

## Park Grove Christian Church Membership Agreement

We believe that to carry on the religious mission of the church, 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 who associate with the church as members should abide by and agree to the following statements and conduct themselves in accordance with them.

### A. Statement of Faith \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

The following doctrines are fundamental beliefs held by “biblically-conservative” evangelical Christians all across the world. These are key tenants of the Christian faith, and bring unity of belief to the local congregation and unity of belief among believers across many different denominational lines. Belief in these key doctrines of Christianity is essential for all who profess to be members of Park Grove Christian Church.

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God, and inerrant in the original writings. (2 Pet. 1:20-21 & 2 Tim. 3:16)
2. We believe in the Trinity: That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, all who are equally God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (2 Cr. 13:14, Titus 1:4, Col. 2:9, 2 Cr. 3:17)
3. We believe in the eternal deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (He was, is and always will be, God), in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory, to rule and reign, and to judge the living and the dead. (Titus 2:13, 2 Cr. 5:21, Mt. 1:23, 1 Jn. 3:5, Ac. 2:22 & 30-33, Ac 1:9-11, Rv. 20:11-15)
4. We believe that mankind is lost, sinful and must be saved; and that mankind’s only hope of redemption is through faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (Rm. 3:23, 6:23, Gal. 3:13)
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is empowered to live a Godly life, and to serve Christ through various Spiritual gifts. (Gal. 5:16-24, 1 Cor. 12-14)
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are unsaved unto the resurrection of damnation. (Rv. 20:11-15)
7. We believe that there are two ordinances given by the Lord Jesus Christ by which we celebrate his sacrifice. Baptism: The inaugural act by which a new believer identifies themselves physically with the death burial and resurrection of Christ, through immersion in water. Communion: The act of eating bread, and drinking wine (juice) in order to remember the broken body and shed blood of Christ on the cross. (Rom. 6:4, 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
8. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. (Gen 1:26-27 and Gen 2:22-24) (See Appendix B – Expanded Explanations)
9. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139)
10. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jn. 17:20-21)

**B. Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

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. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) 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, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of PGCC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the PGCC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by PGCC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) 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 PGCC.

**C. Statement on Church Discipline \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal 6:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline members for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the Pastoral Leadership and is to follow the biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11. Any member of this church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the Pastoral Leadership, is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of this church, or is divisive to the body, shall be subject to church discipline.

Discipline will follow the said biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry and communion, as well as dismissal from the membership and fellowship of this church. An individual may be disciplined by the Pastoral Leadership short of dismissal from the fellowship, as they deem appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a member of this church but be denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry). The Pastoral Leadership, as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the

names of those who have lost membership by reason of church discipline, and the reason for that discipline, as described in Matthew 18:15-20.

**D. Statement on Mediation \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

Lawsuits between believers, or threats of lawsuits between believers, are a matter of grave concern for the church, are contrary to biblical and church teaching, and mediation is an effort to resolve disputes in a biblical fashion. (1 Cor 6: 1-7) Members of the church agree to submit any legal dispute within the church for mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by the Pastoral Leadership.

**E. Statement on Life \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death (including death due to natural causes when then a “do not resuscitate” election has been made). We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

**F. Statement of Final Authority on Matters of Faith and Conduct \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of PGCC’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastoral Leadership is the church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

**I have reviewed the statements above, as indicated by my initials after each of them, and I agree to have my membership governed by all the provisions herein.**

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please provide your current contact information and indicate whether the church has permission to publish this information in the church directory.**

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give your permission to publish this in the church directory? YES NO (circle one)