

CONSTITUTION
of the
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Adopted August 23, 1989
(Last revision July 10, 2016)

The Preamble

Having our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and believing in the teachings of the Holy Bible as the plenary and verbally inspired Word of the living God, we affiliated ourselves with one another as a body of immersed believers, and we adopt this constitution as a declaration of our convictions so that we may carry on the Lord's work decently and in order.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Article II – Purpose

Our purpose is to glorify God by conducting an independent Baptist church in accordance with the Word of God, promoting the worship of our God, edifying believers teaching the whole counsel of God, administering the ordinances and Biblical discipline, seeking to win the lost to Christ through personal witnessing and the preaching of the gospel, carrying on a vigorous missionary program around the world, establishing other independent Baptist churches, defending the faith, and maintaining a good testimony for Christ in our community by godliness and good works.

Article III – Doctrinal Statement

We are convinced that the Word of God is the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. This basic principle is not altered by the acceptance of a doctrinal statement and a constitution. These instruments are only the mutually agreed upon expression of the Biblical principles in a simple, condensed and accessible form.

1. The Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried.
(II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21).

2. The True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the God head there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct by harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
(Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11).

3. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

(John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:2-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 1:12-16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27).

4. The Devil or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

(Matthew 4:1-11; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

5. Creation

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

(Genesis 1:2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3).

AMENDMENT - Passed October 23, 2011 –

We believe the seven days of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 are literal twenty-four hour days.

6. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him. In consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

(Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12,19; 1:18,32).

7. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

(Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14).

8. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding

sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all sufficient Saviour.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God, prompted by the Holy Spirit, and is an integral part of saving faith.

(Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 28:11; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14-17; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

9. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, interceding for us.

(Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24: 2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; 12:2; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9-10).

10. Grace and the New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

(John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1,5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8).

11. Justification

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood.

(Romans 3:24; 4:5; 5:1,9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9).

12. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God, accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return.

(Hebrews 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; II Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 4:3-24; I John 3:2; Jude 24-25; Revelation 22:11).

13. The Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1).

14. The Church

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its co-operations; that on all matters of membership, of polity of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

(I Cor.12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

15. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism first and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers.

(Acts 8:36, 38-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Matthew 28:18-20, Act 2:41-42).

16. Separation

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy.

(II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; I Thessalonians 1:9-10; I Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; II John 9-11).

17. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming King of Kings.

(Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17-18).

18. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

(Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37).

19. Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the pre-millennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at the moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation.

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44; 51-54; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 3:10).

20. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire.

(Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; I John 5:29; Romans 7:6; 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Revelation 20:14-15).

21. Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel world wide.

(Mark 16:15; Acts 11:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20).

22. Spiritual Gifts and the Charismatic Doctrine

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts, and that the gift of evangelist, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were complete and their authority became established.

(I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted.

(John 15:7; I John 5:14-15).

Article IV – Associations

This church shall be an independent, autonomous church, subject only to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. It has the right to cooperate and associate with other Biblical groups on a voluntary basis. There shall be no cooperation with any group that permits the presence of apostates or apostasy, or that endorses groups that permit the presence of apostates or apostasy.

Article V – Membership

1. Reception of Members

- A. This church shall be composed of members who profess to be saved by grace, through faith, and who have been baptized following their confession of faith in Christ by single immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- B. All persons desiring to unite with this church shall meet with the pastor and/or two (2) deacons, and shall give testimony of conversion and scriptural baptism, and affirm acceptance of and adherence to the Doctrinal Statement, Constitution, and Covenant of this church.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the deacons, candidates shall be presented to the church. A three-fourths vote of members present and voting is required to approve an individual for membership.

2. Discipline of Members

Sinful Conduct: Should any member become an offense to the church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or misdemeanor in office, or by willfully promoting division or discord in the church, or for advocating doctrines opposed to those set forth in the doctrines of this Constitution, he may be disciplined according to Biblical standards as set forth in Matthew 18; I Corinthians 5; etc.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –
Change “he” to “they”.

3. Restoration of Members

Any member who has been disciplined, but who desires to be restored to fellowship with the church shall be restored to active membership only by vote of the church after satisfactory evidence is given of scriptural repentance and confession.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –
Such shall be recommended by the Deacons.

4. Termination of Membership

Termination of membership shall be by resignation or church discipline.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –
Termination of membership shall be by resignation, or by church discipline, or by death.

5. Additional Regulations

Only members shall be entitled to vote or hold office. Only members shall serve as regular teachers in the church, Sunday School or other groups.

ADDENDUM – PASSED ON AUGUST 11, 1993

6. Active vs. Inactive Membership

An active member shall be one who attends regularly the meetings held in this church according to the teaching of the New Testament.

When members, with no just cause or evident reason, shall fail to faithfully attend or manifest any interest in the church for a period of six (6) months – during which time said member shall be contacted by the Board of Deacons and Pastor with special effort using means such as a personal visit, phone call, and letter – they shall be considered inactive.

Any member placed on the inactive list will remain so for a period extending no longer than three (3) months. Said member may be restored to the active membership roll by resuming the duties and responsibilities of an active member as defined above, to the satisfaction of the Board of Deacons and Pastor. An inactive member shall be deprived of the privilege of speaking or voting at any regular or special business meetings of the church until such a time as he/she is restored to the active membership roll. Restoration shall be according to Article V #1 (page 6) of our Constitution.

Any member who is still on the inactive membership list at the conclusion of three (3) months shall be removed from the church rolls. This will be done by a recommendation of the Board of Deacons and vote of the Church membership in accordance with Article VIII, #2 of our Constitution. In the event that a member is removed from the membership roll, he/she will be notified in writing by the Board of Deacons before and after said action has been taken by the Church body.

Article VI – Ordinances

Baptism – Those professing faith in Christ shall be immersed in water. Immersion, as a believer, shall be a prerequisite to church membership.

The Lord's Supper – The Lord's Supper shall normally be served to the assembled church on the first Sunday morning of each month, or at such other time as may be decided by pastor and deacons, or by the church. Since it is the Lord's Table none that are His shall be barred, but the pastor shall explain the meaning of the ordinances. The elements shall be unleavened bread and grape juice. The Lord's Supper shall not be served outside of the authority of the local church.

Article VII – Officers and Boards

1. Officers of the Church

- A. The government of this Church is vested in its membership carried out through the Deacon Board. The elected officers of the church shall be pastor (or pastors), deacons, clerk, financial secretary, and treasurer.

AMENDMENT –

The government of this Church is vested in its membership carried out through the Deacon Board. The elected officers of the church shall be pastor (or pastors), deacons, clerk, financial secretary, and treasurer, which comprise the Deacon Board.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 -

These offices shall be filled within the Board of Deacons.

- B. No one shall be elected to office who has not been a member of this church for at least one (1) year.
- C. All officers shall be spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Spiritual and material welfare of this church. They shall also be faithful in attendance and participation, both in regular services and business meetings of the church. Their moral conduct shall be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences, such as the use of intoxicating beverages, tobacco in all forms, narcotic drugs, entangling alliances with unbelievers and membership in oath-bound religious or secret social organizations, and other worldly

- practices (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1). In the light of I Timothy 3, the home and family relationships must be considered, as well as individual qualifications.
- D. Members who wish to submit nominations for officers should give their suggestions in writing to the nominating committee (Deacon Board) at least three weeks before the election to enable the committee to ascertain qualifications under Article VII, Section 1C. No nominations shall be made from the floor.
 - E. The term of office shall be deacons three (3) years, clerk, treasurer, and financial secretary one (1) year.
 - F. All officers shall normally assume their duties on January 1. Retiring officers shall hold office until the terms of newly elected officers begin.
 - G. Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office shall resign in writing. The resignation will become effective when acted upon by the Board. If any officer refuses to subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement, the Constitution and the Church Covenant, his resignation shall be requested by the deacons. If it is not received within a reasonable time, the office shall be declared vacant by vote of the church.
 - H. After a church officer (except for a pastor) has served at least three (3) consecutive years, he may not be nominated for an office until a period of one (1) year has lapsed.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –

- After a church officer (except for a pastor) has served two (2) consecutive three-year terms, he may not be nominated for an office until a period of one (1) year has lapsed.
- I. The Deacon Board shall represent this corporation as its agent. It shall not have authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of church property in any manner to exceed \$2,000 in value; nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount, except as the church shall approve by vote. All projects involving the expenditure of more than \$2,000 are to be submitted to the church for approval.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –

Change “agent” to “trustees” and “\$2,000” to “\$5,000”

2. The Pastor

- A. A candidate for the pastorate shall be carefully examined by the Deacon Board as to his salvation, doctrine, Christian conduct and call to the ministry. If he has served in other churches, his ministry there should be explored. He shall be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the Doctrinal Statement, Constitution, and Covenant of the church. Any differences which he holds concerning these documents should be submitted to the Deacon Board in writing. He shall also state in writing any differences which he holds relating to groups and associations with which this church is in fellowship. The Deacon Board shall present only one man at a time for the consideration and vote of the church.
- B. A call to a pastor shall be extended at a meeting of the church called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit for two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A three-fourths majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for a call. Voting shall be by ballot. A written call and agreement shall be presented to the prospective pastor, giving details of church-pastoral relationship, including salary, housing and car allowances, insurance, vacations, etc.... after these matters have been discussed with the pastor and approved mutually.

AMENDMENT – passed January 17, 2010 –

Ninety-percent of those present and voting shall be necessary for a call.

- C. The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting shall be announced from the pulpit for two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of such a meeting.

AMENDMENT – passed January 17, 2010 –

- The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by fifty-one percent of those present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose.
- D. The pastor shall give the church not less than thirty (30) days notice of his intention to discontinue as pastor. The church shall give the pastor not less than sixty (60) days notice of dismissal. If, in the judgment of the church, the conduct of the pastor justifies immediate termination of his ministry, the church may declare the pulpit vacant and pay two (2) months salary beyond that date.
- E. The pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church; he shall preach the gospel, teach the Word and have charge of the services of the church; he shall administer the ordinances and perform the usual duties of a Baptist minister.
- F. The pastor shall moderate the business meetings of the church. In his absence, the chairman of the deacons shall call the meeting to order and the church shall elect a moderator. If the pastor is to be under discussion in a business meeting, another moderator shall be elected, and the pastor and his family shall withdraw from the meeting.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –

- The pastor shall moderate the business meetings of the church or a duly appointed Deacon or other qualified member.
- G. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of all boards and committees. He and his wife shall also be a member of this church by virtue of their call.
- H. Other staff members may be called by the church, but are to be individuals fully approved by the pastor and shall work under his direction.

3. Deacons

- A. The deacons shall consist of not less than six men elected by the church. Election of deacons shall be arranged so that approximately one-third of the total number is retired each year.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –

- The deacons shall consist of not less than six men elected by the church when such qualified men are available. More deacons may be added as the congregation increases.
- B. It shall be the duty of the deacons to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; to be his helpers and counselors; to exercise prudent watch care over the church membership; to seek out such members as need alms; to visit the sick; to examine with the pastor candidates for church membership; to communicate with members who have not shown interest in maintaining their membership; to assist at baptisms, their wives assisting the ladies, and to supervise the preparation and distribution of the Lord's Supper.
- C. They shall appoint a chairman from their number, keep minutes of their monthly meetings in a permanent record, and report monthly and annually to the church.

4. Clerk

- A. The church clerk shall have charge of the official correspondence and shall keep a record of all business meetings of the church and the Deacon Board, entering the minutes of the meetings of the two groups in separate books. The clerk shall keep a record of the membership, of baptisms and of the reception and dismissal of members. The clerk shall

perform such other duties as properly belong to the office, making monthly and annual reports to the church.

- B. The clerk shall provide the financial secretary and the treasurer promptly with a transcript of the minutes of each church business meeting and deacon meeting in which authority is granted for the disbursement or transfer of funds.
- C. The clerk shall certify annually to the bank the names of officers who are authorized to have access to the safety deposit boxes and to sign checks for disbursement of funds.
- D. Upon his retirement or removal from office, he shall deliver to his successor, or the chairman of the Deacon Board, all records, files, and/or other papers belonging to the church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

5. Financial Secretary

- A. It shall be the duty of the financial secretary, together with one or more of the deacons, to count and record in a permanent record all monies received in the offerings of the church. This shall be done following each service of the church.

AMENDMENT – passed July 19, 2015 –

It shall be the duty of the financial secretary and/or one or more deacons or members duly approved by the deacon board, to count and record in a permanent record, all monies received in the offerings of the church. This shall be done following each service of the church.

- B. The financial secretary shall be responsible for depositing all funds in the bank, including monies received from organizations within the church or from individuals.

AMENDMENT – passed October 23, 2011 –

The financial secretary, or a duly appointed deacon, shall be responsible for depositing all funds in the bank including monies received from organizations within the church or from individuals.

AMENDMENT – passed July 19, 2015 –

The financial secretary, a duly appointed deacon, or members duly approved by the deacon board, shall be responsible for depositing all funds in the bank, including monies received from organizations within the church or from individuals.

- C. The financial secretary shall provide the treasurer with a record of all monies received and deposited, specifying the distribution into various funds, as indicated by the donors or by special offerings. Individual donors will be provided with an annual receipt upon request.
- D. The chairman of the deacons shall assume the duties of the financial secretary in the absence of the latter, except that he may not simultaneously assume the duties of the treasurer as outlined (see Treasurer).
- E. Upon his retirement or removal from office, he shall deliver to his successor, or the chairman of the Deacon Board, all records, files, and/or other papers belonging to the church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

6. Treasurer

- A. The treasurer shall be responsible for the recording of all financial transactions in permanent records and shall make monthly and annual reports to the church.
- B. The treasurer shall pay the bills of the church based on a budget approved by the church. He shall write, sign, record and mail all checks. The chairman of the deacons shall assume

the responsibility of signing checks in the treasurer's absence, except that he shall not simultaneously perform the duties of the financial secretary as outlined.

- C. Upon his retirement or removal from office, he shall deliver to his successor, or the chairman of the Deacon Board, all records, files, and/or other papers belonging to the church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

7. Financial Records

- A. All church financial records shall be audited annually.

8. Committees

- A. The Deacon Board shall have the prerogative to establish temporary committees as deemed necessary. Recommendations made by these committees must be approved by the Deacon Board before submitting to the Church.

Article VIII - Meetings

1. Public Worship

- A. Public worship services shall be held regularly, morning and evening, on the Lord's Day. These services shall not normally be given over to anything but prayer and the preaching and teaching of the Word, with an appropriate musical ministry; and other special presentation shall be subject to approval by the pastor and deacons. Neither shall they be merged into union services with other denominations.
- B. At least once each week there shall be a meeting for praise, prayer, and Bible Study.
- C. It shall be the practice of this church to observe the Lord's Supper at least once a month.

2. Business Meetings

- A. The official church year shall begin January 1 and close December 31.
- B. The annual meeting shall be held following the prayer meeting on the third Wednesday after the first Sunday in January.
AMENDMENT – passed December 13, 2007 – Delete “B.”
- C. The monthly meeting shall be held following the prayer meeting on the Wednesday after the first Tuesday of each month.
AMENDMENT –
The monthly meeting shall be held following the prayer meeting on the second Wednesday after the first Tuesday of each month.
AMENDMENT – Passed on December 13, 2006 –
A Business Meeting will be held quarterly on the second (2nd) Wednesday of April, July, and October, with the Annual Meeting being held about the same time in January. Quarterly Business Meetings may also be held on a night other than Wednesday at the discretion of the Deacons.
- D. The annual election of officers and the adoption of a budget shall be held following the prayer meeting on the Wednesday after the first Tuesday in December.
- E. No business meetings shall be held on the Lord's Day.
AMENDMENT – Passed on December 13, 2006 - Eliminate “E.”
- F. Special business meetings may be called by the Deacon Board at any time, providing public notice of the date and purpose is given on two (2) Sundays preceding said meeting.

The Deacon Board shall call a special business meeting upon the written request of twenty (20) percent or twenty-five (25) voting members, whichever is less. No other business shall be transacted in said meeting.

REVISED on December 13, 2006

F. Special business meetings may be called by the Deacon Board at any time, providing public notice of the date and purpose is given on two (2) services preceding said meeting. The Deacon Board shall call a special business meeting upon the written request of twenty (20) percent or twenty-five (25) voting members, whichever is less. No other business shall be transacted in said meeting.

- G. Any business meeting called in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business if there are fifteen (15) percent of the voting members present or twenty-five (25) voting members present, whichever is less. The voting member shall be at least sixteen years of age.
- H. Voting by absentee ballots will not be permitted.

3. Rules of Business

- A. In the conduct of Deacon Board and business meetings, any parliamentary questions not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of “Roberts’ Rules of Order”.

Article IX – Missions

It shall be the policy of this church to support only missions engaged principally in evangelization and establishment of Independent churches. They shall be known to be in hearty agreement with our Doctrinal Statement, and practice.

Article X – Ordination

When, in the judgment of the Deacon Board, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Deacon Board to call and conduct a council of ordination, provided such authority is granted by vote of the church.

The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service.

The following shall not be ordained to the ministry:

First – One who has not served six months as Pastor, assistant Pastor, or in definite Christian work in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God’s call to the ministry.

Second – One who is addicted to the use of intoxication liquor, drugs, or tobacco in any form, or who belongs to a secret society, or one who brings disrepute upon his ministry through worldly practices and associations.

(Romans 12:1-2; II Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4; I John 2:15).

It shall be within the province of the Deacon Board to discipline, even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the above practices after an impartial trial conducted in conformity with I Corinthians 13.

The minister under trial shall have the privilege to appeal and/or present his case to the Church within sixty days after the decision of the Deacon Board.

Article XI - General

1. Use of the Church Property and Name

- A. Use of the property for other than regularly scheduled meetings shall first be approved by the Deacon Board.
- B. All gatherings off the church property held in the name of the church shall be subject to the approval of the pastor and/or Deacon Board.
- C. No secret society will be permitted to preach in the church who is not in agreement with the Doctrinal Statement. Any visiting speaker must have the approval of the pastor and/or Deacon Board.

2. Monetary Principles

- A. The systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. It must be kept on the plane of voluntary, freewill offerings, untarnished by any hope of material gain. All members are expected to give regular financial support to the church and to the advancement of the projects it shall sponsor. In determining the Lord's portion, we believe and affirm with the Scriptures that at least one-tenth of one's income should be faithfully and cheerfully given by each one (2 Corinthians 9:6,7), and many can and should give more than the tithe, for all we have belongs to Christ. (1 Chronicles 29:14,16; Acts 4:32-35).
- B. A statement of each donor's account shall be given to him at the end of each year by the financial secretary. Numbered envelopes will be provided to enable proper records to be kept.

3. Legal Provisions

- A. This church shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties, both real and personal, in its own name and through properly elected officers, when authorized by vote of the church.
- B. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individuals from the assets, holdings, or other transactions in which this corporation may become involved.
- C. In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holding shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Constitution adopted by this church, and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1654 (Section 501 C-3).

4. Human Sexuality

- A. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. No other marriages besides one man and one woman will be performed in the

Cornerstone Baptist Church. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23)

- B. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5,13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6-9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
- C. All of our Pastors will abide by the above guidelines in or outside of the Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Article XII – Amendments

This constitution (with the exception of the following) may be amended, altered or revised at any business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting, provided such proposed changes shall have been submitted in writing to the Church not later than three months preceding said meeting.

Article II (Purpose), Article III (Doctrinal Statement), and Article XII (Amendments) of this Constitution may not be amended, revised, altered, or deleted.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

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