

Constitution of PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH

**As approved on
October 27, 2013**

Amended October 23, 2016; October 21, 2018; August 25, 2019

Article I: Name

The name of this church shall be PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH.

Article II: Foundation, Object, and Priorities of Ministry

1. The foundation of this Church is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11), and its code of guidance in all its affairs, the Word of God, and this Church does here affirm its faith that only the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (hereafter referred to as Bible) are the Word of Almighty God (Mark 13:31; 2 Timothy 3:16)
2. The object of this Church shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible, to sustain its ordinances and doctrines, and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is by personal faith on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
3. The priorities of ministry of this church flow from the vision of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this vision in worship (John 4:23-24), strengthen the vision in nurture and education (I Corinthians 14:26; II Peter 3:18), and spread the vision in evangelism, missions, and loving deeds (1 Peter 2:9; 3:15; Matthew 28:18-20; 5:16).

Affirmation of Our Faith

I. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31, 32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32

II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons (namely: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit); that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. Genesis 1:1-2, 26; John 1:1, 3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19, 20; Ephesians 4:5, 6

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly foreordained all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all whom He draws to Himself through Jesus Christ. Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; John 6:44; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1, 2; 2:5, 6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6; Isaiah 46:10; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:3-5.

IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity past. We believe in time, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, miracles, and teachings. We believe that He lived a sinless life through His active and passive obedience to God's law for our imputed righteousness. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and future personal visible return to earth. Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-24; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Timothy 3:16

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to draw, regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. John 6:44; John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; John 16:7-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26

VI. REGENERATION

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he (the first man Adam) sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual, and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and as a result are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. Genesis 1:26; 5:2; Genesis 3; Genesis 2:17; 3:19; John 3:14; 5:24; John 5:30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 9:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10, 14, 15; Psalm 51:7; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14; Romans 3:19; 5:19-21; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; John 3:16; John 1:13; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1

VII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting

of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary tasks of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world and equipping God's people for His service. Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25

VIII. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; Striving to be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1-3; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 14:15, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Colossians 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-12.

IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God for the purpose of fulfilling Christ's command to be baptized and as an outward sign of an inward change. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

X. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4, 10, 11.

XI. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the future, personal, and visible bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth. We believe in the future resurrection of the self-same body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked. Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15

Article III: OUR CHURCH COVENANT

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and supreme Treasure of our lives, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

2. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and peace; to promote its spirituality and fruitfulness; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and discipline; to welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church seeking to grow toward Biblical unity in the truth; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. Romans 12: 9-21; James 2:8-12.

3. We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and unrighteous anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith. Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 4:26.

4. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Hebrews 12: 12-17

ARTICLE IV: Membership

The voting membership of this Church shall consist of persons (18 years of age and older) who confess faith on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by a living consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church. Those under age 18 wishing to become members of this church may do so according to the same standards as adults, but will not gain voting privileges until age 18. All calculations and requirements in this constitution and the church by-laws regarding quorums, amendments, etc. shall be made based solely on the number of voting members. All non-voting members in good standing will automatically become voting members at the age of 18.

ARTICLE V: Leadership and Organization

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the Congregation of the Church is the final authority within this local Church. This authority is normally exercised through the election of officers to govern the Church. However, the vote of the membership of this Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to effect the following actions:
 - A. Accept members into the Church, give letters of transfer or recommendation to members, or drop members from the Church roll;
 - B. Elect officers of the Church;
 - C. Discipline members by dismissing them and discipline officers by removing them from office;
 - D. Approve annual budgets of the Church, authorize any expenditure of the funds of the Church when such expenditure is not covered by an approved budget, and approve any transactions regarding real property;
 - E. Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the Council of Elders, or raised by motion at a business meeting;
 - F. Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of this church;
 - G. Approve the call, job description and initial salary of Vocational Pastors and Ministers.
2. The offices of the Church shall be Elder and Deacon. The purpose of the officers of the Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry.
3. The leadership of the Church shall be vested in the Council of Elders who are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word, and tending the flock of God in this Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.
4. Deacons shall assist the Council of Elders by performing services of advice, administration, and implementation.

ARTICLE VI: The Church Property

1. In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of this Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of the Church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division.
2. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to Grace Community Church of Minden Nevada or its successor. GCC is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Any assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for

such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

3. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, and approved by the congregation, the Council of Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of this Church is concerned.

ARTICLE VII: Revisions, Additions and Amendments

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this constitution may be made only in the following manner:
 - A. at the annual meeting or a regular quarterly congregational meeting; and
 - B. by a majority vote of the membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at such meeting, provided at least fifty percent (50%) of the resident membership of the Church is present at such meeting; and
 - C. after presentation by written motion at a quarterly or special business meeting held at least one month before the meeting; and
 - D. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two Sundays in the interim period between said meetings.
2. Article II and Article VII (2) of this constitution shall not be repealed, amended nor revised.

Note: All scriptures listed in this document were taken from the English Standard Version.