

Frequently Asked Questions

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Church FAQs:

1. What is the vision of Grace Life Community Church (GLCC)?
 - o Choosing the Life God always intended
2. What are GLCC's core values?
 - o A dynamic, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
 - o Authentic, loving community.
 - o A relevant, transformational message of grace and truth.
 - o The expansion of God's Kingdom globally.
 - o Loving God and loving people.
2. What denomination is GLCC?
 - o We are an non-denominational, evangelical church following Baptist Theology. We are Bible-based and externally focused on reaching others for Christ while supporting each other in a safe place under God's grace. By being independent, we have no reporting authority or outside hierarchy and all financial contributions stay within GLCC and our ministries.
3. Are the Pastor's ordained ministers? Is this recognized by other churches?
 - o Though not a requirement set forth by our church Bylaws, all our Pastors are ordained. Yes, this ordination is recognized by churches of like faith and practice.
4. How do I talk with an Elder or Deacon?
 - o You can email the Elder or Deacon of your choice directly, or call the church office at 571-229-1700 for more information or to make an appointment. Additional information is available on the Information Wall, next to the Welcome Desk.
5. What governance structure is in place at the church?

We have a Board of Directors, Associate Pastors, Deacons, Elders, and an Administrative staff. We also have a finance committee that reports to the Treasurer who sits on the Board of Directors. We have a standing nominations committee responsible for identifying qualified church members to fill many of these positions. The Deacons are responsible for congregational care. The Elders are focused on spiritual direction. All budgets are approved by the church body by a vote in accordance with the church Bylaws. The Deacon's Chair, Elders' Chair, and Board Members are voted on by church members and serve staggered terms of 1-3 yrs. They can serve 2 consecutive terms of 3 yrs and then must take a year off per the Bylaws.

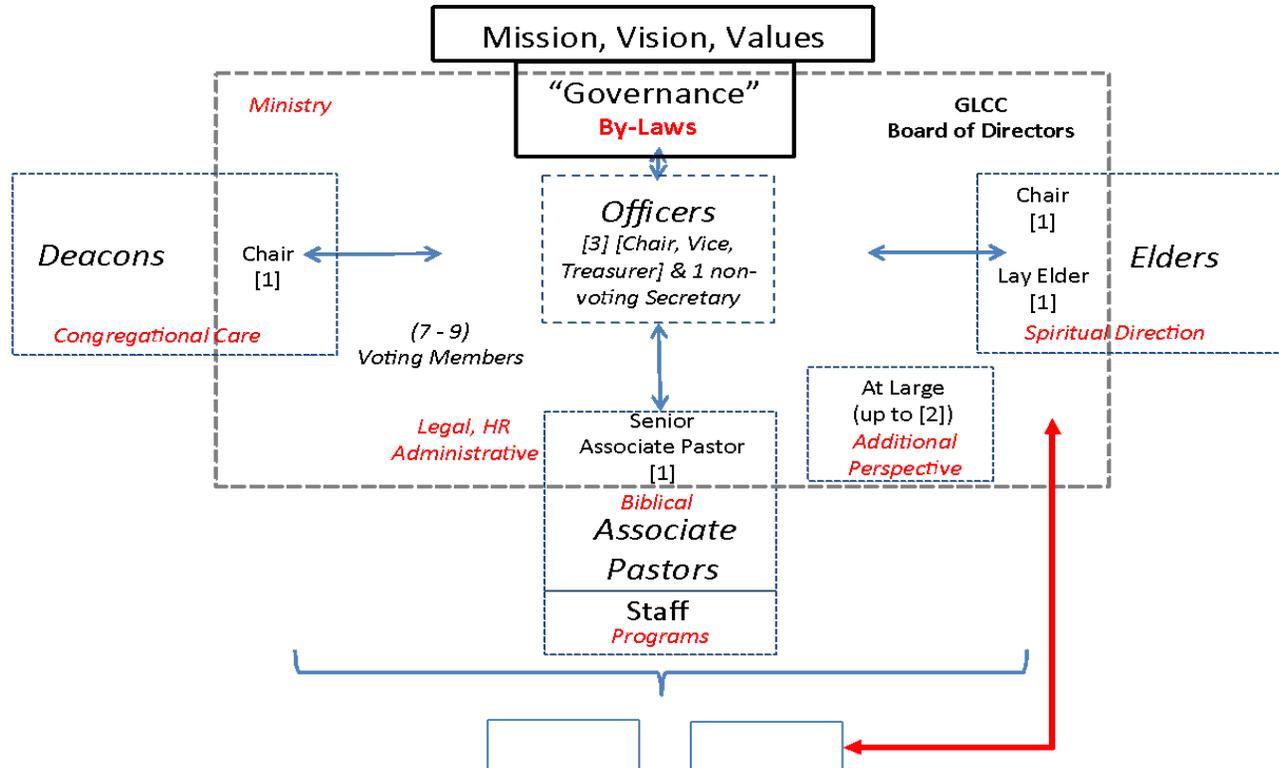


Figure 1: GLCC Governance Structure

6. Do you have an organized time of prayer at the church?

Yes, we believe in the power of God's people uniting in His name to lift one another up in prayer. We offer small group prayer times on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights. Prayer is also an important part of our Connect Groups, Soul Restoration, and weekly Bible studies.

7. How can I share a prayer request?

- o We have 4 ways to submit a prayer request.
 - go to our Facebook page "Grace Life Prayer Chain"
 - email us at prayer@gracelifecc.org

- on our website www.gracelifecc.org click on the left tab “Engage” and then click on the bottom tab “prayer”
- write your request on a response card in the church pews and drop in the offering boxes at the back of the auditorium.

8. Where do I find the beliefs, doctrine, or bylaws of GLCC?

- The church has Bylaws that explains our core beliefs, our governance structure, and our organization. All attendees to Discover GLCC class receive a copy. The Bylaws are also available from the church office.

9. How are Deacons assigned to ministries and connect groups?

- Upon church membership, through the prayerful and God-led consideration of the Elders and Deacons, a Deacon will be assigned to an individual or family.

Sunday Worship FAQs

10. What are the Sunday service times, and what is being offered at these times?

- **10:00am** Worship Service (with ASL interpreter), Nursery, and Sunday School (2 yr - 5th grade).
- **11:30am**: Adult Connect Groups, Nursery, Junior Church (Preschool - 5th grade), and Connect Students (6th - 12th grades).
- **6:00pm** - Nursery (pre-registration is required), Ignite (Preschool - 5th grade), Roots (6th - 12th grade), adults at various Connect at Home locations

11. What kind of music is played on a regular basis?

- Our music style is contemporary Christian worship. Lyrics are intentionally centered around focusing our attention on God’s glory and the message that is being taught that week.

12. How is the offering taken?

- We believe that giving to God’s kingdom should be done with a cheerful heart and is another expression of worship. We have wooden offering boxes located at each exit in the sanctuary. We also have the capability to receive your financial contributions through online giving at www.Gracelifecc.org. The financial needs of GLCC are printed in the bulletin each week. Your offering will help us support current ministries, pay the mortgage, and further God’s kingdom locally and globally. Please prayerfully consider your contribution as we partner together to expand God’s kingdom.

13. Does GLCC practice communion?

- Yes, communion is usually held once a month. The Lord’s Supper is commemorative in nature. We do not believe that Communion in any way bestows saving grace or is

related to our salvation experience. When taking communion, we remember Christ's death, celebrate his resurrection, and look forward to his second coming (1 Corinthians 11:24). We practice an open communion with a wafer or bread and grape juice (Luke 22:18-20). We understand from scripture that the only requirements for participating in the Lord's Supper are salvation and a heart to walk with God. Each individual is instructed towards self-examination and confession before communion (1 Corinthians 11:28). During a communion service, church leadership serves the communion elements at several stations in the sanctuary. Various ministries and small groups may also observe communion within their own small group community.

14. Is there a place where I can pray or have quiet time to rest with the Lord?

- o Yes, the Next Step Suite has rooms for private prayer as well as for counseling. There are two entrances to the rooms-- from the lobby and from the back of the auditorium. The rooms are always open before and after the worship service and periodically during the week. .

Membership FAQs:

15. What is the Discover GLCC Class?

- o Discover GLCC is two week class offered every other month for visitors and people interested in learning more about GLCC. The class is designed to help you a) discover our foundations (our history, our staff), b) discover our vision, and c) discover our beliefs (baptism, communion, and statement of faith). We also personally introduce several staff members and church leadership, as well as give a "behind the scenes" tour of the building. Attending the class is not a requirement for joining the church, but it is highly recommended.

16. What are the requirements for joining the church?

- Salvation: The most important relationship in each person's life is his or her personal relationship with Christ. The Bible teaches that salvation is by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and it is not based on our own merit or works. (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- Believer's Baptism: This is a public demonstration of your desire to follow Christ and be identified with His church. We practice believer's baptism by immersion. If you are coming from the similar tradition as stated above, we do not ask you to be baptized again. If you are coming from a tradition that differs, we do ask that you be baptized.
- Membership meeting with an Elder: Before the meeting we ask that you would read I am a Church Member by Thom S. Rainer. During the meeting you will discuss that book with the elder and share your testimony of faith in Christ with him.

17. What is the membership process, step-by-step?

- o Future members who have reviewed the purpose, mission, and beliefs of the church (customarily by attending the “Discover GLCC” class and reviewing the church covenant), should:
 - Fill out an intake form (available in the church office, or in “Discover GLCC”). Bring the form with you to a 1-on-1 meeting (explained below).
 - Someone will contact you to schedule a 1-on-1 meeting with a Pastor or an individual appointed by a Pastor to discuss your spiritual journey, baptism, and your understanding of our doctrinal beliefs found in the church covenant. Couples may attend this meeting together.
 - With the Elders’ approval, you will be scheduled to stand in front of the church body during a Sunday morning worship for membership approval, and the members in the congregation will give their response thereby voting you into membership.

18. Why is membership important?

- o In the Old Testament God worked directly through families and His chosen people, the Jewish nation. In the New Testament God works directly through the local church. Jesus told Peter “Upon this rock will I build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. Acts 1 & 2 shows examples of people being saved, baptized, and added to the church.
- o Membership allows you to declare a church “home” and to gain a church “family”.
- o Membership allows you to discuss your concerns with your Elder or Deacon and allows vote at business meetings. You place yourself under the spiritual guidance and leadership of the Elders and Deacons.
- o Our active membership roster is how GLCC secures financing and loan rates. It is also important for other ministry decisions we make as a church.

19. What happens in the church business meetings? Do I have to go?

- o All members are strongly encouraged to attend business meetings. All GLCC attendees are welcome to our meetings; however, only members are allowed to vote. In these important meetings, we discuss the budget, staffing, ministry options, and other administrative issues. The final decisions rest with the voting church membership per the church’s Bylaws. In these meetings, Elders and additional church leadership will share how God is working in their hearts and the vision for the church.

20. How do I find out the contact information for other church members?

- o You can get a membership directory from the church office. Connect Point provides membership information online that can be found at www.Gracelifecc.org.

Connect Group FAQs:

21. What are Connect Groups?

- o Connects groups are mid-size groups that meet weekly after the 10am worship service and are designed to provide opportunities through community for reflection, discussion, prayer and fellowship. Connect Groups have the choice to use sermon based questions, a Bible study, or a separate book study to guide their discussion. We use the connect groups to assign Deacons and to provide pastoral care. A list of current Connect Groups and Connect at Home groups is available at the Welcome Desk and on the Information Wall. Because each Connect Group varies in leadership style and format, we encourage you to visit several connect groups.

22. What are Connect at Home groups?

- o Connect at Home groups are smaller sized groups that meet at people's houses weekly, are designed to provide the same opportunities as Connect Groups at church, and use a Bible or book study. Childcare is available for any groups meeting on Sunday night through "Ignite" (pre-k - 5th grade) and "Roots" (6th - 12th grade). See "Ministry FAQ's" for more details.

Serving FAQs:

23. How do I use my spiritual gifts to help the needs of the church?

- o Taking a spiritual gifts inventory (<http://mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm>), attending "Discover GLCC", or talking with church leadership will help guide you in discovering and using your spiritual gifts. Periodically, we offer a class called "Network" to help you better understand your gifts. Ministry needs are listed in the church bulletin and midweek update. Contact, meet with, and discuss opportunities to serve with program leaders. Leadership is always willing to hear new ideas of ways you feel God is leading you to serve the local and global community.

24. Do I have to be a member to volunteer to serve?

- o To serve as a leader in the church (i.e. Connect Group Leaders, Children's Lead Teachers, Student Ministry Leaders, etc..) you must be a member.
- o Anyone desiring to serve in the Children's Ministry will be asked to complete a Volunteer Information Sheet and a provide permission to obtain a background check. See below for more information on the background check.
- o To serve in a Lead Teaching Position within children's ministry, individuals must be regularly involved with GLCC for 6 months prior to their application.
- o Assistants in ministries are not required to be members, but those in Children or Student Ministries will still need a background check. Youth Ministry students (grades 6th-12th grades) may serve under the supervision of an adult leader.

- o Volunteers in any other capacity (greeters, ushers, Grace Life cafe', etc...) do not require membership..

25. Why do some volunteer positions require a background check?

- o Background checks are required on all of our Children's Ministry & Student Ministry volunteers and leaders in order to ensure the safety of our children and to comply with our insurance policy. You are entitled to a complete copy of your background check by requesting a copy from GLCC.

Ministry FAQs:

26. How do I find out what ministries GLCC offers?

- o Attend "Discover GLCC"
- o Visit www.Gracelifecc.org and click the "Resources", "Features", and "Upcoming Events" calendar on the website;
- o Sign up to receive the GLCC mid-week newsletter
- o Look for cards and fliers on the Information Wall

27. What ministries do you have for children and students?

- o All the current information for children and student ministries can be found on the Information Wall in the lobby and at www.Gracelifecc.org.

28. When is the GLCC Café open?

- o The GLCC café is open on Sunday from 11:15am-12:15pm

29. How do I check my preschool and elementary children in and out of Sunday school and Jr. Church?

- o You can check your children in by proceeding to the kiosks located in the gym.
- o You can check your children out at their designated classroom.

30. How do I find out about weekly, monthly, and yearly events at GLCC?

- o Weekly activities are listed in the church bulletin, on the church website calendar, and in the midweek update.

31. How is Missions supported?

- o Missionaries are supported out of the general fund of the church through the regular giving of God's people. We support approximately 20 missionaries and organizations globally and locally we support a crisis pregnancy center, prison ministry, and a

Christian camp. These missionaries and organizations are aligned with the church's vision, theology, and philosophy of ministry.

- o Designated mission giving is allocated to a missionary of the month (as published in the bulletin) towards special projects.
- o Short term mission includes sending teams annually to Jamaica, Honduras, Alaska, and locally in the Bristow area.
- o For a complete list of global and local involvement by GLCC click on the "Missions" tab on the church website.

Communication FAQs

32. What is "Connect Point"? Who can use it? What are the benefits?

- o ConnectPoint is GLCC's online community. ConnectPoint is designed to help you get connected and stay updated with the ministries of GLCC.
- o Both members and non members can register for ConnectPoint. You can access this by going to www.Gracelifecc.org , then clicking on "Get Involved", and then clicking "Login to Connectpoint".
- o ConnectPoint allows you setup and maintain an online profile, select communication preferences, join different ministry groups, send and receive emails to specific groups, RSVP for upcoming events, give financially online, and more!

33. Is it important for me to update my profile on ConnectPoint?

- o Yes, we use the information in ConnectPoint to update the church database, contact our members and non-members, and help foster community.

34. Is there a calendar with every event on it?

- o The most up-to-date calendar is located on our website at www.gracelifecc.org (click on the "calendar" tab at the bottom of the page.). Also check the Sunday service bulletin for upcoming events.

35. Are there other ways to hear the sermon if I cannot attend?

- o Yes, you may request a CD recording of the service at the book table. In addition you can listen via podcast on iTunes, our website, and our Facebook page.

36. Where is GLCC on social media?

- o Like us on Facebook or join our groups:
 - "Grace Life Community Church"
 - "Grace Life Students"
 - "Grace Life Prayer Chain"
 - "GLCC Occupational Network"

- o Follow us on Twitter:
 - @GraceLifeCC
 - @GraceLifeStud
- o Follow “Roots” on Instagram @gracelifestudents