



## **Who are we as a church? Why do we exist?**

Two Key Passages:

### The Great Commandments

#### ***Matthew 22:34-40***

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

### The Great Commission

#### ***Matthew 28:16-20***

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## **Our Mission**

Reaching people to become fully-devoted, world-changing followers of Christ.

## **Our Strategy**

### **1. Love God**

We need to love God with everything that we have and are.

- Character
- Service
- Knowledge
- Connection

### **2. Love Others**

We need to love others like we love ourselves, both in *how* we love ourselves and *how much* we love ourselves.

### **3. Make Disciples**

God has commissioned us to take his gospel all over: from our families, to our neighborhoods, to this region, and to the ends of the earth.

## **Our Values**

### **Engaging Worship**

We want our worship to connect with the hearts of people. We also want people to be engaged with worship and to be active participants in the worship service.

### **Relational Ministry**

God has called us to minister to people. He wants us to love and serve people. Ministry is not getting people to serve our agenda. People are the agenda and we need to love and serve them and point them to Christ at every opportunity.

### **Strategic Leadership**

Is it effective? Is it the best? These are the questions that we want to ask. We do not want to do ministry because it is tradition or because that's what we want to do. We want to be effective and strategic in everything we do.

### **Relevant Teaching**

We believe in teaching the Bible and we also believe that the Bible speaks to our lives. What we learn and study helps us in every aspect of our lives. What we teach matters on Tuesday as much as it does on Sunday.

### **Empowering People**

As leaders and staff we believe that we are called to equip people to do ministry. Every one of us is called by God to be involved in ministry and leading. It is our hope that everyone can find a place to serve and lead.

### **Outward Focus**

We are always mindful of people who do not yet have faith in Christ. Whether or not those people are in NWA or on the other side of the world. We want to be a church that is always reaching out to those far from God.

## **What we do**

### Sunday Morning Worship Services

- Celebratory
- Life-Giving
- Relevant
- Focused on the Lost

### Small Groups

Small groups at the Grove Church are a perfect place to develop meaningful relationships, study Gods word together, and lift each other up in prayer and accountability.

Check out this link for a comprehensive list of groups. E-mail or call a leader and jump in:

[www.thegrovechurch.org/small-groups](http://www.thegrovechurch.org/small-groups)

### Connections

Each month we hold four intro meetings. This time is designed for newcomers (as well as long term attenders) who are interested in finding out more about who we are and potentially interested in membership. The classes are exactly the same each month, making it possible to catch up if one is missed.

### Serving Teams and Outreach

There are a variety of opportunities to join in the ministry of the Grove. We believe it is vital for everyone to find their place of service.

## THE GROVE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in the Church 101 class, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with The Grove Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

### 1. I will **connect** at my church...

- ...By connecting with God
- ...By connecting at worship services regularly
- ...By connecting with a small group

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42*

*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25*

### 2. I will **give** to my church...

- ...because it is right
- ...because God blesses generosity
- ...because God uses it to change the world

*“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.” 1 Corinth. 16:2*

*“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30*

SECURE GIVE - <https://thegrovechurch.securegive.com>

Online giving is a great tool that helps us in the discipline of giving God what is His first. Recurring giving helps us tithe from our income as we receive it, and helps making giving back to God our top priority with our finances. We have partnered with a online service called **Secure Give**. Setup is quick and easy.

### 3. I will **serve** my church...

- ...By serving on a team at church
- ...By serving in the community
- ...By serving the world

*“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...” 1 Peter 4:10*

*“God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” Ephesians 4:11-12*

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...”* Philippians 2:3-4, 7

#### **4. I will *pray* for my church...**

- ...By praying for God’s blessing on our church
- ...By praying for our leadership
- ...By cultivating a deep prayer life

*“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.”* 1 Thessalonians 1:2

*“Ask, and it will be given to you seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* Matthew 7:7

#### **5. I will *protect* my church... (reputation)**

- ...By loving one another
- ...By honoring leadership
- ...By living a godly life

*“Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.”* Romans 15:5

*“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.”* 1 Peter 1:22

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...”* Ephesians 4:29

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”* Hebrews 13:17

#### **6. I will *invite* to my church...**

- ...By inviting the unchurched to attend
- ...By warmly welcoming those who visit
- ...By inviting people into relationship with Christ

*“Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.”* Luke 14:23

*“So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”* Romans 15:7

## The Grove Church Statement of Faith

### THE SCRIPTURES:

We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are inspired of God, in whole and in part, error-free in the original writings and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

### GOD:

We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable. We further believe that God is one in essence while existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the Godhead possesses precisely the same nature and attributes, each functions differently in respect to God's purposes and dealings with man.<sup>2</sup>

### THE FATHER:

The first person of the Trinity is sovereign in creation, providence and redemption. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup>

### THE SON:

The second person of the Trinity is both the eternal Son of God and virgin-born Son of man. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, led a sinless life and satisfied the Father's justice concerning sin by His substitutionary death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His physical ascension and his future return to earth.<sup>4</sup>

### THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The third person of the Trinity executes the will of God in the world of men. It is the Holy Spirit who applies the salvation Jesus Christ secured through His death on the cross. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the church to live a lifestyle pleasing to God, endowing it with special gifts, which equip believers to accomplish distinct ministries, planned beforehand by God the Father.<sup>5</sup>

### MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image of God to enjoy His fellowship and to fulfill God's will on earth. Man sinned by a voluntary act of personal disobedience to the will of God; as a result, all men are spiritually dead and subject to the certainty of physical death

and eternal separation from God. Each person is born with a sinful nature and sins habitually in thought, word and deed.<sup>6</sup>

#### SALVATION:

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are declared justified by the Father on the grounds of Jesus' death and resurrection. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. By grace they become the children of God, granted eternal life with him. Furthermore, God's grace enables righteous living and good works as the believer submits his life to the control of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Word of God.<sup>7</sup>

#### THE CHURCH:

We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true universal church and are directed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local, visible churches. The purpose of the church is to lead men to Christ, mature them in the faith, and equip them for personal ministry.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 119:160; 1 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 4:39, 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

<sup>3</sup> 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:3-6

<sup>4</sup> John 1:14-18; Acts 1:11; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:16-18; Revelation 20:11-15 <sup>5</sup> John 3:1-8 & 15-16, 15:4-15; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:18-21

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:3-4; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-23; Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>7</sup> John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26, 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10-12; 1 John 5:11-13

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 16:13-28, 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47, 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 5:1-3