



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 informed by Trinitarian Incarnational faith.

Purpose Statement: Why Grace Communion Seminary?

Grace Communion Seminary serves the needs of pastors and others engaged in Christian service who want to grow deeper in relationship with our Triune God and to be able to more effectively serve in the Incarnational life of the Church in Jesus Christ.

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. Our Triune God and his grace and love through Jesus Christ is the center of our theology.

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. We live in inseparable unity in Christ in the perpetual effects of his incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost.

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. We teach from a perspective of Trinitarian Incarnational theology.

“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 humanity.

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:

Through our curriculum in biblical studies, theology, and ministry, Grace Communion Seminary seeks to attain these five objectives:

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Through maintaining the educational objectives in our curriculum, the student is intended to accomplish the following learning outcomes:

1. Explain the revelation of the Bible in its historical and cultural setting as it relates to God, Jesus Christ, and Salvation, and its application for faithful living today.
2. Reason from a sound theological basis as new covenant Christians centered in Trinitarian Incarnational faith.
3. Model the love of God the Father, the grace of the Son Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit in congregations.

4. Conduct the work of pastoral ministry in witness to and representation of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. Integrate biblical exegesis with sound theological exposition that informs personal spiritual growth and that directs effective ministry in Jesus Christ.

Foundational Tenets:

The Statement of Beliefs of Grace Communion International provides the doctrinal foundation for GCS. **We believe:**

- There is one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God the Father made all things through the Son, sent the Son for our salvation, and gives us the Holy Spirit.
- The Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, was born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully human, and is the perfect revelation of the Father and the perfect representative of humanity. He suffered and died on the cross for all human sin, was raised bodily on the third day, and ascended to heaven. Standing in for all humanity before the Father, Jesus Christ provides the perfect human response to God. Since he died for all, all died in him, and all will be made alive in him.
- The Holy Spirit brings sinners to repentance and faith, assures believers of their forgiveness and acceptance as God’s dearly loved children, and works in them to conform them to the image of Jesus Christ.
- The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God that testifies to Jesus Christ. The Bible is fully authoritative for all matters of faith and salvation.
- Salvation comes only by God’s grace and not by works, and it is experienced through faith in Jesus Christ. Christians respond to the joy of salvation when they gather in regular fellowship and live godly lives in Jesus Christ.
- We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

(For full *Statement of Beliefs*, go to <http://www.gci.org/aboutus/beliefs>.)

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.”