

Social Media Policy for GraceWay Church

GraceWay Church is a Christian church located in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, and is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America. GraceWay Church is governed by a Constitution, By-Laws, and policies adopted by the Elder Board and approved by the Congregation. The Constitution contains a Statement of Faith, which sets forth our spiritual and theological bases. The Constitution, including the Statement of Faith, guides decisions and policies for the church, one of which is this Social Media Policy.

At GraceWay Church, our mission is to multiply followers of Christ. Social media provides us with a powerful tool to do just that. But it also comes with great responsibility - not only for those posting and moderating, but also for members of the congregation when commenting and engaging in conversation online.

For the purposes of this policy, the term social media includes websites, interactive online accounts such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, LinkedIn, and Pinterest; photo-sharing accounts such as, but not limited to, Instagram, Snapchat, Flickr and Picassa; video-sharing accounts such as, but not limited to, YouTube, Livestream, Ustream and Vimeo; and online blogs and discussion forums.

Social Media Values

1. **It's all about community** – All content should be oriented to the church and benefit the people engaged in the group or page. Our page is not a place for personal, business, or cause promotion that is not connected to GraceWay Church. Content that is not connected will be removed.
2. **Be respectful** – Remember, you are representing Christ, the Christian Church, and GraceWay Church. Only publish truthful and respectful information. Do not use discriminatory, unfair, or prejudicial information or material. This shall include, but not be limited to, jokes, infographics, photo imagery, photo captions, and all other messages or imagery of any type or variety. Any content that violates this policy, or is otherwise disrespectful or untruthful, will be removed. Those submitting any comments, information, or material shall be wholly responsible for said comments, information, and material, and any consequences that might arise from said comments, information, and material.
3. **Be smart** – All published content is visible to group members and could be visible to users outside of the group on certain occasions. Remember, all information is public and could be permanently visible. Be mindful of this and respectful of others. Do not post anything that you, your family, or others might regret in the future.
4. **Keep it cool** – We know everyone is different and disagreements happen. In the event that you disagree with any content published either by GraceWay Church or people in the congregation, refrain from commenting in any way that is offensive or discriminatory.

5. **Respect the privacy of others** – Do not publish the personal information of others in the community without their permission. No information or image of a child (under the age of 18) shall be published without obtaining prior consent from the child’s parent(s) or guardian(s). This requirement shall not apply to a child whose identity is obscured in a photograph or image.

Social Media Policies

Owners and Moderators – Moderators of official GraceWay Church social media are responsible for ensuring the social media values are upheld. All comment and response areas are moderated by the Communications Coordinator and Church Leadership. Any content that does not align with our social media or church values, such as comments that do not meet our standards for civility, misrepresent the position of GraceWay Church, or include profanity, defamatory language, or speech that is otherwise inappropriate or off-topic, will be removed.

Response to Comments – Readers are welcome to respond, either agreeing or disagreeing with a post, but are expected to be respectful of the opinions of others. If a posting is the result of an unhappy or negative experience, the site administrator may wish to rectify the situation and propose a reasonable solution. Depending on the nature of the “complaint,” this may be done in the comments or taken off-line. Responses to general comments can be made by the Moderators. If comments are of a spiritual nature or a complaint, the Moderator shall bring in Pastors and Church Leadership as needed.

Privacy and Protecting Children – Identifiable images of children are to be posted only with the consent of a child’s parent(s) or guardian(s), preferably in writing. A photo release is part of the Sunday School/AWANA registration form. Do not identify the persons, other than staff and church leadership, in an image by name, unless given express permission (i.e., recognizing a church volunteer). Never post a person’s email address or phone number, other than Staff or Church Leadership as appropriate, unless given permission in relation to a church event or group.

Social Media Access – As a community member, our actions affect others. Any user who violates the social media policy shall have restricted access, and will be banned if repeated violations occur. Once access is limited or banned, such access may be restored only upon review and approval by Church Leadership. Corporate followers or “friends” shall be removed if their corporate or personal identity is inconsistent with the values of GraceWay Church (i.e., a site containing pornography or otherwise inappropriate material). All decisions relating to access to, and the use of, GraceWay Church social media shall be within the sole discretion of the Communications Coordinator and/or Church Leadership, and said decisions shall be binding upon all persons using, or seeking access to, GraceWay Church social media.

If You See It, Say It – Any use of social media that does not comply with this policy should be brought to the church’s attention.

Questions and Updates – This policy was developed by the Communications Coordinator in alignment with the Church Leadership. Questions concerning the policy should be directed to the Communications Coordinator or Church Leadership. This policy maybe updated and modified at any time without notice.

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