

CONSTITUTION OF CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Lafayette, Indiana, desiring to faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ, to promote the spirit of harmony and good order in the church in keeping with I Corinthians 14:40: "But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner," and to set forth our position before the world, hereby adopt and accept the following articles to be the Constitution of this church.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this church shall be Cornerstone Baptist Church of Lafayette, Inc.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Cornerstone Baptist Church is to help people know God, grow together, and serve others.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

The purpose of Cornerstone Baptist Church is the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the spiritual growth of its members in accordance with the Scriptures, and the spread of the message of Christ to its community and in all the earth, trusting that as the result, sinners shall be saved and believers shall be edified. All ministries of this church must fulfill the purpose of this church.

ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION I. THE BIBLE

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible are God's written revelation for all of humanity.¹ These books were written by human authors under the perfect guidance of the Holy Spirit. Every word was supernaturally inspired and is absolutely free from error in the original documents.² In this way the Bible is unique among all other writings.

God's Word is true, sufficient, trustworthy, enduring, and complete. It contains all we need to know to receive salvation, obey God perfectly, and trust him completely.³ Therefore, the Bible is the final authority in all that it says. It must be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.⁴ All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation.⁵

SECTION II. THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe there is only one true and living God.⁶ He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe.⁷ God is perfect, beautiful, and glorious in all of his attributes.⁸ These attributes include holiness, sovereignty, power, justice, wisdom, truth, faithfulness, mercy, goodness, and love. God's power is absolute, and he does whatever he pleases.⁹ God has limitless and perfect knowledge, for he knows all things past, present, and future.¹⁰ He is also present throughout but distinct from his entire creation.¹¹

God eternally exists as three distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Trinity are united in perfect oneness and are fully equal in divine nature and essence.¹² They also experience complete harmony in relationship with one another as

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Kings 17:13; Jeremiah 30:1-2

² 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Samuel 7:28; Proverbs 30:5

³ Psalm 19:7-11; 119:86; 119:89; 119:144; 119:151-152; 119:160; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; Mark 13:31; John 17:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4

⁴ Deuteronomy 12:32; Joshua 1:8; Matthew 4:4; Romans 15:4; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 20:31

⁵ Romans 16:25-26; John 5:39; John 20:31; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47

⁶ Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4

⁷ John 4:24; Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5; Acts 14:15; Revelation 4:11; Romans 11:36

⁸ Matthew 5:48; Psalm 18:30; Psalm 27:4; Psalm 104:1-2; Psalm 29:2; 1 Corinthians 10:31

⁹ Isaiah 6:3; Isaiah 46:9-11; Jeremiah 32:17; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35; 1 Kings 8:27; 1 Chronicles 29:11

¹⁰ Psalm 147:5; 1 John 3:20; Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 139:1-5; 16; Hebrews 4:13; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17

¹¹ Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:24; Proverbs 15:3; Colossians 1:17; Psalm 139:7-10; 1 Kings 8:27

¹² Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

they fulfill different yet complementary roles. Because each person of the Trinity is fully God, each is equally deserving of worship and obedience.¹³

A. THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father directs the Son and the Holy Spirit in all matters of creation, providence, and redemption.¹⁴ In doing so, he never authors or approves of sin.¹⁵ God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in his attitude toward all men. He elects, adopts, and forever loves all people who are saved by his grace.¹⁶ Finally, in all that he does, the Father has one ultimate purpose for human history—to bring glory, honor, and praise to the Trinity.¹⁷

B. THE SON

We believe that the Son of God is fully divine, being coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ Through Him all things were created, and in him all things hold together.¹⁹

In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, the Son became fully human without ceasing to be fully God. As the promised Messiah, Jesus was sent by the Father to deliver people from their sins. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and lived a perfect life free from sin and guilt.²⁰

Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross, and his death provided the all-sufficient atonement for sin.²¹ Christ became our representative before God, voluntarily substituting Himself in our place and bearing our sin and guilt.²² His sacrifice made provision for the forgiveness of sins, satisfied God's wrath toward believing sinners, and established a New Covenant between

¹³ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 1:20-21; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁴ Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28-30; Psalm 103:19; 139:1-5; 139:16; Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 46:9-10; Jeremiah 27:5; Acts 17:26; Matthew 5:45; 10:29; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 1 Peter 1:20

¹⁵ James 1:13-14; Leviticus 11:44-45; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 99:3-9; 119:68; Matthew 5:48

¹⁶ John 8:42; 14:10; 3:16; 5:23, 5:26; Ephesians 4:6; Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:28-30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 9:11; John 17:9

¹⁷ Acts 17:24-29; Psalm 33:13; 145:8; Jeremiah 27:5; John 3:16; Ephesians 4:6; Isaiah 43:6-7; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 6:9; John 4:23-24; John 14:6-13; John 17:1-8; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 15:27-28; Colossians 1:16; 1 Timothy 1:17

¹⁸ John 1:1; 10:31; 14:9-10; Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9; Micah 5:2

¹⁹ John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2

²⁰ Isaiah 53:3-12; John 1:10-18; 1:29; 8:42; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 John 4:2; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-24; Luke 1:26-35; Hebrews 2:14; 4:15; 7:25-26

²¹ John 1:29; 10:15; Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 2:24

²² 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 21; Hebrews 9:26-28; 1 Peter 3:18

God and man.²³ Because of the redeeming work that Christ accomplished, it is now possible for people to experience genuine reconciliation with God and eternal life with Him.²⁴

Jesus was bodily resurrected on the third day. He ascended into heaven and is now enthroned at the right hand of the Father. From there he reigns over all things as the righteous Judge, the head of the church, and the supreme Lord.²⁵ From his place of glory, Jesus has an intimate concern for His people. He loves them, ministers to them, and makes continual intercession for them as their faithful High Priest.²⁶

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the great Sanctifier and Helper of the church. He possesses all attributes of personhood and divinity, being coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son.²⁷ In all that he does, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Trinity by manifesting the active presence of God in the world and in the church.²⁸

The Holy Spirit regenerates sinful people, unites them with Christ, and seals them forever into God's family.²⁹ He convicts the world of sin, testifies of Jesus, and indwells believers, actively transforming them into the likeness of Christ.³⁰ The Spirit's unique role in salvation is to apply the redemption that the Father ordained and the Son accomplished.

The Holy Spirit also strengthens and sustains God's people. He comforts, assures, instructs, and empowers Christians for godly living and fruitful service.³¹ The Spirit inspired the Scriptures, brings unity to the church, and gives spiritual gifts to the members of Christ's body.³² Through his abiding presence, the Holy Spirit blesses believers with the enduring joy, hope, and peace that God gives to all of His children.

²³ Romans 3:21-25; 4:25; 5:8-9; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 9:14-15; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Jeremiah 31:31-34; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

²⁴ John 3:16; 14:19; Romans 5:10-11; 6:5-10; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-23; Ephesians 2:13-16

²⁵ Matthew 28:6; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24; Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Luke 1:31-33; Philippians 2:9-11

²⁶ Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25-26; 9:24; 1 John 2:1; Isaiah 53:12; John 1:29; 10:15; Mark 10:45; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24

²⁷ Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Psalm 139:7-9; Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 9:14

²⁸ John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; 2:4; Ephesians 5:18; Hebrews 2:1-4; Joel 2:28-30

²⁹ John 3:5-7; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:22; 4:30

³⁰ John 16:7-14; 15:26; Acts 1:5; Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:18

³¹ John 14:16-17; 14:26; 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 1 John 2:27; 4:13

³² 2 Peter 1:20-21; Acts 28:25-26; Romans 12:5-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31

SECTION III. THE CREATION AND FALL OF HUMANITY

We believe that God created all that exists visible and invisible out of nothing. All creation was spoken into existence in six days and, according to the design of God, was good.³³ God continues to uphold all things by the word of his power.³⁴

God created mankind as the pinnacle of all creation. Adam and Eve were the first humans, having been directly created by God personally and individually as complete human beings.³⁵ As male and female, they complemented one another perfectly in role and relationship and were equally made in God's image. All people are their descendants and likewise reflect the image of God as males or females, sharing the same dignity, value, and worth inherent in these first human persons.³⁶

All humans have been made in God's image, having intelligence, emotions, volition, and a moral conscience.³⁷ They are designed to enjoy everlasting fellowship with God and to reflect his holy and righteous character. By doing so, humanity fulfills its greatest purpose—to bring glory and honor to the Trinity.³⁸

Adam and Eve were created completely righteous, and they lived in perfect harmony with their Creator. Yet by their own choice they rebelled against the moral law of God and fell from their sinless state.³⁹ Because of Adam's disobedience, all humans have lost their innocence before God and are inherently corrupt. Every human is therefore a sinner by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration.⁴⁰

Apart from Jesus Christ, all humans are alienated from God and stand under His just condemnation without defense or excuse. This judgment brings physical and spiritual death, and it will result in everlasting, conscious separation from God's blessed presence.⁴¹ Humans are utterly incapable of restoring themselves to a righteous state, and all are in desperate need of the salvation God provides through Jesus Christ.⁴²

³³ Genesis 1:1-31; Isaiah 66:2; John 1:3; Revelation 4:11; 1 Timothy 4:4

³⁴ Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Nehemiah 9:6

³⁵ Genesis 1:26-2:25; 5:1-2; Mark 10:6; 1 Timothy 2:13-14

³⁶ Genesis 1:27; 2:15-25; 3:20; 5:1-2; 9:6; Matthew 10:31; Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 11:7-16; 1 Timothy 2:11-14; James 3:9; Psalm 139:14

³⁷ Genesis 1:27; 5:1-2; 9:6; James 3:9; Romans 2:12-16

³⁸ Isaiah 43:6-7; John 4:23-24; Psalm 29:2; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 13:15

³⁹ Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-19; Romans 5:12; 1 Timothy 2:13-14

⁴⁰ Romans 5:12; 3:9-17; 3:23; John 3:19; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8; Psalm 14:1-3

⁴¹ Isaiah 59:2; John 3:36; Romans 5:12; 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 13:49-50; 25:41-46;

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

⁴² 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:10-12; 9:15-16; Ephesians 2:1-9; Colossians 2:13-14

SECTION IV. SALVATION

We believe that salvation from sin, death, and the righteous judgement of God is possible because of Jesus Christ's redemptive work on the cross. Through His substitutionary atonement, Jesus paid the divine penalty for sin so that people might have their sins forgiven and be restored to a right relationship with their Creator.⁴³ There is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, for His atoning death and victorious resurrection provide the only basis for reconciliation with God.⁴⁴

Salvation is freely given when individuals, through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, hear the gospel call, receive the gift of faith, repent of their sins, and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.⁴⁵ These believers, or saints, are immediately made spiritually alive and receive the gift of eternal life.⁴⁶ God declares them righteous (justification), for their guilt has been transferred to Christ, and the righteousness of Jesus has been credited to them (imputation).⁴⁷ They no longer live in a state of enmity with God, nor are they objects of His wrath (propitiation).⁴⁸ Their sins are forgiven, and they have been freed from the bondage of sin (redemption).⁴⁹ They experience genuine fellowship with God, are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and become united into the body of Christ.⁵⁰

This conversion happens by the sovereign grace and mercy of God according to his divine election of sinners. God's electing purpose is consistent with the free choice of man and includes all the means in connection with the end.⁵¹ Salvation is not given because of human initiative, status, or works. Rather, salvation comes to people solely because of God's initiative and grace, and therefore it excludes boasting and promotes humility.⁵²

⁴³ Isaiah 53:3-12; Mark 10:45; John 1:29; Acts 10:43; Romans 3:21-25; Hebrews 9:26-28; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 4:9-10

⁴⁴ Matthew 7:13-14; John 1:12; 3:14-18; 10:7-9; 14:6; Acts 4:8-12; 13:38; Romans 5:10-11; 6:5-10; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 5:12

⁴⁵ Mark 1:14-15; Luke 13:3; John 1:12; 3:5-8; 3:16; 5:24; 6:63; Acts 10:43; 16:31; Romans 8:10-11; 10:9-13,17; Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 55:7

⁴⁶ John 3:14-18; 5:24; 17:3; Romans 6:4-10; 8:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 3:8-11; Titus 3:4-7

⁴⁷ Romans 3:21-25; 4:25; 5:8-9; 8:33-34; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; 3:13; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:11-1

⁴⁸ Romans 3:23-25; 5:8-11; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 John 4:10

⁴⁹ Romans 6:5-14; 8:12-14; Galatians 4:3-7; Acts 2:38; 10:43; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 1:9

⁵⁰ Ephesians 2:18-22; 3:11-12; Hebrews 4:16; 7:19; 1 John 1:3; John 15:26; Acts 1:5; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 John 3:1-3

⁵¹ 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:4-7; Romans 8:29-39; Matthew 25:34; John 6:44-45; 6:65; 15:16; Romans 11:5-7; Ephesians 1:4-14; 2 Timothy 2:10

⁵² John 1:11-13; Romans 3:19-28; 4:4-5; 5:1-2; 9:15-16; Ephesians 2:1-9; Philippians 3:9

After receiving salvation, believers exhibit a positive moral change and begin a life of progressive sanctification. They are set apart to God's purposes and are enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.⁵³ Growth in grace should continue throughout the believer's life. While it is impossible for the sinful nature to be completely eradicated in this earthly life, the Holy Spirit helps believers experience lasting victory over sin as they strive to increasingly reflect the attitudes and actions of Christ.⁵⁴

From the moment of conversion, all believers are forever adopted into God's family. They permanently become His children and are declared heirs with Christ.⁵⁵ Their position is not maintained by human works, for it is by God's power and grace that one's salvation is kept sure. Therefore, all genuine Christians can have great confidence that their hope is certain, their faith will persevere, and their future is secure.⁵⁶ Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.⁵⁷

SECTION V. THE CHURCH

We believe there is one true and universal Christian church, which was established by God and consists of all people who have a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. In the church there is no distinction between race, culture, language, or nation, for all regenerate believers are united by the Holy Spirit into this living, spiritual body, with Christ as her head.⁵⁸

The ultimate mission of the Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples. The Church is called to make disciples through worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances, fellowship, the exercise of our gifts and talents, and the proclamation of the gospel both in our community and throughout the world.⁵⁹

The church practices two ordinances instituted by Christ: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion is the public testimony a believer gives after professing personal faith

⁵³ John 17:16-19; Acts 20:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 12:14; James 2:14-26; 1 John 1:6-2:11

⁵⁴ Romans 7:7-8:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 3:12-14; 12:1-3; 1 John 2:19

⁵⁵ John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-15; 8:23; 8:28-30; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 4:3-7; Ephesians 1:3-11; 3:6; Hebrews 12:5-9; 1 John 3:1-2

⁵⁶ John 6:37-40; 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 15:20-23; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Philippians 1:6; 1:21-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 1:24-25

⁵⁷ Romans 8:30; Colossians 3:4; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8:18, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; 15:51-57; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 5:1

⁵⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 1:22; 2:11-3:6; 4:15; 5:23-32; Colossians 1:18

⁵⁹ Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; Ephesians 3:21; 4:11-14; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25

in Christ. It symbolically depicts the believer's real union to the death and resurrection of Christ. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to membership in the local church.⁶⁰ The Lord's Supper is the believers' remembrance and proclamation of Jesus' death through the partaking of elements that symbolically represent the body and blood of Christ.⁶¹ Both of these beautiful celebrations are regularly practiced by the church in obedience to Scripture, and they result in blessings and encouragement for the entire church body.

We believe that the church manifests itself in local, self-governed congregations of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith under the authority of Christ. It is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel with each local church being the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation.⁶²

The local church is to be led by elders/pastors and deacons.⁶³ These servants of Christ guide the church toward maturity and mobilize believers to reach their communities with the gospel.⁶⁴ They also encourage and equip individuals to use their spiritual gifts to serve others and expand Christ's Kingdom. Finally, in all things, it is the Scriptures that govern, Christ who leads, and the Holy Spirit who empowers the church body to do its work.⁶⁵

SECTION VI. THE FUTURE

We believe that all of human history is moving toward one climactic event: the certain return and final revelation of Jesus Christ. At a time known only to God, Christ will return personally, visibly, and gloriously as the promised Messiah and King to establish his kingdom and consummate redemptive history.⁶⁶ Christ's return will be marked by many wondrous displays of God's power, which include: the rapture of those who are alive in Christ to be with him; a period of unprecedented judgment upon the world, known as the Great Tribulation; and the bodily resurrection of believers from the dead.⁶⁷

⁶⁰ Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; 8:36-38; 10:47; 18:8; 19:4; Romans 6:1-11

⁶¹ Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-29

⁶² Acts 15:22; Jude 2, 3; 2 Corinthians 8:23, 24; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

⁶³ Acts 6:1-7; 14:23; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

⁶⁴ Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Peter 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7; 13:17

⁶⁵ Joshua 1:8; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18; John 14:16-17; 16:13-14; Acts 1:8

⁶⁶ Matthew 24:27-31; 24:36-41; 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4-6

⁶⁷ Matthew 24:15-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6; Romans 8:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

After Christ's millennial reign, Satan and all demons—who are fallen angels—will suffer their final defeat by the power of Christ and be imprisoned in hell forever.⁶⁸ In addition, the unsaved will come before Christ in final judgment. They will receive God's just condemnation and will be sent away to everlasting, conscious punishment in hell.⁶⁹ While all those opposed to God will be subject to His wrath, God's holy and righteous saints will receive eternal rewards as they enter into an everlasting state of glory with Christ.⁷⁰

God will end redemptive history by creating a new heaven and a new earth, where His righteousness and glory will dwell forever.⁷¹ There the redeemed will finally experience unhindered worship of God, and they will enjoy everlasting fellowship with Him and with one another. There will be no sin, despair, or suffering in God's new creation, for it will be filled with perfect harmony, joy, beauty, worship, and love.⁷² This certain hope should motivate all believers to pursue godliness, to endure trials, and to anticipate with joy their blessed and eternal future.

⁶⁸ Revelation 20:7-10; Matthew 25:41; Romans 16:20; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19

⁶⁹ Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 13:49-50; 25:41-46; Acts 17:30; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; John 5:22

⁷⁰ John 5:28-29; Matthew 16:27; 25:31-46; Daniel 12:1-3; John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:3-5

⁷¹ Revelation 21:1-22:6; Romans 8:19; Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:10

⁷² Revelation 22:3-5; Ephesians 5:5; John 17:3

ARTICLE V COVENANT

As a member of the body of Christ at Cornerstone Baptist Church, I enter into covenant with the following expectations:

- 1) I will seek to **know God** by gathering to worship Him with other Cornerstone Baptist Church members for as long as I am physically able (Romans 12:1, 11:36; Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:15).
- 2) I will **grow together** spiritually with my church family through regular involvement in groups and classes at Cornerstone Baptist Church in addition to regular personal and family devotional times. I understand the purpose of these groups and classes is building community with other believers and holding each other accountable (Acts 2:44-47; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- 3) I will **serve others** in the body at Cornerstone and through her work in missions. I am created to walk in good works and have been gifted by the Spirit to serve Christ's body (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10). I am commanded by God to make disciples of every nation, tribe, people, and language through the local church (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:8; Revelation 7:9).
- 4) I will **give to God** abundantly and joyfully, contributing to the ministry of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations, recognizing God as the owner of all things (Proverbs 3:9; Psalm 24:1).
- 5) I will **seek unity** with other church members, recognizing God's design for the church is unity in diversity, and I will put the interests of others above my personal preferences (Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Peter 3:8-9). I will guard the reputation of the church and submit to discipline for any sin in my life (Matthew 18:15-20).
- 6) I will **pray for and follow the leadership** of Cornerstone Baptist Church (Hebrews 13:17-18). I will pray privately and with the church corporately, interceding for one another to fulfill our church's mission for the glory of God (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:1). I affirm the Statement of Faith and will not oppose the teaching as articulated in the church's position statements.

With Christ as my Lord and Savior, being baptized by immersion after my salvation, being led by the Holy Spirit, and being in agreement with Cornerstone Baptist Church's Covenant and Statement of Faith, I joyfully unite with the church and commit myself to God and the other members.

ARTICLE VI ORDINATION

SECTION I. ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any person with a relationship to this church or its missions, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry, possesses the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, and is deemed qualified by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION II. ORDINATION PROCEDURE

- A. Upon a conference with the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons and upon the candidate's approval for ordination, the Senior Pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualifications of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- B. If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- C. The Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I. QUALIFICATIONS

Membership in Cornerstone Baptist Church may be obtained upon approval by majority vote of the active members present. New members shall participate in a membership interview or class. Prospective members under age 16 need parental consent.

SECTION II. PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP

A. Faith and Baptism

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and giving evidence of a change of heart and life, and having adopted the views of faith and practice held by this church, will meet with the Senior Pastor, or representative designated by the Senior Pastor, to give their testimony and answer any questions relating to their spiritual life and reasons for desiring membership. If approved by the Senior Pastor, applicants will, after having been baptized by immersion (according to the teaching of the Bible), be presented to the

congregation as candidates for membership in the church. By a majority vote of active members present, the applicant shall be received into membership. Applicants will be encouraged but not required to give their testimony to the congregation.

B. Church Letter

We do not consider it necessary to wait for the church letter of those received from other churches of like faith, but will receive them upon testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ and of baptism by immersion. We will write their former church informing them of the new relationship. Such candidates will meet with the Senior Pastor or representative designated by the Senior Pastor and will be voted on by the membership.

C. Christian Experience

Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by immersion has been administered and upon the statement of his or her experience of faith in Jesus Christ may receive membership. Upon meeting with the Senior Pastor or representative designated by the Senior Pastor and by vote of the membership as in Section I above, the applicant shall be received into membership.

D. Restoration

A former member who is seeking re-admission to the church membership after being disciplined by the church shall be required to publicly express repentance at a regular or specially called business meeting in addition to the above stated requirements.

SECTION III. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

A. Active Members

All members who show their interest in the welfare of the church and its ministries by regular attendance, including Communion, and those who because of infirmities are unable to attend the services shall be classified as active members.

B. Inactive Members

All members who, by choice, do not regularly attend the services of the church for a period of one year shall be placed on an inactive list at the direction of the Board of Deacons. A member whose name has been placed on the inactive list shall be notified in writing within 30 days of being placed on the inactive list. An inactive member shall have none of the privileges of membership. An inactive member may be restored to active status by returning and attending three or more consecutive services.

C. Associate Members

An associate member is anyone who fulfills the qualifications for membership but has not attained the age of 16 years or who is not a permanent resident of the area and desires to retain their membership in their home church; i.e. college student. An associate member can participate in all church ministries but does not have the right to vote. When an associate member makes a permanent move from the area, they are automatically removed from our associate list.

SECTION IV. PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

All active members 16 years and older shall have the right to vote and to act in all transactions of the church.

SECTION V. SEPARATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Resignation

Any active member who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other sound fundamental church is entitled to receive it upon written request.

B. Bible Discipline

Bible discipline (Matthew 18:15-17) shall be the basis of membership termination (I Timothy 5:19-21). Such termination shall be handled by resignation or brought before the congregation for dismissal. Dismissal is by a majority vote of active members present. It is suggested that all members exercise self-discipline as set forth in Ephesians 6:1-18.

C. Exclusion

The Board of Deacons shall annually review the membership list and place members described in Article VII, Section III B, on an inactive membership list. Said members shall be notified in writing as stated in Article VII, Section III B. The inactive members remaining on the list at the next annual meeting of the Board of Deacons shall be sent a letter stating their proposed removal from the membership. If there is no response from said inactive members within 30 days of the date of the letter, said inactive members shall be permanently removed from the membership of this church.

ARTICLE VIII

CHURCH STAFF

SECTION I. GENERAL

The church staff shall consist of a Senior Pastor, pastoral ministry staff if they exist, and support staff that could consist of, but not be limited to, a treasurer, secretary, and church clerk. In addition to the qualifications for their specific assignments, they shall have demonstrated appropriate Christian character and values, and must agree with the Statement of Faith of this church.

SECTION II. QUALIFICATIONS

A. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor of the church shall be a man who has been called by God, equipped by natural and spiritual gifts, to preach the Gospel and teach the Word of God. He shall meet the New Testament requirements of his office (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4).

B. Pastoral Ministry Staff

The ministry staff shall be those who have been called by God and equipped by natural and spiritual gifts according to the requirements of the church and their position. The ministry staff shall possess the professional and spiritual qualifications, as outlined in their job description, and personal motivation and skills to accomplish their assigned responsibilities.

C. Support Staff

The support staff shall be hired to carry out the ministries of the church. The support staff shall possess the professional qualifications outlined in their job descriptions.

SECTION III. DUTIES

A. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be devoted to the service of the church, preaching, and teaching the Word of God, administering the ordinances, and faithfully giving himself to pastoral work. He shall be responsible for motivation, supervision, and direction of the ministry staff. He shall have the discretion to delegate his supervisory duties as is necessary to allow him to perform his other duties. He shall be a member of the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees, but may not serve as Chairman, nor serve as any other church officer. He shall be a member of any commission for ministry or special committee(s) of his choosing. He shall submit proposed changes in church policy within the limits of the Constitution and Bylaws for Board of Deacons' approval.

B. Pastoral Ministry Staff

The pastoral ministry staff shall consist of pastors (other than the Senior Pastor), to carry out the ministries of the church. The pastoral ministry staff shall be members of any committees functioning in their areas of ministry. Pastoral ministry staff shall ensure normal church operation in the absence of the Senior Pastor.

C. Support Staff

The duties and responsibilities of the staff will be outlined in a written job description that will be established by the Senior Pastor and approved by the Board of Deacons. The Senior Pastor will directly supervise the support staff.

SECTION IV. HIRING

A. Senior Pastor

The Board of Deacons shall recommend a Senior Pastor to the members at a regular or special church business meeting, the purpose of which shall be announced in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance. As a requirement for hiring, he shall be chosen by ballot with three fourths (3/4) majority vote of members present.

B. Pastoral Ministry Staff

The Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons will determine the need for and duties of the pastoral ministry staff. The Senior Pastor will select and recommend to the Board of Deacons, for their approval, the candidates he believes will meet the needs of the church. Upon approval by the Board of Deacons, the candidates will be voted upon by the church membership.

C. Support Staff

The support staff will be hired by the Senior Pastor and approved by the Board of Deacons. Tenure will be determined by the Senior Pastor with the approval of the Board of Deacons.

SECTION V. COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation and Benefits

The Board of Deacons will annually review the salaries of the Senior Pastor and pastoral ministry staff. Annual salary adjustments will be recommended to the church by the Board of Deacons in the proposed budget and granted as funds permit. The membership will approve annual salary adjustments. The salary and benefits for the support staff will be recommended by the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons and voted on by the membership at a church business meeting.

SECTION VI. TERMINATIONS

A. Senior Pastor

Should a situation occur in which accusations arise against the Senior Pastor, such accusations must be supported by two or three witnesses and be presented in writing to the Board of Deacons. Should it be proved that he has erred in doctrine or conduct, he shall be lovingly admonished by the Board of Deacons. If this does not resolve the matter, the matter shall be presented to the church by the Board of Deacons at the annual or a special business meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be given from the pulpit on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to said meeting. The vote required to dismiss a Senior Pastor is a three fourth (3/4) majority of the quorum.

B. Pastoral Ministry Staff

Pastoral ministry staff may be terminated by the Senior Pastor or by the Board of Deacons.

C. Support Staff

The support staff may be terminated by the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE IX DEACONS, TRUSTEES, AND APPOINTED POSITIONS

SECTION I. BOARD OF DEACONS

A. Qualifications

1. Each prospective member of the Board of Deacons shall meet the Biblical qualifications of deacon as set forth in Acts 6 and I Timothy 3:8-12;
2. The Board of Deacons shall consist of male members; and
3. Each prospective deacon must be a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church for the twelve months prior to nomination.

B. Election and Terms

1. The Board of Deacons shall consist of the Senior Pastor or his delegate, pastoral staff, and the elected members. The number of deacons will be determined and approved by the current Board of Deacons.
2. The term of office shall be for three years and arranged so that one-third of the Board of Deacons shall be elected each year at the Annual Business Meeting to serve for a maximum of two terms. After serving the maximum of two terms, there shall be a year's rest before election to this or another office.
3. Deacons shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the church. Those receiving the highest number of votes and at least 50 percent of votes cast by secret

ballot shall be elected. The man who receives the highest number of votes, while not being elected, will be named "Deacon Alternate" and will complete the term in the event of a vacancy before the next Annual Business Meeting.

C. Organization and Officers

1. At the first meeting of the fiscal year the Board of Deacons shall elect a Chairman and Secretary.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside at all meetings. The Senior Pastor may serve as moderator of the meetings as he desires. The Chairman shall appoint another deacon to preside in his absence.
3. The Secretary of the Board of Deacons shall keep a record of all proceedings at regular and special meetings of the Board of Deacons.
4. Two-thirds of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum.

D. Duties and Responsibilities

1. A deacon's general responsibility as set forth in Acts 6 is to serve the needs of the congregation, and to assist and encourage the pastors in the ministry of the church. Should a deacon be negligent of these duties, he can be removed by a vote of the board.
2. Some responsibilities could include but not be limited to:
 - a. Serving - The Board of Deacons shall serve by caring for the needs of the church family, visiting the sick, and preparing and serving the elements of Communion.
 - b. Planning and Evaluation - The Board of Deacons shall regularly examine and evaluate areas of need within the church and make plans to meet those needs.
 - c. Information - The Board of Deacons shall receive reports from the committees of the church. Committee reports shall include a demonstration of how the committee is fulfilling its mission goals.
 - d. Budget - The Board of Deacons shall regularly review financial reports and documents. The Board of Deacons shall be responsible for financial accountability and integrity, and shall, with the advice of the Trustees, propose an annual budget to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting.
3. The Board of Deacons shall meet regularly to accomplish the above-stated purposes. The Board of Deacons may also meet upon the call of the Senior Pastor.
4. The Board of Deacons shall provide accountability over the annual budget.

E. Chairman of the Board of Deacons

It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board of Deacons to sign all legal documents, bills of sale or purchases, or any other matter that needs the church's approval.

SECTION II. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. Qualifications

1. Each prospective trustee of this church shall be a mature Christian who has manifested a thorough knowledge of and a consistent walk in the Word of God; and
2. Each prospective trustee must be a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church for the twelve months prior to nomination.

B. Election and Terms

1. The term of office shall be for three years and arranged so that one-third of the Board of Trustees shall be elected each year at the Annual Business Meeting to serve for a maximum of two terms. After serving the maximum of two terms, there shall be a year's rest before election to this or another office.
2. Trustees shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the church. Those receiving the highest number of votes and at least fifty percent of votes cast by secret ballot shall be elected. The person who receives the highest number of votes, while not being elected, will be named "Trustee Alternate" and will complete the term in the event of a vacancy before the next Annual Business Meeting.

C. Organization and Officers

1. Composition

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Senior Pastor or his delegate and the elected members. The number of trustees will be determined by the current Board of Trustees and approved by the deacons.

2. Officers

- a. At the first meeting of the fiscal year the Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairman and Secretary.
- b. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall preside at all meetings. The Chairman shall appoint another trustee to preside in his absence.
- c. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall keep a record of all proceedings at regular and special meetings of the Board of Trustees.

3. Meetings

Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairman, Senior Pastor, or two-thirds of the full number of trustees.

4. Quorum

Two-thirds of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

D. Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Board of Trustees shall accomplish its purpose through Biblical management of property and related finances. This includes identifying and prioritizing property management, repairs, insurance coverage, property improvement, and ensuring that legal and safety requirements are met.
2. The Board of Trustees shall have the care of the properties belonging to Cornerstone Baptist Church as delegated by the Board of Deacons. The trustees shall look after the maintenance and material care of all buildings, grounds, and vehicles.
3. The Board of Trustees shall participate in the Annual Budget Meeting in an advisory capacity.
4. The trustees shall oversee the buildings and grounds of Cornerstone Baptist Church and supervise any improvements.
5. The Board of Trustees shall meet regularly to accomplish the above-stated purposes as delineated in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph D.

E. Annual Report

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees will provide an annual report of the board's activities to the church.

F. Spending Authority

The Board of Trustees shall not have the authority to sell, lease, mortgage, or encumber with debt, give away, or dispose of real property in any manner. Real property is defined as land, buildings, or passenger vehicles.

SECTION III. APPOINTED POSITIONS

Members of the can be appointed to positions in the church for a term of one year by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons. Members holding said positions will commit and adhere to the mission, doctrine, and practices of this church. Job descriptions for appointed positions will be provided as needed by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

SECTION IV. COMMITTEES

A. Organization

1. Establishment: Committees may be established by a majority vote of the Board of Deacons to assist in the fulfillment of the church's mission.
2. Purpose: The Board of Deacons must, upon establishment of a committee, provide the committee a clear statement of purpose. Committees of several persons are

generally expected to develop and report consensus conclusions and take actions based on its statement of purpose and delegated authority.

3. Designation: All committees shall be designated as either a standing committee or a provisional committee. Standing committees provide ongoing service for a regular part of the church ministry. Provisional committees provide service for a particular project or need and shall cease to exist upon the completion of the project or need.

4. Term: Members of standing committees shall serve without term limits. Members of provisional committees shall serve until the completion of the stated project or mission.

5. Authority: Committees shall carry out the purpose for which they were established within the parameters of their respective statement of purpose and appropriate principles and policies approved by the Board of Deacons.

6. Evaluation: The Board of Deacons shall regularly evaluate all committees. Members may make recommendations to the Board of Deacons that any committee be discontinued.

7. Appointment: The Board of Deacons shall serve as a Nomination Committee for all appointed committee positions.

8. Deacon Sponsors: Each provisional committee shall have one member of the Board of Deacons designated as its sponsor. Deacon sponsors are responsible for committee oversight and reporting committee progress to the Board of Deacons.

B. Standing Committees

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee shall promote and oversee the missionary program of Cornerstone Baptist Church under general direction of the Senior Pastor. The committee shall:

1. Diligently seek out missionary projects worthy of the support of the church;
2. Plan missions' emphasis at the direction of the Senior Pastor;
3. Monitor supported missionaries and missionary projects to assure their conformity to the Statement of Faith;
4. Maintain contact with missionaries supported by the church and be constantly apprised of their work and needs, and regularly report same to the Board of Deacons; and
5. Assist the Board of Deacons in preparing an annual budget as it relates to missions spending.

C. Provisional Committees

1. Pastoral Search Committee

When the Senior Pastor position is vacant, a Pastoral Search Committee shall be appointed. The Pastoral Search Committee shall have five members appointed by majority vote of the

Board of Deacons with three or more of the members being current members of the Board of Deacons at the time of appointment. Additionally, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall appoint one member of the Pastoral Staff to consult with the committee and serve as a liaison between the Pastoral Staff and Pastoral Search Committee. The Pastoral Search Committee shall regularly report its progress to the congregation.

2. Audit Committee

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to audit the church's financial accounts and certify the accuracy of all records, including those of the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and others as appropriate.

ARTICLE X NOMINATING PROCESS

SECTION I. NOMINATIONS

The church membership shall select individuals to serve in the various elected offices of the church in the following manner:

- A. The Nominating Committee shall inform the church membership with a description of the function, qualifications, and duties of each office to be filled.
- B. The Nominating Committee will form seven weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- C. The church membership is encouraged to participate by submitting nominations up to two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- D. No nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting.

SECTION II. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. The Nominating Committee shall consist of Pastoral Staff and the Board of Deacons.
- B. The Nominating Committee shall approve nominees to be placed on the ballot as follows:
 - 1. The nominees' Biblical and constitutional qualifications for office shall be reviewed. This committee can eliminate a name from consideration if it is known the individual does not satisfy the requirements of the position.
 - 2. All nominees approved by the Nominating Committee shall be contacted.

SECTION III. BALLOT SUBMITTAL

The ballot shall be submitted to the church for prayerful consideration at least one week prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE XI FINANCE

SECTION I. PRIMARY INCOME OR SUPPORT

All contributions shall be free-will offerings. Envelopes shall be furnished so that a record can be kept, and a statement issued for income tax purposes. The church strongly teaches biblical principles of finance for personal life, church business, and church giving. We believe that the principle of tithing set forth in Malachi 3:10 and proportionate giving in I Corinthians 16:2 encourages tithing as the beginning place of giving and a reminder that all belongs to our Lord. The Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons will approve specific fundraising efforts.

SECTION II. DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

The church boards will try to honor the intention of the donor but reserve the authority to use or dispose of designated contributions in a manner that best fosters the church's ministry.

SECTION III. BUDGET

The budget of Cornerstone Baptist Church requires a majority vote at a regular or special business meeting of the church to be in effect. No church employee, leader, member of the Board of Deacons, member of the Board of Trustees, pastor, or committee shall expend funds not included in the approved budget or as provided by the Constitution without securing prior approval of the membership.

SECTION IV. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this church shall be from April 1st through March 31st.

SECTION V. BOOKS AND RECORDS

The church and its extended ministries shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and procedures for church and church-related organizations. Timely reports of the aforementioned financial transactions shall be issued as requested by the church, the Board of Deacons, and/or the Board of Trustees.

SECTION VI. AUDIT

At the end of the fiscal year, or when determined necessary, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a committee of at least three members of the church to perform a year-end audit and/or review of financial records using procedures developed by the Board of Deacons. No one having signatory authority over the accounts being audited shall serve on this committee. A review by an independent audit firm shall be made whenever deemed necessary by the membership.

ARTICLE XII BUSINESS PROCEDURES

SECTION I. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A. An annual church business meeting shall be held during the first two weeks of March unless otherwise specified.
- B. In addition to any other business that may be considered, annual reports shall be presented, an annual budget adopted, and church officers elected at this meeting.
- C. A Business Meeting must be preceded by announcement and included in the church bulletin for at least three weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

SECTION II. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A. Special business meetings may be called in any of the following manners:
 - 1. By the Pastor;
 - 2. By the Chairman of the Board of Deacons; or
 - 3. By the written request of members with at least ten percent of the active voting membership.
- B. Special business meetings must be preceded by announcement at three regularly scheduled services.

SECTION III. LIMITED BUSINESS MEETINGS

Limited business meetings for the sole purpose of voting new members into the church may be convened during any regular church service.

SECTION IV. ORDER OF MEETINGS

- A. Agenda
 - 1. The agenda will be set by the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

2. All agenda items shall be submitted to the Senior Pastor or Board of Deacons at least one week prior to the business meeting.
3. No items will be voted on that are not on the agenda. They may be discussed but must be brought back for a vote at another time.

B. Moderator

The Senior Pastor or his delegate will moderate all business meetings.

C. Conduct of the Meetings

1. All business meetings are to be conducted in a decent and orderly manner in keeping with the spiritual mandate of the church. (I Corinthians 14:40)
2. In the conduct of business, the moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling.
3. A written ballot shall be used for financial matters, as well as for the annual elections, and may be requested at any other time by any member. All other votes shall be voice votes.
4. A quorum for all business meetings shall be one-fourth of the eligible voting members except when calling or dismissing a pastor or amending the Constitution, in which case the quorum will be 50 percent.
5. Eligible voters are active members at least 16 years of age.
6. All matters decided by the membership will be based on a simple majority. The exceptions to this are:
 - a. The calling or removal of a pastor;
 - b. Purchasing real estate;
 - c. Selling church property; or
 - d. Amending the Constitution.

The above exceptions will require a three-fourths vote. A vote not carried will cause the motion to go back to the Board of Deacons for reconsideration.

ARTICLE XIII MISSIONS

SECTION I. POLICY

A. An approved organization or person desiring support must complete an application for support provided by the Missions Committee. The Missions Committee will review the application to determine if the applicant is qualified. The Missions Committee will then decide upon acceptance or rejection of the applicant. If acceptance is granted by the

Missions Committee to move forward, then a vote of 2/3 of the members present (minimum of five attendees with one being a pastor) must approve the applicant. The Missions Committee shall determine support.

B. Modifying support for existing missionaries is by a vote of the Missions Committee. Approval to modify needs 2/3 of the members present (minimum of five attendees with one being a pastor).

SECTION II. APPLICATION

A. Individual applicants for missionary support must sign a statement declaring their acceptance and agreement with the church's Statement of Faith as set forth in Article IV.

B. An organization must provide their Statement of Faith to the church.

C. Applicants shall have a vital Christian testimony and demonstrate the call of God to their ministry.

D. An individual applicant or organization must provide a sound financial policy.

SECTION III. OBLIGATIONS OF MISSIONARIES

A. Upon request of the Missions Committee, all supported individual missionaries must file a written report with the Missions Committee of this church providing information that will present to the church a detailed picture of the work on their field. The committee may also request that a missionary give affirmation of our Statement of Faith.

B. All supported organizations shall provide their Statement of Faith upon request.

C. All supported individual missionaries are encouraged to visit this church on their furlough to give a personal account to the church of their stewardship on the field. The Senior Pastor and Missions Committee shall schedule visitation.

SECTION IV. TERMINATION OF MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Support provided to a missionary by this church does not constitute a binding contract. Missionary support is terminable at will by the Missions Committee with a vote of 2/3 of the members present (minimum of five attendees with one being a pastor).

ARTICLE XIV - COOPERATION

SECTION I. GENERAL

We believe that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each local church being the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. To this end, the church may pursue membership or affiliation with local, regional, national, and global denominations or associations under the oversight of the pastors and deacons. Cooperation with such groups

must allow for the autonomous governance of the church as outlined in this Constitution and should clearly align with the Statement of Faith presented in Article IV.

SECTION II. TERMINATION

In the event that a current denomination or cooperative affiliation strays from alignment with Article IV, the church, under the oversight of the pastors and deacons, should take action to revoke the associated cooperation or membership.

ARTICLE XV PROPERTY AND ASSETS

All property, assets, and real estate shall be held in trust by the Board of Deacons, who act as trustees in legal matters. All funds and properties of disbanded or dissolved organizations or classes of this church and Sunday School shall automatically become the property of the church, to be disbursed by the vote of the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons or Board of Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, or transfer any real property without a majority vote of the membership. Real property is defined as land, buildings, or passenger vehicles. Should the church ever disband, whatever property, assets, real estate, and monies are left, will be dispersed to another 501C3 organization of the membership's choosing. It should be to another church of like faith and/or approved mission.

ARTICLE XVI EXTENDED MINISTRIES

SECTION I. CHURCH AGENCIES

All organizations and agencies of this church are considered responsible to and under the general direction of the church. No organization shall engage in any practice or policy contrary to the position and purpose of this church as stated in the Statement of Faith and Constitution.

SECTION II. ELIGIBILITY OF LEADERS

All leaders, teachers, sponsors, and officers of organizations shall be members of this church who agree with the Statement of Faith, Covenant, and Constitution, and with evidence of mature faith in their walk with Christ.

ARTICLE XVII AMENDMENTS

The active members of the church are at liberty to present to the Board of Deacons any amendment to the Constitution that they feel is for the good and advancement of the work. Such amendment must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Board of Deacons. If approved by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons, the proposed amendment will be distributed in writing to the membership. The membership must approve the changes in a business meeting by at $\frac{3}{4}$ of the votes cast.

ARTICLE XVIII CANCELLATION

This Constitution was adopted on the 3rd day of March, 2019, and supersedes and cancels all other Constitutions and their amendments.

Revisions

The following amendments were approved on May 28, 2006:

Article VII, Section IV, Para C.
Article VIII, Section I, Para B.3.
Article XI, Section IV, Para C.4.
Article XV

The following amendments were approved on March 4, 2012:

Article VIII, Section I, Para D.4.
Article VIII, Section III, Para D.4.
Article VIII, Section IV, Para D.6.
Article VIII, Section IV, Para E.
Article VIII, Section VIII, Para B.2.
Article VIII, Section VIII, Para C.2.
Article X, Section II
Article X, Section V
Article XII, Section I
Article XII, Section III, Para A.
Article XII, Section III, Para C.

Article XII, Section IV, Para B.
Article XIII

The following amendments were approved on March 4, 2018:

Article II
Article III
Article VII, Section I, Section II, Para A.
Article VII, Section III, Para B, C.
Article VIII
Article IX
Article X
Article XI
Article XII
Article XIII
Article XIV
Article XV

The following amendments were approved on March 3, 2019:

Article IV
Article V

The following amendments were approved on July 14, 2019:

Article XIV

The following amendments were approved on February 7, 2021:

Article IX, Section II