

By-Laws & Doctrinal Statement
Adopted January 2017

Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson Inc.
224 S. Maple St
McPherson, Kansas 67460
Elder Board Approval of By-Laws & Doctrinal Statement:

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Word of God demands that a Christian organization not only conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (*Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8; II Timothy 4:1-5*), but that all things be done decently and in order (*I Corinthians 14:40*).

Therefore, we, the elders of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson, set forth in this the BYLAWS by which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

Section 1. Church Membership

1. Purpose of Membership

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

“Having come together for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Romans 12:5

“Subject to Jesus Christ, whom God has appointed to be head over everything for the Church, which is His body.” Ephesians 1:22-23

2. Membership

Active membership in Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson is open to anyone upon confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Him in baptism, and showing a willingness to abide by our Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement.

3. Responsibilities of Members

As members in the family of God (*Ephesians 3:15*), and heirs together of the grace of life (*1 Peter 3:7*), we believe that we are to love one another (*I Thessalonians 4:9*), to bear one another's burdens (*Galatians. 6:2*), and to exhort one another to love and to do good works (*Hebrews 10:24-25*). Therefore we believe that all members should attend as regularly as possible all regular services and all meetings arranged by the church. They should maintain the spiritual life of their own family, bringing their children to Sunday School and worship services, encouraging them to attend other church activities. Members should encourage and assist their children toward a faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Members are to make a conscientious use of the means of grace (the Word of God, prayer, and the church ordinances). All members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and submit to the loving rule of the Elders.

Members are to make a conscientious effort to ensure their life reflects the elders' understanding of GBC's doctrinal statement and bylaws.

4. Voting Privileges

Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson Corporation. Members may be asked to vote at meetings on matters submitted to the church membership by the Board of Elders. Voting privileges are restricted to members that have passed their sixteenth (16) birthday. Votes by the membership of CBC are not binding on decisions made by the Elders of CBC.

5. Application for Membership

All requests for membership will be made to a Pastor. Upon request, each person seeking membership will be given a copy of the shepherding information sheet, Doctrinal Statement (What We Teach) and Bylaws. At least 2 elders will meet with the one seeking membership following the receipt of the shepherding information sheet. Upon the recommendation of the elders after the meeting, the new member will be received before the assembled congregation by announcement.

6. Denial of Membership

If, upon review of the shepherding information sheet or after meeting with a prospective member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the standards for membership as set forth within the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson, membership will be denied. The decision made by the Board of Elders shall be final and there shall be no appeal of that decision.

7. Removal of Membership

Any member of this church who shall willfully, without plausible reason or excuse, absent himself from the services of this church for a period of six months may be removed at the discretion of the Board of Elders, with written notification prior to dismissal.

Any member in good standing, according to the Board of Elders, with CBC may remove their membership for any reason with a letter of recession addressed to the Board of Elders. Any member seeking to rescind membership that is not in good standing as viewed by the CBC elders may not be allowed to rescind membership. Any member involved as an offender in a church discipline situation may not be allowed to rescind membership. Involuntary removal of membership may be the result of church discipline as outlined in Section 4.

Section 2. Baptism

Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson will practice baptism by immersion to each person whose outward testimony confirms an inward spiritual transformation, indicating salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Neither membership in Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson nor salvation is dependent on baptism. The Board of Elders of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson will determine a course of study for all baptismal candidates which must be completed before they are baptized. This course will be taught by a pastor or an acceptable substitute as determined by the Board of Elders. The pastor of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson shall preside at all baptisms unless necessity shall require the Board of Elders to appoint an acceptable substitute. All baptismal candidates shall apply to the Board of Elders for admissibility to baptism.

Section 3. The Lord's Supper

Observance of the Lord's Supper will take place as outlined in the Doctrinal Statement of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson. Scheduling, organization and execution of the service will be a responsibility of the Board of Elders. All regenerate members and guests, having examined themselves as instructed in *1 Corinthians 11:27-28*, are encouraged to participate.

Section 4. Church Discipline

When a member or regular attendee is found guilty of any sin which is unrepentant as defined by the Board of Elders, or affects the spiritual well-being of the church, or fails to meet the conditions outlined under qualifications for membership, he or she is subject to the church disciplinary process as described below:

1. The discipline process shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of *Matthew 18:15-17*.
 - 1) If possible, the offended party confronts the offending party. If no reconciliation, the next step will be taken.
 - 2) The offended party makes the elders aware of the situation.
 - 3) If possible, the elders confront the offender and plead for repentance and restoration, in person or via correspondence.
 - 4) If not fruits of repentance are evidenced, as understood by the elders of CBC, the situation, sins, and identity of the offender may be shared with all attendees of CBC in hopes of restoration.
 - 5) Membership of the offender may be removed at the discretion of the Board of Elders as a result of the church discipline process.
2. The goal of all discipline shall be to restore the individual to a right relationship with Christ, manifest in the observed fruits of repentance, and to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in light of the following Scriptures: *Galatians 6:1-2*; *II Thessalonians 3:14-15*; *Hebrews 10:24-25*; and *James 5:19-20*. Restoration to fellowship upon due repentance, restitution, and reconciliation, where necessary, will be granted by the Board of Elders.

Section 5. Pastors

1. Pastors must give evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel.
2. All pastors must fulfill the qualifications as listed in *I Timothy 3:1-13* and *Titus 1:5-9*.
3. All pastors must signify in writing in their elder / staff application their willingness to abide by the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement of this Church and indicate in writing to the elders any different doctrinal positions they hold. (review Elder / Staff Application)

Duties

According to *Ephesians 4:11-12*, God has given pastors “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ”. (*I Peter 5:1-4*).

1. General duties of the Pastoral staff shall include the functions of shepherds to the church membership. All the duties of shepherding as taught in the Scriptures are to be carried out by the Pastoral staff in cooperation with the Elders.
2. The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for carrying out the church’s ministry under the Board’s adopted doctrines, policies, procedures and budget. He shall carry on the church ministry according to *Ephesians 4* with the assistance of the Pastoral and support staff he shall assemble (*II Timothy 1:14-15*; *2:2*).
3. Marriage (performing weddings) ceremonies shall be conducted by Pastoral staff or approved visiting pastors. However, all ceremonies must include a member of the Pastoral staff.

Selection of Pastoral Staff

1. The Board of Elders will search out and screen all candidates, keeping the congregation informed of its progress.
2. Unanimous consent of the Elders is needed to invite a candidate for “in person” contact with the Elders, Deacons and the congregation.

3. When the conditions in steps 1 and 2 have been met, voting members at a properly called Membership meeting will be asked to affirm the candidate.
4. Unanimous approval from the Elders is required to call a candidate to any position of Pastor.

Term of Office

1. A Pastor's term of office shall be indefinite.
2. A pastor may be dismissed by the unanimous decision of the Elders.
3. When there is a reason to remove a Pastor that is also a member of the Elder Board, the Board of Elders shall be unanimous, not including the Pastor in question, in regards to dismissal.

Section 6. Board of Elders and Church Officers

A. General

The Board of Elders shall lead by serving the church. Its primary responsibilities are shepherding the flock, teaching the Word, caring for its spiritual welfare, overseeing the administration of the church and discipling future leaders. The Board may delegate certain responsibilities to the Pastors, Deacons, Ministry Heads, or individual member of the church.

B. Selection of Elders

1. Any man selected as an Elder shall be a member of the Church and be recognized for his spirituality, for his leadership, and his faithfulness to the teaching of God's Word, and shall meet the qualifications outlined in *I Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9*.
 - a. Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7*
 - b. Husband of one wife (a one-woman man) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6*
 - c. Temperate (sober, vigilant) *I Timothy 3:2*
 - d. Sober-minded (prudent) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
 - e. Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) *I Timothy 3:2*
 - f. Given to hospitality (lover of strangers, open home) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
 - g. Apt to teach (able to teach, exhort believers and refute false teaching) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9*
 - h. Not given to wine *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - i. Not violent (pugnacious) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - j. Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) *I Timothy 3:3*

- k. Not a brawler (not contentious, not soon angry, or quick tempered) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - l. Not covetous (not a lover of money or greedy) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - m. Rules his own house well (his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God) *I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6*
 - n. Not a novice (not a new convert) *I Timothy 3:6*
 - o. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders *I Timothy 3:7*
 - p. Not self-willed *Titus 1:7*
 - q. A lover of good (men and things) *Titus 1:8*
 - r. Just (fair) *Titus 1:8*
 - s. Holy (devout) *Titus 1:8*
 - t. Self-controlled *Titus 1:8*
2. His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.
 3. He must be in agreement with the Church Doctrinal Statement and abide by the Bylaws.
 4. The Elders shall select candidates from the membership of the church and approve them by unanimous vote of the Elder Board. Each candidate tentatively approved will be interviewed by the Elders to confirm his willingness and qualifications to serve as an Elder. A written application will then be submitted to the Elders. Candidates approved by the Elders will be presented for affirmation at a called Business meeting. Their names will be published prior to the meeting, during which time the congregation is encouraged to respond to an Elder regarding the candidate's qualification of Eldership. The final decision regarding the candidacy will be announced on the following Sunday.
 5. The Senior Pastor, because of his position, shall automatically be a member of the Elder Board and serve as an Elder as long as he is Senior Pastor.
 6. Regardless of how many members of the staff serve as duly elected Elders, for the purposes of voting, the Staff shall have one vote on all issues, that vote being the Senior Pastor's. In the event there is no permanent Senior Pastor, his vote may be granted to an Elder, who is a member of the staff, who has been designated by the remaining non-staff Elders. This policy will in no other way detract from the duties, responsibilities and respect entitled to all Elders.

C. Removal of Elders from Office

1. The procedures described in *I Timothy 5:19-20* and *Matthew 18:15-17* regarding church discipline shall be followed as for any person in the body of Christ, including Elders, with the objective of restoration to the body.
2. If restoration is not achieved by the procedure described in paragraph 1 above, any two members may bring the issue before the Board of Elders, who will hear the Elder who may be subject to discipline, in accordance with the prescriptions of *I Timothy 5:19-20*.

3. After hearing the issue, the Board of Elders will decide what action is required.
4. When there is a reason to remove the Elder from the Board, the Board of Elders shall be unanimous, not including the Elder in question, following the same procedures as used for selection.
5. The Chairman of the Board of Elders will advise the disciplined Elder of his removal from the Board of Elders both in person, when practical, and in writing, and also advise the church congregation.
6. When the issue that required the Elder's removal has been properly resolved and the restoration process is complete, the former Elder may be eligible to return to the Board of Elders following the process for selection of Elders.

D. Board of Elders Composition

The Board of Elders shall be composed of the Senior Pastor, pastoral staff, and other biblically qualified individuals, appointed by the Holy Spirit, *Acts 20:28*.

E. Elder Board of Officers

1. The Board of Elders shall select the following officers of the incumbent Elders for a one year term:
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary

The foregoing officers shall be selected from the Board of Elders and may succeed themselves. The election of officers shall be held the first meeting after the annual Business Meeting. The officers of the Elders shall be announced in the church bulletin.

2. The Board of Elders shall select from the church membership the Church Treasurer.
4. Officers of the Board of Elders shall act as officers of the corporation and of the church membership.

F. Responsibilities of the Officers

1. The Chairman's Duties
 - a. Act as President of the Corporation
 - b. Execute all resolutions of the Board of Elders.
 - c. Ensure communication of decisions of the Board of Elders that are of general interest to the congregation.
2. The Secretary's Duties
 - a. Keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders and have copies sent to all Elders.
 - b. Serve as Secretary of the Corporation and keep minutes of all church Business Meetings and have charge and custody of the minute book of the Corporation.

- c. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Chairman.
- d. Affix his signature to all instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Secretary.
- e. Have custody of the official seal of the church and affix it as required. (this is in the office)

3. The Treasurer's Duties

- a. Supervise and maintain the safe-keeping of corporation funds and securities.
- b. Keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in church ledgers.
- c. Oversee the deposit of monies and other valuable effects in name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depository as shall be designated by the Board of Elders.
- d. Disburse the funds of the church as ordered by the Board of Elders or its delegate.
- e. Render to the Board of Elders for each calendar month an account of all his transactions as Treasurer, updating the current financial condition of the church.
- f. Submit for audit each calendar year, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer, and the current financial records of the church.

G. Conduct of Board of Elders Meetings

- 1. The Board of Elders shall meet regularly and at such times as the Elders shall select. The Elders shall call additional meetings as warranted by the business or needs of the church.
- 2. Sixty percent of incumbent Elders, including the Pastor, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. Deacons

A. General

The Deacons shall serve the Church by assisting the Board of Elders. The authority and responsibility of the Deacons shall be set forth in guidelines established by the Elders.

B. Selection of Deacons

- 1. Candidates for the office of Deacon shall be nominated from the church membership by the Board of Elders and recognized for their spirituality, their faithfulness, their leadership, their genuine desire and willingness to serve in church ministries, and their individual adherence to Biblical qualifications described in the Scriptures.
 - a. Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7*
 - b. Husband of one wife (a one-woman man) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6*
 - c. Temperate (sober, vigilant) *I Timothy 3:2*
 - d. Sober-minded (prudent) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*

- e. Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) *I Timothy 3:2*
 - f. Given to hospitality (lovers of strangers, open home) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
 - g. Not given to wine *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - h. Not violent (pugnacious) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - i. Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) *I Timothy 3:3*
 - j. Not a brawler (not contentious, soon angry, or quick tempered) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - k. Not covetous (not a lover of money or greedy) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
 - l. Rules well his own house (his children are faithful and not accused of rebellion to God) *I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6*
 - m. Not a novice (not a new convert) *I Timothy 3:7*
 - n. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders *I Timothy 3:7*
 - o. Not self-willed *Titus 1:7*
 - p. A lover of good (men and things) *Titus 1:8*
 - q. Just (fair) *Titus 1:8*
 - r. Holy (devout) *Titus 1:8*
 - s. Self-controlled *Titus 1:8*
2. His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.
 3. He must be an active member of the church and subscribe to the church Doctrinal Statement and abide by the Bylaws.
 4. He shall be approved by the Elders, submit a Deacon Application, and then be affirmed by the Elders.

C. Deacons Term of Office

1. A Deacon shall serve an annual term and be annually reviewed by the Elders.
2. A Deacon shall be dismissed in accordance with the same procedure as used for Elders.
3. Deacons who have served their full term are eligible to be reappointed to additional terms by the Board of Elders.

Section 8. Associations

This church shall not at any time become a member of any denomination, ecclesiastical or ecumenical movement.

Section 9. Annual Meeting

A business meeting will be held in January of each year. The date and time will be at the discretion of the Board of Elders. Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will precede the meeting by at least fourteen (14) calendar days. Notification requires publication in church media and verbal announcement in weekly services. Business to be conducted will include affirmation of the leadership appointments, budget review, and a report of the year's ministry from the Board of Elders. Other business may be brought before the congregation at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

Section 10. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will be announced prior to the meeting.

Section 11. Amending Bylaws

These bylaws shall be amended at any time by the unanimous vote of the Elders.

Section 12. Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another corporation with similar purposes to that of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson.

Section 12. Sexuality and Marriage

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Section 13. Support Staff

Any non-contract, part-time, or full-time support staff employee of Cornerstone Bible Church:

1. Must agree not to participate in or represent any idea or activity that is contrary to the elders' understanding of CBC's doctrinal statement and bylaws. Both while actively representing Cornerstone Bible Church in their employment duties and in their personal life.
2. Shall be a member in good standing, as determined by the Board of Elders. If the employee is not in good standing, they may be terminated from employment regardless of professional competency.