

Global Change Network, U.S.A. Membership Agreement

We believe that to carry on the vision and mission of Global Change Network, U.S.A., (GCN), to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the organization and to provide a biblical role model to the GCN members and the community, it is imperative that all persons who associate with GCN as members should abide by and agree to the following Colorado Christian Fellowship (CCF) Statement of Faith and conduct themselves in accordance with it.

A. Statement of Faith (initial)

The Bible is God's bold and loving message to the world. We believe it is the instruction manual for all of life and reveals the lives of real people and the heart and character of a real and loving God. Specifically, we believe:

- 1) The Bible reflects the story God wanted to tell about his relationship with the world. It is "inspired" by him. The truths presented in the Bible are the supreme authority over all things in life.
- 2) God eternally exists in three persons who are equal in divine perfection. They have different roles, but they work in harmony as One. God the Father is a personal Spirit who is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He hears and answers prayers and welcomes all those who come to him in the name of his son. Jesus Christ is the Father's son and we believe that his death on the cross, his resurrection, and his return to heaven allow those who believe in him to experience eternal life with him. The third person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit, whose role is to show the world where it has fallen short of God's right way of living and to teach those who believe in Jesus how to live.
- 3) Everyone, by nature, has fallen short of God's right way of living. We have not followed God's right way of living and therefore sinned, or committed wrong actions. Sin separates people from God. But the good news is that God reached out to us to end that separation. He invites all people to come home to him! To fix the sin problem, God sent his son, Jesus. His son paved the way for a relationship with God by dying for all people on a cross and rising to life again. To receive this gift of relationship, every person must believe that Jesus died for them, confess their wrong actions and ask Jesus to live in them.
- 4) There is a universal church, a living spiritual body which Jesus cares for and oversees. In this universal church, everyone has received, by faith, the gift of a relationship with God. They have "come home" to the Father and will experience the abundant life he has planned for them. The local church, which is a group of believers who have a relationship with God, is a local representation of that larger universal church.

5) Baptism is a physical demonstration of a person identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When a person, by faith, identifies with what Jesus did, faith is the means by which that person experiences a vibrant relationship with God.

6) Jesus commanded his followers to remember his death by hosting a special meal called communion, also known as the Lord's Supper. Colorado Christian Fellowship hosts communion once a month so as to commemorate what Jesus did for the entire world.

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Romans 1:18-27.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Colorado Christian Fellowship as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Colorado Christian Fellowship members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Colorado Christian Fellowship in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 John 1:8-10.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Colorado Christian Fellowship.

B. Statement on Discipline
(initial)

The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal 6:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline members for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the CCF Board of Overseers and is to follow the biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11. Any member of GCN who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the GCN Board of Overseers, is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of CCF or GCN, or is divisive to the body, shall be subject to discipline.

Discipline will follow the said biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church and GCN from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry and GCN membership activities, as well as revocation of ordination credentials. An individual may be disciplined by the GCN Board of Overseers short of revocation of ordination credentials, as it deems appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a member of GCN but be placed in inactive status, and denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry).

C. Statement on Arbitration (Article 8 of the GCN Bylaws)
(initial)**Conflict Resolution**

If any member, officer, agent, staff or employee of GCN, U.S.A., feels that he or she has been wronged or damaged by any act word or deed, taken by or on behalf of GCN, U.S.A., its Board of Overseers, or anyone or more members of its Board of Overseers, then such person (the "Grieved Party") shall submit such grievance to the Board of Overseers of CCF for resolution of the matter by arbitration by the Board of Overseers of CCF, first. If resolution of the matter is not satisfactorily obtained from the Board of Overseers of CCF, such person shall have the right to request Christian Arbitration of such matter pursuant to I Corinthian 6 and pursuant to the GCN Bylaws. No litigation in any civil (i.e., non-ecclesiastical court or other agency) shall be commenced against GCN, U.S.A., its Board of Overseers, any member of its Board of Overseers, or any member of GCN, U.S.A., until all avenues of Christian Arbitration have been exhausted.

Arbitration by the Board of Overseers of CCF

A Grieved Party shall have the right to arbitrate his claim before the full Board of Overseers of CCF, by submitting a written request for arbitration to any member of the Board within thirty (30) days of the occurrence complained of. The Board shall then set an arbitration hearing date, which shall be within sixty (60) days of the date receipt of the request for arbitration. The Grieved Party shall have the right to attend such arbitration and to present evidence in his behalf. The Board of Overseers of CCF shall rule upon his or her claim, and shall deliver a written ruling on the matter to all parties thereto within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

Arbitration by Christian Legal Society and Peace Makers Ministry

Any party to an arbitration which has been ruled upon by the Board of Overseers of CCF pursuant to Section 8.2 of the GCN Bylaws (above: "Arbitration by the Board of Overseers of CCF") shall have the right to appeal the Board's ruling by submitting his or her appeal to Christian arbitration before the Christian Legal Society and/or Peace Makers Ministry, pursuant to the rules of Christian arbitration adopted by Christian Legal Society and/or Peace Makers Ministry then in effect. Such party appealing the Board's ruling shall submit his or her claim for Christian arbitration in writing to Christian Legal Society and/or Peace Makers Ministry (designated "Arbitration") within thirty (30) days of his or her receipt of the written ruling of the Board of Overseers of CCF issued pursuant to Section 8.2 of the GCN Bylaws (above: "Arbitration by the Board of Overseers of CCF")

D. Statement on Life

(initial)

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

E. Statement of Final Authority on Matters of Faith and Conduct

(initial)

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of GCN's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the CCF

Board of Overseer's is GCN's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. I have reviewed the statements above as indicated by my initials before each of them, and agree to be governed by all the provisions herein.

Name

Date