



# **GFHI MEMBERSHIP PACKET**

*When finished, please email or deliver to the front office  
Contact: [info@gracefellowshiphawaii.org](mailto:info@gracefellowshiphawaii.org)*

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*Thank you for taking the time to consider these important documents. Being a member of the local church is a high calling and privilege. We pray that our presentation of the core beliefs and practices of our membership and leadership will help you discern God's will for your life in the local church as we strive to be faithful to God's call to be "the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15)." Please prayerfully consider and investigate these documents, and as the Lord leads you, to fill out, sign and return the forms to the office. If you have any questions please email [david@gracefellowshiphawaii.org](mailto:david@gracefellowshiphawaii.org).*

# GFHI Creed (Statement of Faith)

***\*This historic creed summarizes the essence of the biblical Christian faith. This is a description of the required beliefs of every member. Anyone who rejects anything in this document cannot be a member of GFHI. Any consistent rejection of anything in this document would be reason to question the credibility of one's faith. We believe a Creed should be the confession of the Christian faith (Jude 3). It is "entry-level" Christian belief.***

## Brief Outline

- God the Father
  - One
  - Ruler
  - Creator
- God The Son
  - Eternally Begotten
  - Fully Divine
  - Fully Human
  - Gospel History
- God the Spirit
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  - Fully Divine
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We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; Light from Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made a man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who is with the Father and the Son together worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe that there is one holy, \*catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*The word "catholic" refers to the universal church.

***I hereby affirm, my full agreement with Grace Fellowship Hawaii's Creed. Additionally, if I have consistently rejected some or all points of this Creed, I will inform the pastor-elders of Grace Fellowship Hawaii at once:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

# **The Nicene Creed**

## **(Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed)**

\*Adapted from <https://delraybaptist.org/beliefs/creeds/the-nicene-constantinopolitan-creed/>

### **History Of The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.)**

What do you say when someone asks, “Who is Jesus Christ?” Maybe you answer, “Jesus is the Word who became flesh and died for sins once for all before God raised him from the dead on the third day” (John 1, 1 Peter 3, Acts 10). If this is your response, you join Christians who, throughout the centuries, have summarized their faith to proclaim the Gospel and to ensure that teaching in the church is thoroughly Biblical. These summaries are often called “creeds.”

You may already be familiar with the Apostles’ Creed, but the Nicene Creed of AD 325 is less well known. Its origin is interesting. A preacher named Arius began to teach false doctrine such as: 1) God the Father alone is God; 2) Jesus Christ is a created being; and 3) there was a time when Christ did not exist. About 220 elders gathered in the town of Nicaea (in modern-day Turkey) to address Arius’ false teaching.

They wrote a brief statement, using biblically faithful wording, to clarify that Christians believe Jesus Christ is fully God, and that those who believe and teach anything less lack Biblical faith. We have omitted one paragraph that condemns a particular false teaching of the time.

### **An Explanation of the Constantinople Addition (381 A.D.)**

Belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is an essential part of biblical faith. Knowing God, and constantly affirming this faith, is part of what it means to be a Christian.

In 381 A.D., in the city of Constantinople, a group of elders formed a council to write a statement reaffirming their faith in Father, Son and Spirit. This statement, commonly known as the Nicene Creed of 381 A.D., declares Biblical truths such as 1) Jesus is God; 2) Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead; 3) the Holy Spirit is Lord as well; 4) there is one universal church; and 5) the dead will be resurrected. Later, this creed was amended to make clear that the Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son.

The phrase, “We confess one baptism for the remission of sins,” does not mean that baptism leads to forgiveness of sins but that the Christian gospel depicted by baptism is the only gospel that truly saves.

This creed was an appropriate response to false teaching of the past, and it remains a useful means to guard against false teaching that might occur in the future.

### **A Note About the Toledo Acceptance (589 A.D.)**

After the Synod of Toledo in Spain, the Nicene Creed was accepted by the Western churches with the addition of what’s commonly called the “Filioque clause” which gets its name from the Latin word “filioque” which can be rendered “and the Son.” The affirmation of this clause is that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son. We understand the Bible to clearly imply this aspect of the eternal relationships of origin within the Triune God in passages such as John 15:26. The earthly missions of the Son in His incarnation and the Spirit in His indwelling flow from how the Father, Son, and Spirit exist from eternity.

# GFHI Confession of Faith Abstract

***\*Our Confession of Faith is what all our elders affirm and what all our members submit to. It consists of the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1677/1689) plus a contemporary article of faith and an additional article on baptism and communion (see the second page). Here is an abstract summary of the Confession of Faith for quick reference. To read the entire confession of faith see: [www.the1689confession.com](http://www.the1689confession.com)***

1. We believe in the one true and living God, in three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who is invisible, personal, omnipresent, eternal, dependent on none, unchanging, truthful, trustworthy, almighty, sovereign, omniscient, righteous, holy, good, loving, merciful, long-suffering and gracious.
2. We believe that Almighty God has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation in the sixty six books of Holy Scripture which are the Word of God. All Scripture was given by inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant, and is the final arbiter in all disputes. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men.
3. We believe that God made our first father Adam perfect, holy and upright. He was appointed representative and head of the human race thereby exposing all his offspring to the effects of his obedience or disobedience to God's commands.
4. We believe that Adam fell from his original righteousness into sin and brought upon himself and all his offspring death, condemnation and sinnership.
5. We believe it is utterly beyond the power of fallen man to love God, to keep his laws, to understand the gospel, to repent of sin or trust in Christ.
6. We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for his own glory did elect an innumerable host of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon his foresight of human faith, decision, works or merit.
7. We believe that God sent his Son into the world, conceived of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, unchangeably sinless, both God and man, born under the Law, to live a perfect life of righteousness, on behalf of his elect people.
8. We believe that God's Son died at Calvary to effect propitiation, reconciliation, redemption and atonement for his elect people. God bore testimony to his acceptance of his Son's work by raising him from the dead.
9. We believe that God's Son ascended to the right hand of his Father and is enthroned in glory, where he intercedes on behalf of his people and rules over all things for their sake.
10. We believe that God the Son has poured out the Holy Spirit to work alongside the preached Word. The Spirit of God regenerates the elect sinner and draws him irresistibly to faith in Christ the Savior.
11. We believe the elect, who are called by grace, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ which is received by faith alone.
12. We believe that such as are regenerated, called and justified shall persevere in holiness and never finally fall away.
13. We believe that baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances belonging only to regenerated believers.
14. We believe that the local church is under the authority of Christ alone. The communion of saints, however, requires recognition of and fellowship with other churches.
15. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to raise the dead, both righteous and unrighteous, and that the righteous shall enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting punishment.

(Reformation Today by Erroll Hulse)

## **Contemporary Article of Faith**

We believe in the inerrancy of the Bible.

We believe in a complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work ("the gospel"; His sinless life, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, present ministry, and future return).

We believe marriage is designed by God to be between one man and one woman.

We believe that homosexuality, transgenderism, and any other unbiblical perversion of "male" and "female" is sin.

We believe abortion is sin.

We believe all forms of racism are sin.

We believe husbands must lead their wives and children.

We believe only men can fill the office of pastor.

Heb 4:14-16; II Cor 5:21; Luke 24:36-43; Act 1:11; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:18-29; 2 Tim 3:15-16; Heb 13:4; Gen 1:26-30; Exod 20:3-17; Matt 19:3-12; Eph 5:3-5; Matt 22:36-40; Eph 5:22-33; 1 Tim 2:11-15;

\*For a fuller explanation see The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy and both the Danvers and Nashville Statements ([http://www.danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/old/Resource\\_545/Book\\_2\\_Sec\\_23.pdf](http://www.danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/old/Resource_545/Book_2_Sec_23.pdf)) (<https://grbc.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/The-Danvers-Statement-on-Biblical-Manhood-and-Womanhood.pdf>) (<https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/The-Nashville-Statement.pdf>)

## **Of Baptism & Communion (The Lord's Supper)**

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein they are \*immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of their fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving oneself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church fellowship, and to participation in Communion (the Lord's Supper).

Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12; Gal 3:27; Acts 8:36-37; Matt 28:19-20; Matt 3:16

Communion (The Lord's Supper) is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine (juice), and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death and the new covenant in His blood, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26; 10:16; Acts 2:41-42

\*Our practice is trine immersion

# GFHI Church Covenant

***\*This is a description of the required practices that every member commits to. Anyone with a settled disagreement against any of these practices cannot be a member of GFHI. We believe every line of this covenant is taught in Scripture and, therefore, we believe we are only holding members to what Jesus already commands them to do. We do not believe that anyone can do these practices perfectly, but we do believe "by the Divine aid" of the Holy Spirit, every single Christian will want to do all these practices in an increasing measure.***

## Brief Outline

- Intent to Covenant
- Commitment to Unity
- To Assembly
- For the Household
- For Conduct in the World
- For Leaving Well
- Prayer for God's Grace

***I hereby affirm, by the grace of God, my commitment to uphold Grace Fellowship Hawaii's Church Covenant:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with each other.

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church; exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for worship, edification, fellowship, and mission. We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows; being willing to confront sin, and ready to restore should a brother be won over; to be slow to take offense, ready for reconciliation, mindful of the commands of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends. We also commit by, Divine aid, to maintain family and private devotion; and to be faithful in our own efforts to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world; denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.

We further submit that if God moves us from this fellowship, we will leave in a peaceable and orderly manner; and as soon as possible, we will unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

## GFHI Membership Information Sheet

**\*Local church membership is for those who have placed their faith in Christ for salvation and who are baptized. After completing the *Membership Matters Class*, please fill out this form and submit it to our office. You will be contacted for a meeting with our pastor-elders.**

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

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: (circle all that apply)

Single / Married / Divorced / Remarried / Separated / Widowed

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names:

At Home?:

\_\_\_\_\_

( Y / N )

\_\_\_\_\_

( Y / N )

\_\_\_\_\_

( Y / N )

\_\_\_\_\_

( Y / N )

How long have you been attending GFHI?: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Church Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state reason(s) for leaving:

Have you completed our *Membership Matters Class*? ( Y / N )

Have you been baptized upon a credible profession of faith? ( Y / N )

Have you read, understand, and agree with our Core Beliefs and Practices documents (Creed, Covenant, Confession, Constitution)? ( Y / N )

Have you signed our Church Creed and Covenant? ( Y / N )

What would you enjoy doing (skills, talents, spiritual gifts, etc.) to help minister to others?:

\*Please be prepared to share with the pastor-elders:

- 1) A brief summary of your understanding of the message of the gospel;
- 2) A brief description of how and when you came to faith in Christ.



# GFHI Constitution & Bylaws

*\*Other documents that are less often referred to but helpful if you ever want to see any of them:*

Articles of Incorporation (aka “Constitution”): legal document that defines the mission of GFHI as the Great Commission, giving us legal protection in all of our discipleship endeavors. It contains the basic principles along which GFHI is to operate. The Articles of Incorporation are enacted through the Bylaws.

Bylaws: legal document that defines our church polity (government structure with elders, deacons, and members), giving us legal protection in all of our decision-making processes. It contains operational rules and policies that specify how GFHI is to be run in an effective and orderly manner on a daily basis. The Bylaws are based on the Articles of Incorporation.