



About GCS: Philosophy

Grace Communion Seminary
P.O. Box 5005
Glendora, California 91740

GCS Mission: *“Equipping the Saints for Pastoral Ministry.”* We are committed to equip the saints for pastoral ministry through graduate education in biblical, theological, ministerial and pastoral studies.

Purpose Statement: Why Grace Communion Seminary?

Grace is the essence of our lives. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ reveals God to us, grants us life in him, leads us in forgiving and being forgiven, and gives us salvation.

Communion defines the relationship we have with God, Jesus, and one another. The communion of the Holy Spirit binds us with Jesus who is the head of the Church, enlivens God’s love in our hearts, and unites us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Seminary describes the scope of our educational goal. We are committed to enabling pastoral ministry in the universal church that effectively shares the love of the Father with the world.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

Educational Philosophy:

GCS provides holistic Christian education for laity and ministry to develop biblical and theological understanding for pastoral leadership by means of directed readings, online lectures, written assignments, practical application experiences, and interaction with colleagues and professors.

We hold that it is a primary purpose of the Seminary to provide formal programs of instruction and other learning opportunities that foster intellectual curiosity, supply the tools to transform the student, arouse the social and moral conscience of its students, and cultivate in them a willingness to respond to the global needs of mankind.

We see as fundamental to the accomplishment of these purposes a profound dedication to the search for and dissemination of truth. We believe, therefore, that the students, faculty, staff, administrators, and board members should be committed to and supported in their pursuit of knowledge and truth.

Educational Objectives: Grace Communion Seminary seeks to:

1. Provide biblical studies that familiarize the student with the biblical text as a historical document and an inspired and authoritative guide for readers as well as its first audience.
2. Provide theological studies that prepare the student to think theologically, to understand the central themes of Christian doctrine, and to appreciate the differences between various Christian traditions.
3. Provide Christian ministry studies that assist in spiritual and ethical formation and development of relevant leadership skills.
4. Provide pastoral studies that support the work of preaching, counseling, teaching, training, mentoring, and leading in service to our Triune God and his Church.
5. Provide integrated studies that build strong relationships within the love of God the Father, the grace of the Son Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Foundational Tenets:

The Statement of Beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God provides the doctrinal foundation for GCS. **We believe:**

- In one holy, loving, all-powerful, and gracious Creator God who exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- That the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, fully authoritative for all matters of faith and practice.
- That Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully human, is both Lord and Savior.
- That Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross for human sin, that he was raised bodily on the third day, and that he ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father.
- That Jesus Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead and to reign over all things.
- In the Holy Spirit, who brings sinners to repentance, who gives eternal life to believers, and who lives in them to conform them to the image of Jesus Christ.

- That Christians should gather in regular fellowship and live lives of faith that make evident the good news that humans enter the kingdom of God by putting their trust in Jesus Christ.
- In the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- That salvation comes not by works, but only by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- In the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

(For full *Statement of Beliefs*, go to <http://www.wcg.org/lit/>)

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

“Grace Communion Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administered programs.”