



GREATER CHURCH
OF DELIVERANCE, INC.

New Affiliate Application

2023 Edition

New Affiliate,

Welcome to GCOD, Inc.

“We are intimate enough to be a family and large enough to be a nation!”

-Archbishop Freddie B. Marshall, Ph.D

It is with a profundity of joy that we welcome you into this Zion. We recognize this denomination is strong because we continue to expand and grow with quality ministries and leaders, just like you.

We make ourselves available to you at all times and during this onboarding process we want to be able to share with you all information necessary for a smooth transition into affiliation.

Please take the time to review all information provided, visit our website at www.GCOD.org and visit our social media pages for announcements, videos and post that are edifying and informative.

Again, welcome and know, we are more than a fellowship, this is a denomination that has capacity enough to support who you are and who you are becoming!

I remain,

Archbishop Freddie B. Marshall, PhD

Presiding Prelate Greater Church of Deliverance, Inc.



New Affiliate Application

Name: _____ Age: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Are you currently or have you previously been a part of another denomination/fellowship?

YES or NO (If Yes, explain)

Have you previously been a part of The Greater Church of Deliverance Inc?

YES or NO (If yes, please provide dates of affiliation & reason for severance)

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

1. How long have you been a Pastor? _____ years

2. Give your personal testimony.

3. Why is your belief in Jesus so strategic to everything you do (in your personal life, church, your world, our Fellowship)?

4. Briefly explain your personal and family habit in devotional bible study and prayer.

CHURCH AFFILIATION RECORD

Please provide the name location and dates of church families you have primary been connected to:

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MEMBER (Y/N)</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATES:</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

FAMILY LIFE

1. Single _____ Married _____
 2. If Married: Date _____ Place: _____
 3. Have you or your spouse ever been divorced? _____
 4. Have your spouse provide her personal testimony summary.
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

How supportive of your ministry is your spouse? (check one)

- Very supportive – encourages me to persevere when I’m discouraged
- Supportive – helps when I ask
- Accepting – allows me to minister without hindering me
- Reluctant – occasionally discourages me to leave the ministry

To what extent is your spouse involved in your ministry. (check one)

- Almost always leads some area of ministry
- Occasionally leads a ministry
- Almost always participates in some ministry
- Sometimes participates in a ministry
- Seldom participates in ministry but keeps the home fires burning
- Never participates in ministry

5. Briefly describe your strategy for maintaining a strong marriage

6. List children, if any:

NAME

AGE

IF SAVED AT WHAT AGE

7. Are there any family relationships that are broken? If so, explain and share what steps you have taken to restore that relationship.

CALL TO CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

1. Explain your call to Christian ministry.

2. What gifts has God given you for Christian ministry?

3. Why are you seeking affiliation with The Greater Church of Deliverance?

EDUCATIONAL

1. What educational preparation have you had?

SCHOOL

DEGREE

MAJOR

DATE

2. Do you plan to take additional education work?

ETHICAL ISSUES

1. Explain your strategy for maintaining integrity in ministry:

2. How would you describe your financial strategy? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy?
(YES or NO)

3. In case of difficulties in your ministry, would you be willing to consult with your Diocesan and Archbishop?

4. What are your ideas as to how a Pastor should conduct themselves in and out of the church?

5. What is your personal view of the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, marijuana, and narcotics?

6. Do you have any arrest record or felony convictions? **(YES or NO)**

Have you provided the local church with a criminal background and child abuse clearances. **(YES or NO)**

7. Has an employer ever subjected you to investigation, disciplinary action, suspended, terminated or asked you to leave a job or volunteer position on the grounds of misconduct of any nature, unlawful sexual behavior or violation of an employer's sexual misconduct or harassment policy? Yes _____ No _____

Have you every been accused of any of these things in a non-employment setting? Yes _____ No _____

Any comments?

8. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions in the following section, please attach a separate sheet indicating the nature of the suit, offense, date, court, and disposition or other appropriate explanation.
- a. Have you ever been involved in or convicted of child abuse? Yes _____ No _____
 - b. Have you ever entered a plea of guilty, a plea of “no-test” or has any court ever deferred further proceedings without entering a finding of guilty and placed you on a probation or in a public service or education program for any crime other than a minor traffic offense? Yes _____ No _____

Background Clearances – Provide a State Child Abuse History Certification, State Criminal Background Check Certification. If you have not lived in the state, you are seeking ordination in for at least 10 years provide an FBI Criminal Background Clearance Certification

By signing below, I give Greater Church of Deliverance District Exam Board

(Name of District Exam Board)

Permission to obtain background check information and review records of criminal history which I may have, and to obtain and review records I may have that indicate a history of abuse, neglect, threatened harm, or other maltreatment against children and/or adults. I understand that this information will only be used for consideration of a potential hire for a position at this local church.

Signed by _____

Date ____ / ____ / ____

REFERENCES

Provide references from three people:

- (1)** A Pastor who knows you well and whom you respect
- (2)** A Friend who knows you well and whom you respect
- (3)** A Non-Believer who knows you well and whom you respect

***Reference for provided on next page. Please create 3 copies and distribute them to the following references.**

Reference Form

_____ **(Applicant's Name)** is applying for Affiliation with the Greater Church of Deliverance and has given your name as a reference. We appreciate your prompt response to the following questions and want to assure you that all information received will be treated as confidential. References are very important to the Examination Board in determining the qualifications and character of an applicant. Family members and subordinates (employee/volunteer) are not acceptable as references. To qualify as a reference, you must have known the applicant for at least one year.

This reference is submitted by **(Your Name)**: _____

How long have you personally known the applicant? _____

What is your relationship with the applicant? _____

Would you describe the applicant as Very Effective/Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective in ministry?

Does the applicant work well with others? **(Yes or No)**

Explain how the applicant deals with conflict.

If you have a comfortable understanding of Christianity, would you say the applicant is living a life that reflects a desire to be like Jesus Christ? **(Yes or No or N/A)**

If you have ever observed the applicant preach a sermon, how would you evaluate his/her ability to preach and/or teach? Very Effective/Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective/NA

If you have a comfortable understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how would you evaluate the applicant's ability to share the Gospel? Very Effective/Somewhat Effective/ Not Effective/NA

Describe the applicant's relationship with his/her wife/husband and children if applicable.

How would you describe the applicant's social skills?

How would describe the applicant's work ethic?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership skills (wisdom, discernment, responsibility, vision)?

Are there any areas of behavior that you are aware of that could hinder the applicant's ability to lead in Christian ministry? (For example: improper sexual behavior, drunkenness, unethical behavior)

If you were looking to hire a pastor or needed personal pastoral care, would you hire this candidate or desire the applicant to help during your time of need? **(Yes or No)**

Please explain:

A FIRST LOOK AT GCOD IDENTITY

Understanding Biblical Truth, Relationship and Mission

Candidate: For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of understanding or agreement:

The One True God – There is one, and only one, true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally in three persons, never less and never more – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

The Lord Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ is fully God, existing eternally. Everything was created by Him and for Him. His incarnation took place in the womb of a virgin. He became man, but never sinned. He died a substitutionary death to atone for sin, resurrected bodily, and ascended into heaven where He remains fully God and fully man, and is presently ministering until He comes again.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

The Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is fully God, existing eternally. He is a person and was involved in Creation and the inspiration of scripture. His works of convicting and regenerating are essential to the believer's salvation. Believers are entitled to the benefit and joy of being filled and walking in the Spirit for empowerment in Christian life, service, and mission.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

The Bible – The sixty-six books, and only these, known as the Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God. God's inspiration and superintendence of the writing of every word of the Bible guarantees that what was written is His Word and therefore authoritative, true, and without error in the original manuscripts. God preserves His Word, which is powerful and effective to accomplish His purpose of salvation among all nations. God's Spirit illumines the minds of behaviors in every culture to understand and apply the unchanging truth of Scripture in fresh and relevant ways for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Humanity – God created man and woman in His image. As a result, all people are bearers of that image. However, Adam’s subsequent sin resulted in a condition of spiritual death which all people since Adam have experienced, marring the beauty of God’s image in them in every facet of life. This condition of spiritual death has rendered all people unable to save themselves and leads to physical death. Therefore, new birth is necessary for salvation.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Salvation – The salvation brought by God is a complete and eternal salvation by His grace alone, received as the free gift of God through personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, as he declares believers righteous in Him. True believers put their trust in Jesus Christ and are kept forever in the saving grace of God through His promises and His power. Every believer has been eternally justified, blessed with all spiritual blessings, and set free from all condemnation.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Church – There exists one true Church, which is called the Household of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit . It is comprised of all true disciples of Jesus Christ and is created by the action of the Holy Spirit. Tangible expressions of this true Church are found in local churches.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Christian Life – The believer is saved by faith alone. The faith that saves is expected to produce obedience and good works, which are the products of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The dimensions of biblical ethics are both individual and social and extend to every facet of life. God faithfully continues to finish the work of sanctification, which He initiated in the life of each believer with the goal of Christlikeness.

The Holy Spirit’s works of baptizing, sealing, and indwelling occur simultaneously with regeneration and are the possession of every true believer. The Holy Spirit gives each believer a unique combination of spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving God and people.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Angels, Satan, Demons – God created a multitude of spiritual beings called “angels”. Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth. Bu his disobedience, Satan, a fallen angel, become the adversary of God and God’s people, carrying with him a procession of demons. Jesus Christ has overcome Satan so that the final judgment and doom of Satan and his demons are certain.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Future Life – The dead will have a conscious existence in eternity and their bodies will be resurrected. Unbelievers, already under condemnation, will be sentenced to suffer eternal separation from God. Believers, already having been granted eternal life, will be judged, and rewarded according to their works, and will experience a glorified, eternal existence in the presence of the Lord.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Ordinances – Jesus Christ gave ordinances o the church: Baptism testifies to the reality of our salvation and identifies us as disciples of the Triune God. The Grace Brethren express this ordinance in triune immersion. Communion testifies to our justification, sanctification, and glorification, which are accomplished through Jesus Christ. The Grace Brethren express this ordinance through the practice of these symbols: the bread and the cup, the washing of feet and the sharing of a meal.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

The Return of Christ – The Church began on a particular day of Pentecost when our ascended Lord sent His Spirit to the waiting disciples. The present Church age will come to an end when our Lord comes in the air to remove His Church from the earth an fulfill His promises to Israel. The second coming of Christ is the personal, physical, and visible return from heaven of Christ to earth with His Church, to establish His thousand-year reign before instituting His eternal kingdom.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Biblical Relationships – The Triune God serves as the perfect and ultimate model for human relationships. As a result, each person has equal value yet different roles, which are expressed in loving unity. The differences in gifts and ministries are a manifestation of the multifaceted

grace of God. As a result, we encourage all believers to use their gifts in ways that promote the unity, growth, and ministry of the local church . Our obligation to love and respect one another and to practice the “one another” exhortations result in a commitment to work together and to resolve our differences for the good of individuals, churches, and communities.

It is the responsibility of the local church to govern their own affairs while living and serving in community and interdependency with other churches. The mandate and urgency to fulfill the Great Commission leads us to seek ways to cooperate with one another and with likeminded Christians on the local, regional, and global levels.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Biblical Mission – God’s plan for this age is best summarized in Jesus’ command to make disciples of all nations. This includes the evangelistic call to reconciliation with God by means of the completed work of Christ and the lifelong pursuit of obedience to God by means of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

God’s plan for this age includes the recognition, training, and releasing of spiritually qualified and appropriately trained leaders. While the specific gifts, abilities, and responsibilities of leaders may vary, all leaders must serve as servants of God, shepherds of God’s people and stewards of God’s resources.

God’s plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches. Although practices may vary between cultures, healthy local churches are comprised of believers in Christ who assume a mutual commitment to worship, learning, service, prayer, and witness.

God’s plan for this age includes our responsibility to express the compassion of Christ through proclaiming the Gospel in words while loving in deeds. This demands a commitment to finding creative and practical ways to address the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of a fallen humanity.

I have some questions or concerns

This accurately describe what I believe

Are you able to cooperate harmoniously and walk with integrity within the GCOD Family:

- a. The part of the Evangelical community.
- b. Whose ordinances are triune immersion and threefold communion.
- c. Whose eschatology follows a pre-millennial hermeneutic.
- d. That believes the Eldership of the church has been given to men/women of God.
- e. That believers in the security of the believer.

YES _____

NO _____

Articles of Faith

- **The Bible**

Is the inspired Word of God, giving a true history of the creation of the heavens, the earth, and mankind; containing a correct prophecy of the ages to come regarding the heavens, the earth and the destiny of man. Furthermore, there is no salvation outside of that which is contained in its pages. We believe that the Bible is God's Word of inspired truths given to the believer for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness so that the believer is well-equipped for every good work according to I Timothy 3:16-17. We accept the scriptures of the Old Testament and New Testaments as the inspired record of God's revelatory actions in human history and as the authoritative basis for our doctrine and practice according to I Corinthians 3:6 and II Timothy 2:15.

- **God**

God is a Spirit (John 4:24), the Eternal One, the Creator of ALL THINGS and all men; thus, He is the Father of mankind. He is the first, the last and beside Him there is no other God. (Isaiah 44:6). There was no God formed before Him, neither shall there be after Him (Isaiah 48:12).

- **Father**

God is a Spirit (John 4:24), the Eternal One, the Creator of ALL THINGS and all men; thus, He is the Father of mankind. He is the first, the last and beside Him there is no other God. (Isaiah 44:6). There was no God formed before Him, neither shall there be after Him (Isaiah 48:12).

- **Son**

The Son, which is one with the Father, the seed of a woman, conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the same is the Word. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins...Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us (Matthew 1:21, 23). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful. Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life" (I John 5:20).

- **Holy Ghost**

Is the inspired Word of God, giving a true history of the creation of the heavens, the earth, and mankind; containing a correct prophecy of the ages to come regarding the heavens, the earth and the destiny of man. Furthermore, there is no salvation outside of that which is contained in its pages.

- **The Godhead**

The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost are the Godhead, but God is one. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all

things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consists, And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.” “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: (Colossians 1:15-19 and Colossians 2:9-10).

- **Salvation**

Salvation (deliverance from) consist of deliverance from all sin and unrighteousness through the Blood of Jesus Christ; by repentance of sins, water baptism in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receiving the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and the continuance of a godly life. (Acts 2:36-41) “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” “...Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Romans 3:23 and 10:9-11).

- **Baptism of the Holy Ghost**

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the birth of the Spirit (John 3:5). Spiritual baptism is necessary to put anyone into the Kingdom of God and is evidenced by the speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4). This baptism is subsequent to the operation of the Holy Ghost, by which a man is drawn to Christ, by the Father (John 6:44). It was prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28-29) and Isaiah (Isaiah 28:11); foretold by John the Baptist (Matt. 3:11); purchased by the blood of Jesus and promised by Him to His disciples (John 14:26; 15:26); first outpoured on the day of Pentecost upon the Jews (Acts 10: 44-46; 19:6); and, “The promise is unto you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

- **Humanity**

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God- who created the first couple, Adam and Eve, according to Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7; 5:1-3; 9:6; Acts 17:24-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; and Hebrews 4:12. It is our faith that Divine Order was established in the Garden of Eden wherein man was made for God and woman was made for man; and these dwelt in peace and total harmony with God and nature until they disobeyed the Will of God for their lives according to Genesis 2 & 3.

- **Spiritual Gifts**

We believe that the presence and power of the Holy Ghost is just as valid and applicable to us as it was for those believers in the book of Acts according to Mark 11:22-24; Acts 2:39, and Ephesians 4:13. When Jesus Christ ascended to the Father Almighty, He gave gifts to the people of God to be used for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, and for the edifying of the Body of Christ according to Ephesians 4:7-16. Our conviction is that the gift of the Holy Ghost is the primary gift, common to every obedient believer and that He inspires various

individual gifts within the Body for us to profit withal according to I Corinthians 12-14; therefore we ascribe to such manifestations as miraculous healing of the spirit, soul, and body; prophetic utterances that foretell and forth-tell within the parameters of the Holy Writ, praying and speaking in spiritual languages (known and unknown).

- **The Church**

We believe in the one universal Church of God ordained to gather and govern all those who are called to be saints unto the Lord Most High. We acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head of the Church and are subject to His standard of living as dictated to us in The Holy Bible according to Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:1-4; 1-6. Though the Church of God is universal, God has ordained local fellowships to be governed by spiritual Elders within the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4:11-16. Every child of God should be accountable to a local fellowship of believers and should submit to the local church authority, who is the Senior Pastor, in order that they may edify, exhort, and comfort one another according to 1 Corinthians 4:1-3 and Hebrews 10:23-25. We adhere to the recitation of both the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed, with the belief that the original authority of the Holy Catholic Church was birthed through Apostolic Succession, thereby originally governed by the Apostles Doctrine.

- **Political Government**

We believe that governments are God-given institutions ordained to serve those who do good and are ordained to execute wrath upon those who do evil. Hence, we do honor magistrates and the powers that be. We respect and obey all civil laws that do not contradict the statutes of the Holy Scripture according to Romans 13:1-10 and Titus 3:1. 32.

- **Church Ordinances**

An ordinance is a symbolic ritual or ceremony that was instituted and blessed by God to demonstrate and enhance our understanding of the Christian faith. The Greater Church of Deliverance recognizes, An ordinance is a symbolic ritual or ceremony that was instituted and blessed by God to demonstrate we are saved by grace through faith according to Ephesians 2:8-9; but through the holy ordinances, we according to scripture, four ordinances of the church. There is no salvific value in the ordinance itself, as EXPRESS OUR FAITH, love and gratitude to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His redemptive work at Calvary. Based upon scriptural text, the Greater Church of Deliverance encourages the observance of four (4) holy ordinances: Water Baptism, Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper, Feet Washing and Tithing, but the application of these four ordinances are left to the spiritual discretion of the pastor.

- **Water Baptism**

As sanctified believers, members of the Greater Church of Deliverance claim citizenship in the Kingdom of God through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because He has died for us, we are called to live for Him; and in the waters of baptism, faithful believers testify of their transition and conformity to the life of Christ according to St. Matthew 28:18-20; St. Mark 16:15-18; Romans 6:1-4; and Galatians 2:20. Baptism is a rite of passage in the life of the believer and is to the Christian faith what circumcision was/is to the Abrahamic covenant. Thus,

the Greater Church of Deliverance administers baptism upon its members in the spirit of this constitution. The mode of baptism in the Greater Church of Deliverance is total immersion of the body into the water, representing burial and resurrection with Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost In Jesus Name. With love to all, malice toward none, and with due respect to all who differ with us in our interpretation of the scriptures, we prefer to follow the instructions of our Lord Jesus as in St. Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:38.

- **Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper)**

As Jesus prepared to go to the cross, He connected His suffering and death with the Passover meal of the Jews. For the Greater Church of Deliverance, Saint Luke 22:14-20 set forth the ordinances of the Lord's Supper. The unleavened bread is symbolic of the sin-free sacrifice that was ripped to pieces for our sin and sickness (Isaiah 53:2-5) while the cup symbolizes the blood that was shed for the remission of our sins (Hebrews 9:22, 20:1-18).

- **Feet Washing**

After Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, he removed His garments of status and assumed the position of a servant proceeding to wash His disciples' feet (Saint John 13:2-17). By washing one another's feet, the followers of Christ demonstrate their love one toward the other and a symbolic testimony of our willingness to care for each other's needs. As we recommit to Christ in Holy Communion, so we recommit to the love our brothers and sisters in the service of Feet Washing.

- **Tithing**

The first tenth of all our increase belongs to the Lord because God is the Source and Supply of our wealth. Tithing was neither instituted in the dispensation of Law by Moses nor abrogated in the dispensation of grace by Jesus Christ. It is an institution of our "father of faith" – Abraham (Genesis 14:18-20; Galatians 3:29) and continued throughout the lineage of faith (Genesis 28:20-22). It is a symbolic testimony that the believer's physical and financial well-being is rooted in the Lord Jireh– our Ultimate Provider. It was incorporated into the Law of God as a means of caring for the House of God wherein the Levitical priests dwelt (Numbers 18:21-28; Deuteronomy 14:22-29). The people of God were charged to bring the tithe to the "storehouse" so sufficiency would be in the House (Malachi 3:8-12). We encourage that all tithes be brought to the local assembly to which each member has committed.

Please submit application to greatercodinfo@gmail.com



GREATER CHURCH
OF DELIVERANCE, INC.