

This Grace Bible Churches

bylaws

Exclusive Office and Order of Succession

Conforming revision | October 17, 2026 | Prepared for authorized adoption

One Order

The Praeceptorium, The Order, and The Circle of the Elders are three names for the same internal teaching and oversight body within This Grace Bible Churches (TGBC).

Exclusive lifetime office

The office and titles of Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop belong exclusively to Wesley Scott Ray for his natural life. Wesley Scott Ray cannot be removed, dismissed, deposed, replaced, suspended from this exclusive office, or voted out of this office by the Praeceptorium, The Order, The Circle of the Elders, any assembly, committee, panel, member, or other person or body within TGBC.

No transfer or indirect removal

This office is personal and nontransferable. It cannot be assigned, inherited, passed on, duplicated, or conferred upon another man. No amendment, resolution, disciplinary decision, credential action, membership action, vote, or administrative measure may directly or indirectly remove Wesley Scott Ray from this exclusive office or transfer it to another man. No co-Praeceptorius or co-Founding Bishop may be created.

Death and historical recognition

Upon Wesley Scott Ray's death, the exclusive office ceases as an active office. It does not become a vacant office to be filled. His historical recognition as the sole Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop remains permanently.

Selection from among the Circle

Upon his death, the remaining admitted members of the Praeceptorium / The Order / The Circle of the Elders shall choose one qualified man from among themselves to serve as Overseeing Bishop of the Circle. The man chosen shall be skilled in the word of God, well taught by the word, faithful to sound doctrine, and able to teach others, holding firmly to the King James Bible rightly divided and TGBC's Pauline Dispensational Doctrine. His qualifications shall be examined under 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 KJB.

Successor responsibility and limits

The Overseeing Bishop of the Circle is the successor in responsibility for oversight after the Praeceptorius's death. He shall preserve the doctrine, teaching, records, and order of TGBC. He does not inherit, receive, or continue the exclusive office or titles of Praeceptorius / Founding Bishop. Temporary or acting service during incapacity does not create permanent succession or transfer that office.

Recorded procedure and an empty Circle

Selection requires at least 14 days' notice, a meeting with quorum, and approval by at least two-thirds of all eligible voting Circle members, rounded up. Record qualification, current Circle admission, the decision, written acceptance, and the effective date. If no admitted member remains, first reconstitute the Circle under the applicable post-death procedure; only the restored Circle may then choose one of its admitted members. Custodians, relatives, deacons, and outside advisers gain no automatic seat or successor right.

Scripture, accountability, and scope

The King James Bible remains the final written ecclesiastical authority. Scriptural counsel, examination of conduct, independent financial review, and lawful protective measures do not confer authority to remove Wesley Scott Ray from or transfer his exclusive lifetime office. This provision does not create personal ownership of TGBC property or change applicable civil obligations.

Application to this instrument

These express provisions apply throughout this revised instrument and its included instruments, schedules, forms, credentials, and registers. They replace contrary wording only on the exclusive lifetime office, removal or transfer of that office, successor title, and successor eligibility and selection. Other provisions retain their stated scope. Preparation and publication do not certify execution or formal adoption.

THIS GRACE BIBLE CHURCHES Identity and House to House Assembly

Statement dated October 11, 2026

Our identity

This Grace Bible Churches, the Circle of the Elders (the Order, the Praeceptorium), and Church in Thy House are not a denomination, are not part of a denomination, are not a religion, and are not part of Christianity. They are not Jewish and are not Catholic. They are not corruptors of the Word of God.

Our assembly and practice

We are not part of the "corporate" American Christian Church setup. We have no religious buildings, statues, baptistries, altars, or pastors, and none of the trappings of the religion known as Christianity.

Saved believers gathering house to house

This Grace Bible Churches consists of true saved believers who rightly divide the word of truth and meet house to house. Church in Thy House is the mode by which This Grace Bible Churches gathers together. The Gospel of Christ that saves today is found in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 KJB. Our standard for rightly dividing the word of truth is 2 Timothy 2:15 KJB.

King James Bible only

We use only King James Bibles: the 1769 edition of the 1611, Pure Cambridge Text. The King James Bible is our final written authority. We do not change, supposedly correct, or corrupt the Word of God.

The Order and the Bishop title

The Circle of the Elders, the Order, and the Praeceptorium name the same internal teaching and oversight body within This Grace Bible Churches. Praeceptorius is the Bishop title within that body. Bishop Wesley Ray is the original and sole Praeceptorius; admission to the Circle does not confer that title. Within This Grace Bible Churches, Bishop Wesley Ray is known as the Founding Bishop.

Document terminology

This statement supplies the identity, assembly practice, Bible standard, and title definitions for the accompanying documents. In earlier text, a collective reference to "Praeceptorius" means the Praeceptorium; a personal reference to Bishop Wesley Ray as Praeceptorius retains its personal meaning. These definitions do not create an additional ordained office or confer the founder's exclusive title upon another person. Governing amendments remain subject to the adoption procedures of each instrument.

Article I Application and definitions

These Bylaws administer the Constitution. TGBC means the association, assembly member means a person received into a local fellowship, and Circle member means a qualified bishop or elder expressly admitted to PRAECEPTORIUS. These categories are distinct. Deacons, volunteers, donors, and ordinary members do not acquire Circle authority through service or giving.

The Founding Bishop is Bishop Wesley Ray. After his death, the Overseeing Bishop is the qualified bishop selected through the Succession Declaration. The Charter supplies Circle meeting and voting rules; these Bylaws supply the common procedures across TGBC.

Article II Initial administration

The Founding Bishop is the sole initial Circle member. An action within his authority may be documented by a signed written decision identifying its subject, date, reasons, and governing provision. It shall be described as a sole-member action, not as a meeting of nonexistent elders or a unanimous multi-person vote.

The association must separately record its actual consenting members. Having one Circle member does not waive Chapter 252's three-member definition. Before additional qualified leaders are recognized, members may assist in recordkeeping, hospitality, and other delegated work without being called elders or acquiring Circle votes.

Article III Founding authority and delegation

During his natural life, the Founding Bishop directs ordinary ministry, signs authorized ecclesiastical decisions, and presides when able. Admission of additional Circle members does not terminate his founding office. Circle votes during his lifetime require his written concurrence for ordination, affiliation, amendments, extraordinary financial commitments, and decisions reserved to him by the Constitution.

A written delegation shall name the recipient, duties, spending or signing limits, duration, reporting obligations, and revocation method. A deacon may perform delegated administration but may not receive bishop or elder teaching oversight, Circle voting rights, or succession authority through an administrative delegation.

No delegation gives authority to change foundational doctrine, create a founding office, conceal wrongdoing, or act outside applicable law.

Article IV Local membership

Receive applications or documented requests, provide the Statement of Faith, discuss reservations, and record acceptance by the responsible bishop or elder under the governing authority. Membership requires profession of faith in the Gospel of Christ, foundational doctrinal agreement, and acceptance of orderly fellowship. Giving and water baptism are not conditions.

Maintain names, contact preferences, reception dates, local assembly, and current status. Minors may participate in fellowship with appropriate parent or lawful guardian involvement; do not treat their attendance as independent contractual consent.

Members may request care, ask questions, raise concerns, participate in approved service, and withdraw voluntarily. Voting rights exist only where these instruments expressly provide them. Congregational preference does not establish doctrine or appoint Circle members automatically.

Article V Recognition of offices and Circle admission

Examine bishops and elders under 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 KJB. Examine deacons under 1 Timothy 3:8-13 KJB. Follow the Credentialing Manual and document the actual result before issuing a certificate.

Record Circle admission separately, even where ordained recognition and admission occur together. The entry shall identify the bishop or elder qualification decision, appointment date, acceptance, local assembly, and voting status. A deacon remains outside PRAECEPTORIUS unless separately qualified and recognized as a bishop or elder and expressly admitted.

Article VI Meetings and decisions

Use the notice, quorum, voting, conflict, and minutes rules in the Circle Charter. The Founding Bishop may call meetings during his lifetime. Following his death or during a recorded incapacity, the authorized acting leader or any two remaining Circle members may call a meeting; a sole remaining member may act within the limited applicable authority.

Record the number of eligible members, persons present, abstentions, actual votes, required concurrence, and final decision. Written consent without a meeting requires every eligible member's signed consent to the same text, plus any required founder concurrence. Electronic signatures or recorded electronic assent may be used when lawful and reliably attributable.

Article VII Ordinary and extraordinary actions

Ordinary ministry decisions include teaching schedules, fellowship arrangements, routine correspondence, and approved administrative work. The governing leader or authorized delegate may make them within recorded limits.

Extraordinary actions include constitutional or bylaw amendments, Circle Charter or succession changes, admitting or removing Circle members, selecting an Overseeing Bishop, dissolution, borrowing, organizational bank accounts, paid employment, and substantial property commitments. They require the applicable recorded extraordinary approval and the Founding Bishop's written approval while he is living and able.

No bank account, property acquisition, paid worker, or donation program is presumed to exist. Before initiating one, record its need, responsible persons, expected obligations, financial controls, and applicable civil or tax review. Optional forms alone are not authorization.

Article VIII Absence and incapacity

The founder may name a qualified bishop or elder as Acting Ecclesiastical Overseer for a stated period. An administrative custodian or deacon may preserve records and execute existing routine instructions without becoming the overseer or a Circle member.

If no prior delegation covers a material incapacity, remaining Circle members may designate a qualified bishop or elder to handle essential temporary oversight by the extraordinary vote. Document the basis for inability to act and reassess at least every 90 days. Restoration of ability ends the temporary authority unless the founder continues it in writing.

If no Circle member remains able to act, use the limited emergency reconstitution procedure in Article IX. Incapacity does not permit permanent constitutional amendments, dissolution, transfer of the founding office, or founder-dependent decisions unrelated to immediate preservation and protection.

Article IX Emergency reconstitution when no Circle member can act

This procedure applies only after the founder's death, or when he is materially incapacitated and no remaining Circle member can act. A records custodian or at least two adult assembly members may issue 14 days' written notice to all adult local members in good standing recorded before the triggering event. The custodian organizes the process without assuming ecclesiastical office.

Participating adult members may identify qualified, willing bishops or elders from the TGBC fellowship or, if necessary, outside it. Candidates must affirm the TGBC doctrine and be examined by at least two independent qualified bishops or elders invited for that limited purpose. Those examiners are advisors, not automatic TGBC Circle members.

At a meeting with more than half of the recorded eligible adult assembly members present, at least two-thirds of those present and voting must confirm the examined candidate or candidates for interim PRAECEPTORIUS membership. Abstentions do not count as votes; quorum must still be met. The action is limited to reconstituting qualified bishop or elder oversight and preserving continuity. No deacon enters the Circle through this procedure unless separately examined and recognized as a bishop or elder.

Following death, the reconstituted Circle selects the Overseeing Bishop under the Succession Declaration. During incapacity, it provides temporary oversight only, subject to Article VIII. No self-appointed or hereditary successor is permitted. If the required qualification, quorum, or approval cannot be obtained, preserve records and protect persons and actual assets, continue voluntary fellowship where practical, and defer permanent leadership action rather than issue unsupported credentials.

Article X Discipline and review

Use the Code of Doctrine Conduct and Ecclesiastical Discipline for complaints, fair consideration, protective action, written findings, and reconsideration. Good-faith questions and reports are not misconduct. Internal processes never replace lawful reporting or emergency action.

The founder's lifetime office and title remain protected under the Constitution. His conduct and transactions remain open to scriptural examination, independent review, lawful safety restrictions, and civil accountability. A particular financial recusal or protective access measure is not a transfer of his founding office.

Article XI Amendments

Provide the complete proposed text and explanation at least 14 days before an amendment meeting. While living and capable, the Founding Bishop's written approval is required. With more than one Circle member, amendments also require at least two-thirds of all eligible Circle members, rounded up. In the initial sole-member stage, the founder may approve in writing under his existing authority.

After his death, amendments require at least two-thirds of all eligible Circle members, rounded up, with no founder concurrence. If no Circle exists, first complete emergency reconstitution. Proposed changes to foundational doctrinal wording must receive at least 30 days' notice, written KJB reasoning, and unanimous eligible Circle approval; they may clarify doctrine but may not abandon the protected foundational Gospel, KJB authority, right division, or stated Pauline identity.

Record the text, notice, authority, actual approvals, effective date, and superseded clauses. New documents do not retroactively create prior ordinations, decisions, or tax status.

Article XII Dissolution and records

Dissolution requires 30 days' notice, a written plan, and at least two-thirds of all eligible Circle members, rounded up, plus founder approval while living and capable. Emergency reconstitution must precede dissolution if the Circle is empty. This internal procedure does not override an applicable court order or controlling law.

Preserve executed governing instruments, permanent decisions, credentials, succession and affiliation records. Apply the Records Policy to financial and sensitive files. Complete asset and liability handling under the Constitution; record the final custodian and permitted disposition of records.

Adoption

Adopted by _____ Authority and record _____

Founding Bishop or authorized chair signature _____ Date _____

Effective date _____ Custodian signature _____