

Glade Church Constitution

Adopted March 9, 2003

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this congregation is Glade Church.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of Glade Church shall be to proclaim in word and deed the gospel of Jesus and to provide opportunities for worship, education, spiritual growth, and service.

ARTICLE III

MISSION

Glade Church is an open and caring faith community in the free church tradition where worship is central and diversity is celebrated.

Glade Church is a community that affirms the priesthood of all believers and that every person has worth as a unique creation made in the image of God. We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church people of every race, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. As agents of reconciliation and wholeness, we embrace justice and seek to support all people including those who suffer discrimination or who feel disenfranchised from the religious community.

ARTICLE IV

COVENANT

We freely and joyfully covenant with one another to be one body, under the principles found in the Scriptures interpreted in the light of history, biblical scholarship and personal spiritual insights. We further agree to:

- Walk together in love;
- Regularly come together for worship and prayer;
- Participate in each other's joys and sorrows with tenderness and love;
- Uphold the mission of Glade Church as defined in Article III of this constitution;
- Contribute both time and financial support to the work of this church and its wider ministries.

ARTICLE V

POLITY

The polity of Glade Church is vested in the body of voting members. It is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but it accepts the responsibility of mutual counsel, cooperation and fellowship with the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church of Christ We also seek to work in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support with the wider ecumenical and inter-faith communities.

ARTICLE VI

PROPERTIES

Section 1: All assets, including, but not limited to, real estate, structures, accounts, art, equipment, and tangible personal property belonging to Glade Church shall be owned by the congregation. The congregation delegates legal responsibility for these assets to the Trustees of Glade Church.

Section 2: In the unlikely event that Glade Church should decide it can no longer be a functioning body, all assets, including, but not limited to, real estate, structures, accounts, art, equipment, and tangible personal property shall be distributed to the mission efforts of Glade Church as defined in the most recently approved congregational budget. Each mission effort shall receive a proportion of the total assets equivalent to its proportion of that same mission budget.

Section 3: In the unlikely event that Glade Church develops dissension or division within the body sufficient in scope to warrant litigation, all assets, including, but not limited to, real estate, structures, accounts, art, equipment, and tangible personal property shall become the property of those who remain committed to the purpose, mission, and covenant as defined in the first five articles of this constitution.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended as follows:

Amendments can be proposed only at regularly scheduled business meetings of the church. Proposed amendments must be in writing and read in entirety at that meeting. Proposed amendments may advance to discussion upon a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. Within thirty days of that first meeting, the full text of the proposed change must be mailed to the church membership. Formal discussion of proposed amendments may occur no sooner than the following regularly scheduled business meeting. A vote on the proposed amendment may occur no sooner than the next regularly scheduled business meeting following the discussion meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting is required for the amendment to pass. A failed amendment may not be revisited for one calendar year after its defeat.