

THE
CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF
CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
WICHITA, KANSAS

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THE CONSTITUTION
of
CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
Wichita, Kansas

PREAMBLE

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, we, the baptized believers in Christ of Cornerstone Bible Church, declaring our belief in the triune God, His omnipotence, His omniscience, and His omnipresent Spirit, dedicate this Constitution that this belief may become a living faith.

ARTICLE I NAME

This church is duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas under the corporate name of Cornerstone Bible Church.

ARTICLE II ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1. The Scriptures.

We believe the Holy Scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired WORD OF GOD and as such the guide and authority for our faith and practice in the Christian life. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1: 21)

Section 2. The Godhead.

We believe in one GOD, eternal in existence and triune in Person as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16, 17)

A. The Person and Work of the Father.

We believe GOD the Father to be an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 4:23, 24; Psalms 145:17; I John 5:14, 15)

B. The Person and Work of the Son.

We believe Jesus Christ to be God's only begotten Son, conceived of Mary by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and visible personal return to the earth. (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:23, 25; I Cor. 15: 3, 4)

C. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Holy Spirit Who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ, and that He is our abiding Comforter, Helper, Teacher and Guide. (John 16:7-14)

Section 3. The Personality of Satan.

We believe that Satan is a person and the god of this present age; that he is the author of sin and the enemy of GOD and man; and, that his doom was sealed by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. (Job 1:6, 7; Rev. 12:9; Rev. 20:10)

Section 4. The Total Depravity of Man.

We believe that man was made in the image of GOD but fell into sin by choice and thus alienated himself from GOD; and that man is totally depraved and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12)

Section 5. Salvation.

We believe that salvation is the gift of GOD offered to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of all our sins, that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by GOD'S POWER and are thus secure in Christ forever. (Eph. 2:8-10; John 3:16, 36; I John 5:11-13)

Section 6. The Church.

We believe that the Church, which is the Body and the espoused Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons in this present Age. We believe that a local church is a congregation of persons who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior and have followed Him in obedience in baptism. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Acts 2:41, 42, 47)

Section 7. The Ordinances.

We believe that water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present Age. They are, however, symbolic and not a means of salvation or merit. (Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19, 20; I Cor. 11:24-26)

Section 8. The Second Coming of Christ.

We believe in "that Blessed Hope" the personal, imminent coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones, and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to reign a thousand years. (I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 20:6).

Section 9. The Eternal State.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at

death, absent from the body and present with the Lord. (John 5:28, 29; Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:6-8)

Section 10. Sexual Purity

We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and one woman (as genetically defined), within the love and bonds of marriage. Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Romans 1:26-27; 1Thessalonians 4:3-8).

ARTICLE III GOVERNMENT

The government of this church is vested in the Elders of this church and is subject only to the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. It is not subject to the control of any ecclesiastical organization but recognizes and maintains mutual cooperation with other churches of like faith so long as such cooperation is in keeping with its Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws; provided, however, that in the carrying out of its purposes, this church, and its membership collectively, shall at all times remain unaffiliated from all other churches and bodies of men whatsoever.

The Elders of this church are the authority for interpreting the Bible's meaning and application as it pertains to church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline as applied at Cornerstone Bible Church. (2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5-9)

ARTICLE IV AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended only by the unanimous decision of the Elders. At least sixty days prior to any amendment(s) taking effect, the Elders shall announce them at the regular Sunday worship services and make them available in written form for the congregation's review and feedback. During the review period, the amendment(s) shall also be regularly announced to and made available in writing to the congregation.

Cornerstone Bible Church Bylaws

ARTICLE I. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Definition/Purpose

Membership at Cornerstone Bible Church is the official commitment of a believer to this local body of believers for the purpose of mutual ministry and mutual accountability.

Section B. Qualifications

Each Member of Cornerstone Bible Church shall:

- Possess a personal relationship with God by repentance and faith alone in Jesus Christ,
- Be Baptized as a believer,
- Exhibit a changed life in Jesus Christ, and
- Submit to the leadership and teaching of the Elders.
- Shall agree with the Constitution's Doctrinal Statement and agree to abide by the regulations set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section C. Acceptance

All who desire membership shall submit a membership application to the Elders for review. Upon completion of that review and acceptance by the Elders, qualified applicants shall be received into membership.

Section D. Privileges

Membership does not provide to the member any rights or powers pertaining to the governing of the church but shall qualify the member to vote on those matters submitted to the membership by the Elders. Voting privileges are restricted to those whose names are on the membership records at the time of the vote and who are at least 18 years of age on the day of the vote.

Section E. Removal

A person may be removed from membership at the discretion of the Elders for any of the following:

1. Request of the member.
2. Willful failure, without plausible reason, to participate in the ministries of this church for a period of one year.
3. Public dismissal by church discipline after biblical efforts to reconcile the member have failed. (see Article VI)
4. Physical death of the member.
5. Biblical reason (or reasons) deemed necessary or appropriate by the Elders.

ARTICLE II. ELDERS

Section A. Plurality

Since the Bible indicates a plurality of leadership, there shall be a minimum of three Elders who oversee Cornerstone Bible Church. There may be as many Elders as are biblically qualified and recognized. The number of Elders employed by Cornerstone Bible Church shall not compose a majority of the Elders.

Section B. Responsibility

All the activities and affairs of Cornerstone Bible Church shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders, subject to the limitations of the Articles of these Bylaws, the church Constitution and pertinent restrictions of civil law. The Elders are responsible for shepherding and oversight of the flock as outlined in 1 Peter 5:1-3, and other related Scriptures.

Section C. Qualifications

Each Elder shall be an active, male member of this church and possess the qualifications depicted in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. As such he shall be:

1. *Above reproach, blameless* – characterized by prevailing godliness, not discredited by legitimate disrepute (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7).
2. *A one-woman man* – devoted in mind, heart, and body to sexual purity (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).
3. *Temperate* – moderate, alert (1 Timothy 3:2).
4. *Self-controlled* – using discernment and discretion (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8).
5. *Respectable* – possessing a good reputation (1 Timothy 3:2).
6. *Hospitable* – showing hospitality to others (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8).
7. *Able to teach* – able to encourage with sound doctrine and able to refute doctrinal error (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9).
8. *Not given to drunkenness* – not addicted to or controlled by alcoholic beverages (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
9. *Not violent, not quick-tempered* – gentle in all relationships (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
10. *Not quarrelsome, not overbearing* – not self-willed in attitude, speech, or action (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
11. *Not a lover of money, not pursuing dishonest gain* (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7).
12. *Manage his own household well* (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6).
13. *Not a recent convert* – not new to or immature in the faith (1 Timothy 3:6).
14. *Has a good reputation with outsiders* – known as a godly man by the unsaved (1 Timothy 3:7).
15. *One who loves what is good, upright, and holy* – characterized by a desire for that which is godly and wholesome (Titus 1:8).

Section D. Selection

The following steps will be utilized to evaluate a man for a position as an Elder.

1. Application

Believing that God is directing him to serve as an Elder in the church, a man will express in writing to the Elders his desire to serve in such a manner.

2. Evaluation

Upon receipt of the written expression, the Elders will prayerfully determine if the man meets the biblical requirements of an Elder through a time of personal questioning and seeking the input of others.

3. Observation

If the Elders determine that the man does meet the biblical requirements, then they shall publicly assign specific responsibilities of ministry within the church in order for the entire body to observe and evaluate the man's spirit, gifts, and effectiveness in service.

4. Feedback

If upon completion of the specific responsibilities, the Elders determine that the man's service has been sufficiently carried out, they shall publicly announce their decision and present the man at any regularly scheduled meeting of the church for a 30-day period in which encouragement, concerns, or needed input can be made directly to the Elders. The Elders will respond as necessary to any input from the congregation.

5. Presentation

If the Elders agree unanimously that the man is qualified by God's grace for leadership as an Elder, they will present that man at any regularly scheduled meeting of the congregation, and shall assume office immediately.

Section E. Annual Presentation

No less than one month prior to the annual meeting of the church members, the Elders shall publicly post a list of proposed Elders for the coming year. During this 30-day period, the congregation shall be encouraged to examine the proposed Elders in light of Biblical qualifications and direct any encouragement or concerns to the Elders. The Elders shall respond as necessary to any input from the congregation.

At the annual meeting of the church members, the proposed Elders shall be presented to the members of the church, assume office immediately and shall serve as Elders until the next annual meeting.

Section F. Officers

The officers of the church shall be chosen by the Elders and shall include Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers as needed. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be chosen from among the Elders. The Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers shall be chosen from among the Elders or from among the membership. These officers shall serve as the legal representatives of the corporation. Each officer shall hold his office until he shall resign, be removed or become otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be chosen. The officers shall serve the Elders and the church membership in accomplishing the purposes of this church.

1. The Chairman shall officiate at all regular and special meetings of the Elders and of the church and shall provide general direction and leadership for the Elders.
2. The Vice-Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman in his absence.
3. The Secretary shall be custodian of all records of the church and shall keep and maintain or cause to be kept and maintained, a careful and correct record of all official acts of the church.
4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping and maintaining or causing to be kept and maintained accurate financial records of the transactions of the Church, for the collection and recording of the church offerings as well as their proper and safe deposit and disbursement as directed by the Elders, and for providing regular financial statements for the Elders.

Section G. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held at such time as the Elders agree. Special meetings of the Elders may be called at any time by any of the Elders, provided that all Elders are notified in advance. Meetings shall be open for observation to the congregation of Cornerstone Bible Church. Should topics of discussion arise that should be held confidential, the Elders shall have the right to meet privately for that portion of the meeting.

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required for all Elder meetings.

If unable to attend in person, Elders may participate in a meeting through the use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment, as long as all Elders participating in such a meeting can communicate with one another.

The Elders shall seek consensus on all decisions in a biblical manner.

Decisions made by the Elders will be presented to the entire church for consideration and clarification as deemed appropriate by the Elders.

The Elders shall conduct quarterly meetings for the entire church to present a financial statement for the previous quarter and any other information deemed necessary. The first quarterly meeting of the year will also serve as the annual meeting.

Section H. Resignation/Removal

An Elder may resign by giving written notice of resignation to the Chairman or Secretary of the Elders.

In the event it is established in the minds of the remainder of the Elders that any Elder has become spiritually unqualified, the remainder of Elders shall deal with that Elder according to the principles laid out in 1 Timothy 5:19-22 and Article VI of these bylaws.

In the event it is established in the minds of the remainder of the Elders that any Elder has become physically incapacitated or in some other way is no longer able to serve, the remainder of Elders may remove that Elder from service.

ARTICLE III. PASTOR-TEACHER

A Pastor-Teacher shall be an Elder and shall demonstrate the same qualifications and be accountable in the same manner as any other Elder, but shall be expected to be devoted primarily to prayer and the ministry of the Word of God.

A Pastor-Teacher shall be approved by the unanimous decision of all the Elders after the same careful examination required of any other Elder candidate. If a candidate comes from outside the church, the Elders may consult references since personal observation of qualifications may be impossible. A candidate shall preach and interact with the congregation. Feedback will then be solicited from the congregation over an announced period of at least two weeks prior to final approval. For the sake of a quality selection process, the Elders will present only one candidate for consideration at any given time.

The relationship between the Pastor-Teacher and the church may be dissolved by resignation or dismissal by the Elders upon thirty days' notice, or such other period of time as may be mutually agreeable.

ARTICLE IV. DEACONS

The Deacons shall be members of Cornerstone Bible Church possessing the Biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They shall be accountable to the Elders and shall aid in the general spiritual care of the church, and shall perform other duties as assigned by the Elders.

The elders shall request recommendations from all church members to fill the position of Deacon, shall review all nominations, determining each nominee's qualifications, and shall appoint Deacons as needed. The Deacons shall be presented to the members of the church and shall assume office immediately.

A Deacon may give written notice of resignation to the Chairman or Secretary of the Elders. In the event it is established in the minds of the Elders, that any Deacon has become spiritually unqualified, incapacitated, or unable to serve, the Elders may immediately remove him from office.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

To promote efficient handling of church matters, the Elders may appoint various committees from the church at large. These committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and with powers specifically delegated by the Elders.

All committees shall exist for the period specified by the Elders.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Elders, shall be subject to church discipline for the purpose of restoration. Those who refuse to respond positively to biblical discipline (as detailed especially in Matthew. 18:15-20; I Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1-5; II Thessalonians 3:6-15, and Titus 3:8-11) will be removed from fellowship and or the membership roll and will be regarded by the church in the manner prescribed by the Lord in these passages. The Elders will inform both the individual (if possible) and the congregation of such disciplinary action.

If a member or other professing Christian who regularly attends or fellowships with this church, is disciplined by this church, they agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by the unanimous decision of the Elders. The Elders shall seek the congregation's participation regarding any changes to the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of Cornerstone Bible Church, the Elders shall be responsible for the settlement of any and all liabilities and distribution of any and all assets and property to one or more nonprofit organizations with purposes similar to those of Cornerstone Bible Church.