

Church structure of Grace Communion International

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."
(2 Tim 2:2)

Grace Communion International, a nonprofit corporation, is active in almost 100 countries and territories and maintains its international headquarters in Glendora, California. The church, with an international membership of about 50,000, and 900 congregations, has a mission of "living and sharing the gospel.

The church has its roots in Eugene, Oregon, in the early 1930s.

We are active in preaching the gospel on a global level. With administrative centers on every continent, the church has congregations in over 70 countries and is engaged in mission in over 90 countries.

We have a hierarchical form of government. The denominational administration is led by the president, who is supported by a board of directors and an advisory council of elders. The denomination appoints each congregation's senior pastor (or pastoral team) who is supported by the congregation's advisory council. Other congregational leaders are appointed by the senior pastor (with elder ordinations reviewed and approved by the denomination).

Our international administrative office in Glendora, California (we refer to it as 'HQ') operates in accordance with the following mission and objectives.

Mission

HQ seeks to help GCI churches attain their God-given potential. We do so by providing theological, doctrinal, administrative, financial and legal integrity and accountability to all U.S. churches and theological, doctrinal and spiritual leadership to administrative offices in non-U.S. regions.

Objectives

Grounded in its values, HQ seeks to fulfill its mission through the following objectives (this list is partial, for the complete list and a list of values see the article "HQ Mission"):

- Encourage and facilitate the clear proclamation of the gospel in word and deed in each GCI church.
- Provide denominational identity for all GCI churches.
- Maintain the *Statement of Beliefs* and the theological and doctrinal integrity of the denomination.
- Provide denominational leadership characterized by humility, integrity, honesty and faithfulness to the Word of God.
- Provide effective biblical instructional materials and church news and information for GCI members.
- Provide effective preparation, training, selection, continuing education and supervision of competent, Christ-centered, Spirit-led
- Provide training for church renewal and church planting.
- Provide skilled administrative and legal services for U.S. churches.
- Provide spiritual support and international coordination for non-U.S. regions.
- Maintain the office of Superintendent of Missions to coordinate non-U.S. regional offices.
- Publish GCI's doctrinal teachings and beliefs in the *Statement of Beliefs* and other denominational publications.
- Maintain a doctrinal advisory team that reports to the advisory council of elders and is responsible for researching the accuracy and theological integrity of the *Statement of Beliefs* and the doctrinal content of denominational literature and instructional materials.
- Provide administrative support for denominationally sponsored conferences, conventions and annual worship events.
- Maintain a partnership with Ambassador College of Christian Ministry and Grace Communion Seminary to encourage further education for pastors and members.

GCI Mission, Vision and Objectives

Our Mission: *Living and Sharing the Gospel*

We seek to fulfill the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:16-20](#)) by living and sharing the good news of what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Our Vision: *All kinds of churches for all kinds of people in all kinds of places*

We seek to be a movement of multiplication - faithfully and creatively engaged in what Jesus is doing in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Father's mission to the world.

Our Objectives

We pursue our mission and vision by:

- Multiplying healthy, Christ-centered congregations where God is worshipped and people are nurtured and helped to mature as followers of Jesus Christ.
- Providing sound biblical teaching through congregations, media and personal outreach in relevant, meaningful forms for people of diverse backgrounds and ages.
- Expressing the love of God to all through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- Equipping people for Christian service so that the gospel can be known, understood, and experienced.
- Sharing in the work of the gospel with the broader Christian community, acknowledging that we can learn from one another and that Christ's love goes beyond denominational boundaries.

US Church Structure

There are four administrative regions, each served by a regional pastor (RP) and an associate regional pastor (ARP). Each region has multiple districts, each served by a district pastor (DP) who oversees the various congregations within that district. Each congregation is served by its pastor (or other primary leader or pastoral care team).

Church Structure for Non US countries

Mission Directors oversee major areas. There are Mission Directors for Africa, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Carribean, the Middle East and Latin America.

Individual countries, if they are large enough, have a National Director who oversees the pastoral teams of each congregation in that country.