

# Position Statement Guidelines

While the Identity Statement is a summary of our internationally shared biblical convictions, mutual commitments, and common practices, it is not intended to address the specific cultural, social, and theological issues that may need to be addressed within each national context.

Position Statements seek to address issues that relate to our identity within our own cultural context here in North America. Each one should be developed according to these guidelines and meet the criteria of the check list below.

## GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Must address a **necessary issue** – Each Position Statement must address an issue that the Fellowship Council representatives agree is necessary and helpful for churches in the Grace Church Network.
- ✓ Must express **what we hold in common** – Each Position Statement must respond to the issue in such a way that it builds unity by only expressing what is broadly held in common by churches within the Grace Church Network.
- ✓ Must be developed with **input from experts** – Each Position Statement must be developed by or with significant input from men and women who have demonstrated experience, knowledge, and the ability to speak into the issue being addressed.
- ✓ Must be **written concisely and be easy to read** – Each Position Statement must be written concisely (no more than ??? words), and only use language and words that are easy to read and understand.
- ✓ Must reference **additional documents only when necessary** – Each Position Statement must make sense on its own, but can reference further supporting documents as additional resources if necessary. Such resources are not to be considered part of the adopted position.
- ✓ Must point to **Scripture for support** – Each Position Statement must point to at least one clearly related Scriptural passage that supports or speaks into the content or intent of the position.
- ✓ Must have a **healthy tone** that balances grace and truth – Each Position Statement must be written in a way that deliberately seeks to balance Grace and Truth, avoiding harsh reactionary wording or negative tones.
- ✓ Must **harmonize with our Identity and Mission statements** – Each Position Statement must be in harmony with, and where possible affirm the contents of both our Identity Statement and our Commitment to Common Mission.
- ✓ Must be **initiated and approved by Fellowship Council** – Each Position Statement must be developed at the request of the Fellowship Council and approved by that body before being distributed or presented to the delegates for a vote of affirmation.
- ✓ Must be **reviewed and reaffirmed every five years** – Each Position Statement must be reviewed and presented to the delegates for a reaffirmation vote every five

years (or less as needed).

#### CHECK LIST:

- ✓ Does it address a necessary issue?
- ✓ Does it express what we hold in common?
- ✓ Was it developed with input from experts?
- ✓ Was it written concisely and is it easy to read?
- ✓ Does it reference additional documents only when necessary?
- ✓ Does it point to Scripture for support?
- ✓ Does it have a healthy tone that balances grace and truth?
- ✓ Does it harmonize with our Identity and Mission statements?