



CONSTITUTION

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AUGUST 2022

ARTICLE ONE

This church is named Cornerstone Bible Church

ARTICLE TWO

Incorporation

- I. September 9, 1987, Cornerstone Bible Church Inc. was incorporated under the Indiana Non-Profit Corporation Act of 1971 as a non-profit organization for religious purposes.
- II. The Church Board of Trustees of the Corporation are responsible for carrying on any business or legal matters on behalf of the church.

ARTICLE THREE

Purposes of the Church

- I. One purpose is to provide the opportunity for worship, fellowship, instruction, service, and prayer. (Acts 2:42)
- II. A second purpose is to provide the ordinances of baptism and communion. (Acts 2:42)
- III. A third purpose is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. (Acts 1:8)

ARTICLE FOUR

Church Directorship

- I. Spiritual Leadership

The Church acknowledges the Lord Jesus as its Head; the Holy Spirit as its Source of power, its Convictor and indwelling Director; and the Holy Scriptures as the infallible guide in the matters of the faith, church order, and discipline.

- II. Affiliation

The church is not affiliated with any denomination but is part of the invisible Church composed of believers in Jesus Christ in the world.

ARTICLE FIVE

Church Doctrine

- I. We believe literally in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as inspired of God, inerrant in the original writings, and of supreme and final authority as the guide in faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16 and II Peter 1:21).
- II. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19 and II Corinthians 13:14) (FATHER – Ephesians 4:6; SON – Hebrews 1:8; HOLY SPIRIT – John 14:16, 17).
- III. We believe Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:20-21, Luke 1:35-36, Hebrews 10:12, Philippians 2:5-8, John 14:8-12, I Timothy 2:5, 6).
- IV. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as our substitutionary sacrifice according to the scriptures, and all who receive Him by faith are justified on the basis of His shed blood. (I Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 1:14, Ephesians 1:4-9, Romans 5:8-10, II Corinthians 5:21, I Timothy 1:15).
- V. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, His bodily ascension into heaven, and His present ministry as High Priest and Advocate for us. (Hebrews 9:24, Hebrews 10:20-21, I Timothy 2:5-6, I John 2:1, I Corinthians 15:1-4, Hebrews 7:25, Acts 1:9-11).
- VI. We believe the Holy Spirit existed eternally with the Father and the Son; His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. During this present age He convicts men (John 16:8); regenerates the believing sinner (Titus 3:5); places believers into the body of Christ by His baptism (I Corinthians 12:13), and indwells (I Corinthians 6:19), seals (Ephesians 4:30) and fills (Ephesians 5:18) every believer. He guides (Romans 8:14), instructs (John 16:12-15), and empowers the believer for Godly living and service.
- VII. We believe angels were all originally created holy; but under the leadership of Satan, some angels now exist in a fallen state. (Jude 6).
- VIII. We believe that the first man, Adam, created in the image of God sinned. Man, thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. Consequently, all human beings are born with the sinful nature. (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Genesis 1:26-27, Psalms 51:5).

ARTICLE FIVE

Church Doctrine – Continued

- IX. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:12-15, Acts 24:14-15, John 5:28-29, Revelation 21:8, Luke 16:19-31).
- X. We believe that believes in Christ are Sanctified and set apart unto God for His service:
- A. At the moment a person trusts Christ for salvation. (I Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 10:10, Hebrews 10:14).
 - B. Daily by the reading of the Word and by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, (Psalms 119:11, Ephesians 5:25-26, John 17:17, Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:4).
 - C. Ultimately when the believer comes into the actual presence of the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:51-58, I John 3:2, I Peter 1:4-6, Jude 24-25).
- XI. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, which is His Body, the Church. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:1-16, Colossians 1:15-18, Romans 12:4-5. I Corinthians 12:12-27).
- XII. We believe water Baptism and the Lord's Table are the two ordinances of the church and are for all born-again believers:
- A. The ordinance of baptism is for those who have personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Baptism is an outward manifestation and testimony of the spiritual change which occurred in the believer's life when he accepted Jesus Christ as His personal Savior. (Matthew 28:19).
 - B. The Lord's Table will be observed regularly. It is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and is open to all Christians who are walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- XIII. We believe in the imminent, personal coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own and His subsequent premillennial return to the earth to set up His Kingdom. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Acts 15:16-17).

ARTICLE FIVE

Church Doctrine – Continued

- XIV. We believe the Bible makes clear statements on marriage and sexuality therefore we have adopted the following Statement on Marriage and Sexuality.
- A. We believe that the term ‘marriage’ has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.
 - B. 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.
 - C. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to changes one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.
 - D. 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.
 - E. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
 - F. 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.

ARTICLE SIX

Church Leadership Shall Comprise a Board of Elders, a Board of Trustees and Pastors

- I. The Church Board of Elders
 - A. The Senior Pastor is the Head Elder leading the Board of Elders, and the other members shall be composed of men called Elders.
 1. General qualifications for the Elders are found in Titus 1:6-8, I Timothy 3:1-12 and I Timothy 3:4-5.
 2. Specific qualifications for the Elders are as follows:
 - a. He must be a member of this local church.
 - b. He must acknowledge and be in agreement with the doctrinal statement as outlined in this constitution and doctrinal positions specified by the Elders.
 - c. He must be a spiritually mature Christian.
 3. Responsibilities of the Board of Elders are as follows:
 - a. To oversee the spiritual life of the church (Acts 20:28, I Peter 5:2, Hebrews 13:17).
 - b. To guard sound doctrine (Titus 2:1-7).
 - c. To assume the duties of the Pastor in the absence of the Pastor or when the pastorate is vacant.
 - d. To be responsible for the discipline of the church membership according to I Thessalonians 5:14, II Timothy 4:2, and Titus 1:13.
 - e. To serve a minimum Term of 2 years, barring existential circumstances.
 - f. To select, appoint and approve other Elders.
 - g. To serve as Trustees on the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE SIX

Church Leadership – Continued

II. Church Board of Trustees

A. The Church Board of Trustees shall be composed of members as Chairpersons overseeing various functions and/or as Trustees in addition to the Elders.

1. General qualifications for members on the Church Board of Trustees are as follows

a. To be a believer (John 3:16), full of wisdom (James 1:5, bear fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), be active and be respected by outsiders (I Thessalonians 4:11-12)

2. Specific qualifications for members on the Church Board of Trustees are as follows:

a. The man or woman shall volunteer to serve as a Trustee and receive the approval of the Elders and the other residing Trustees.

b. The man or woman shall be a member of this local Cornerstone Bible Church.

B. Responsibilities of the Church Board of Trustees are to oversee and to Govern the general life of the Church.

1. To provide fellowships for the church body.

2. To provide a church Treasurer to fulfill the financial operations of the church.

3. To oversee the physical properties of the church.

4. To establish, implement, and assess a Church Budget.

5. To record business and other decisions in the meetings, publish minutes, and inform the congregation.

6. To implement Christian education as established by the Elders.

ARTICLE SIX

Church Board of Trustees – Continued

7. To oversee encouragement needs of the church body as established by the Elders, such as a prayer chain, sending flowers, taking meals, and coordinating Missionary communications and support.
8. To approve any ministry associated with the church that is considered an arm of the church such as home Bible classes.
9. To establish church policies and procedures of all church organizations and make changes when it is necessary and see that they are published for the benefit of the congregation.

III. Pastors

A. The Pastors shall consist of a Senior Pastor and other Pastors as are deemed necessary.

B. General qualifications for all Pastors are found in Titus 1:6-9 and I Timothy 3:1-7.

C. Specific qualifications for Pastors:

1. The Pastors must acknowledge and be in agreement with this Constitution.
2. The Pastors must have academic training and experience which qualifies them for the Ministry.

D. Appointment of a Pastor:

1. To call a Pastor to fill a vacancy the Board of Trustees will appoint a Search Committee to execute the following steps:
 - a. (Step 1) The Search Committee will meet immediately upon vacancy to start procedures to locate a Pastor.
 - b. (Step 2) Solicitation will start with resumés of qualified candidates in accordance with scriptures. (Titus 1:6-9; I Timothy 3:1-7)

ARTICLE SIX

Church Pastors – Continued

- c. (Step 3) The Search Committee, after reviewing the backgrounds of candidates and resumés of the candidates, will call those qualified for an interview and possible speaking appointment before the congregation.
- d. (Step 4) The Board of Trustees will vote on the candidate, based on congregational response. The vote must be 100% by the entire Board of Trustees in favor of the candidate.

E. Dismissal of a Pastor

1. Dismissal of a Pastor shall be made by a 100% vote of the entire Board of Trustees. This vote does not include the Pastor.

F. Primary responsibilities of the Elders, the Church Board of Trustees, Pastors and any Church Staff:

1. To live lives that are Christ-like in nature.
2. To uphold and promote the doctrinal positions of the Church.
3. To work harmoniously with the congregation within the doctrinal position and administrative framework set by this Constitution.
4. To provide leadership in the areas of personal conduct, preaching, teaching, program development, evangelism and prayer.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Church Membership

I. Qualification

- A. The membership of the church shall consist of individuals who have confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, accepted the doctrinal statement contained herein in its entirety, agreed to be governed by this constitution, and call “Cornerstone Bible Church” their church home.

II. Disciplinary Termination

- A. Any member who manifests behavior detrimental to the work and testimony of the church shall be asked by the Church Board of Elders to comply with Matthew 18:15-22 or I Corinthians 5. If, after due adherence to the above reference, his detrimental behavior continues, the Church Board of Elders shall declare they are no longer considered a member.