and State**

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life and that each one should be free to worship God according to Biblical commands and ordinances.

Biblical Support: Daniel 3:17-18; 6:11; Acts 5:29; I Peter 2:9

### **Angels**

We believe God created angels, spirit-beings possessing power and intellect, who worship and serve Him. Angels are sent to minister to those who will inherit salvation. Satan is a fallen angel, who masquerades as an angel of light. Satan's role on earth, often implemented by demons, is to deceive and destroy. He, along with his demons, have been defeated for eternity by Jesus Christ at the cross.

Biblical Support: Psalm 148:2-5; Hebrews 1:14; Isaiah 4:12-17; James 2:19; II Peter 2:4; Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:12; II Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:10; John 12:31; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:1-3; Revelation 20:10.

### **Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

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 God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, and attempting to change one's biological sex or otherwise acting upon any 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, Gender, and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Biblical Support: Genesis 2:18-25; Leviticus 18:20-30; Deuteronomy 22:5; Matthew 19:3-6; I Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1:26-27; Revelation 21:8

### **Last Things**

We believe a person's eternal destiny is forever sealed by their acceptance or rejection of Christ and His work on the cross in this lifetime. Unbelievers will experience eternal separation from the presence of God in hell, a place of great suffering and loss. Believers will experience eternity with God, in a place of joyful worship and fellowship with the redeemed of all ages. We believe that Jesus Christ will return to establish His Kingdom with His saints at a time set by his Father.

Biblical Support: Luke 16:22-23; Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Daniel 9:27; Daniel 2:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Revelation 6:1-9; Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-16; Deuteronomy 65:15-17; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Revelation 19:11; Revelation 19:14; Revelation 1-6; Mark 9:43-48; I Corinthians 15:24-28; II Thessalonians 1:9; II Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:5; Rev 22:11.

### **ARTICLE VI - Church Government**

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers of whom it is comprised. It is subject to the control of no ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of fellowship, mutual counsel and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice. The governance structure of the church shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE VII - Members**

All persons who have been received as members of the Church, pursuant to provisions in its by-laws, shall be and are declared to be members of the incorporated church. All those who shall hereafter be received by said church pursuant to provisions in its by-laws, shall likewise be members of the same.

The rules and regulations that may be adopted by the Board of Directors regarding eligibility for membership shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, or age.

### **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments & Dismissal**

The membership shall have the power to amend, strike out, or change any of the Articles of Incorporation or the By-laws by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and

voting in a church business meeting; provided that notice of any proposed change(s) shall be given by announcement during two Sunday worship services prior to the business meeting at which the proposed change(s) will be considered. Regular business matters of the church may be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting with the exception of the call of a paid or non-paid Elder or encumbrance of the property either of which will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting in a church business meeting; provided that notice of any proposed change(s) shall be given by announcement during two Sunday worship services prior to the business meeting at which the proposed change(s) will be considered.

### **ARTICLE IX - 501(c)(3) Compliance**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The corporation shall not, as a substantial part of its activities, carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation; nor shall it participate or intervene, by publication or distribution of any statements or otherwise, in any political campaign on behalf of or against any candidate for public office.

### **ARTICLE X - Asset Assignment**

The assets of the corporation are irrevocably dedicated to Christian purposes. No part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private persons. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision of payment of, all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to tax-exempt Christian organizations whose purposes are within those specified in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The members of this corporation shall have no right, title, or interest whatsoever in its income, property, or assets, nor shall any portion of said income, property, or assets be distributed to any member upon dissolution or winding up of the affairs of this corporation. Members of this corporation shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation, and shall not be subject to any assessment against the corporation.

### **ARTICLE XI - Term of Organization**

The period of existence of this organization shall be perpetual.



**ARTICLE XII - Bylaws Adoption and Amendment**

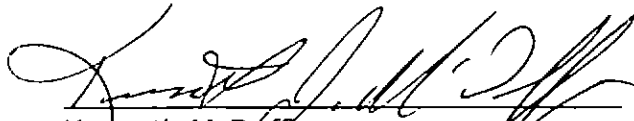
The members may adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with these Articles and may amend the same from time to time as may be deemed desirable or necessary.

**ARTICLE XIII - Registered Agent**

The Registered Agent is designated as Kenneth McDuffie. The Registered Agent of the corporation may be changed at any time by a vote of the Elders without an amendment of these Articles. The street address of the registered office of this corporation in the State of Florida is 4817 NE 2nd Loop, Ocala, Florida 34470. The Elders may from time to time, without amending these Articles, move the principal office to any other address within the State of Florida.

**Officer's Signatures**

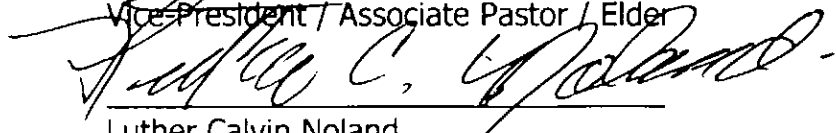
IN WITNESS THEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 22 day of November, 2020.



Kenneth McDuffie,  
President / Senior Pastor / Elder

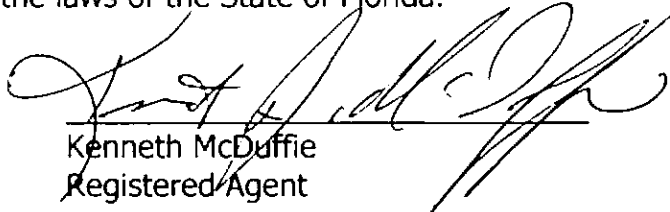


Christopher K. Bradshaw,  
Vice-President / Associate Pastor / Elder



Luther Calvin Noland,  
Secretary / Treasurer / Elder

Pursuant to Florida Statute 48.091 and Article 12 of these Articles of Incorporation, the undersigned Registered Agent does hereby accept the duties as Registered Agent and designates the Registered Agent's location for service of process as 4817 NE 2nd Loop, Ocala, Florida 34470. The undersigned shall serve as Registered Agent until otherwise removed or shall resign pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.



Kenneth McDuffie  
Registered Agent