

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this church shall be Cornerstone Baptist Church.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

- Clause (A) Evangelism: Seeking to win the lost by spreading the Gospel within the community and around the world.
- Clause (B) Edification: Establishing new believers in the Scriptures and giving impetus to the more mature believer to understand and appreciate the Scriptures more fully.
- Clause (C) Fellowship: Providing an opportunity for believers to share in every way within the context of their Christian faith.
- Clause (D) Administering of the Ordinances: Administering baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION I: Admission of Members**

- Clause (A) Any person who professes faith in Jesus Christ, gives evidence of change of heart, and adopts the views of faith and practice held by this church, may, upon recommendation of the Board, be received by a majority vote of the church for baptism into the membership of the church. Persons who have been immersed and who adopt our views of faith and practice, may, upon recommendation of the Board, be received by letter or experience upon majority vote of the church.
- Clause (B) In any case, it shall be required of those seeking membership, that they shall give a personal testimony before the Board as to their Christian experience of salvation. Should it be impossible for a candidate to meet with the full Board, a committee of three deacons and a pastor may be appointed to interview the candidate and act for the Board.
- Clause (C) Excluded members may be restored to membership upon recommendation of the Board to the church after such members have given to them a satisfactory explanation or acceptable evidence of honest repentance and confession.

### **SECTION II: Dismissal of Members**

- Clause (A) Dismissal shall be by death, letter, or exclusion.

- Clause (B) Any member in good standing may be granted a letter of transfer to any church of like faith and order upon its request. The letter shall be sent to the church with which the member wishes to unite.
- Clause (C) A letter of dismissal without recommendation may be sent to any other church.

### **SECTION III: Suspension of Members**

- Clause (A) Any member who for six (6) months willingly absents themselves from the communion and services of the church, and ceases to support the church will, upon the recommendation of the Board and vote of the congregation, be dropped from the membership. This will not be done until there has been an exhaustive effort to reinstate the member in the activity of the church, or until the member has been encouraged to take their membership to a church of like faith and practice for continuing spiritual development.
- Clause (B) There will be an "inactive membership list" kept only for our missionaries and special cases as the Board deems appropriate.

### **SECTION IV: Discipline of Members**

- Clause (A) The Board shall constitute the Discipline Committee of the church.
- Clause (B) In the event of differences between members, it is recommended that they be settled personally in accordance with Matthew 18:15-16.
- Clause (C) It is vital to the testimony of this church and for the glory of the Lord that the purity and peace of this church be preserved. Therefore, the Board is directed to vigorously deal with anyone who through slander, falsehood, gossip, conspiracy or any other illegitimate action threatens the peace or obstructs the work of this church.
- Clause (D) If a member is walking disorderly as stated above in any known immorality, dishonesty, public scandal, or is holding and advocating doctrine contrary to that of this church as stated in the Articles of Faith, and such a member cannot be restored to fellowship through confession and correction of their sins, they shall then be dealt with on the basis of Matthew 18, I Corinthians 5 and Galatians 6:1. The case shall be heard by the Board at which time the Board shall recommend proper action to the church with a minimum of detail (the accused may demand that all the details be made known to the church). The church then may accept or reject the recommendation of the Board by a majority vote.
- Clause (E) Only voting members will be permitted in the above mentioned meeting (Article III, Section IV, Clause D). Others may be included as witnesses by a three-fourths vote of those present at the meeting.

- Clause (F) The accused must be summoned in writing to appear before the Board informing the member of the nature of the charges and the time of the meeting. If the accused does not appear before the Board as stated without a satisfactory reason, the Board shall automatically recommend to the church the exclusion of said member. The Board has the power to acquit the accused if the majority of the Board believes they are innocent. If acquitted, the matter goes no further; however, if the Board finds the member guilty, it will send a recommendation of discipline to the church for its final action (Clause D).
- Clause (G) If the accusation is made by a fellow member in good standing, they must present a written statement of the charges, including their signature and date. No charges will be heard without two witnesses or the equivalent of bona fide evidence.
- Clause (H) These same principles apply to members of the Board and the other Board members shall move in conjunction with the above principles and 1 Timothy 5:19-20.
- Clause (I) If any member cannot conscientiously follow a decision of the corporate church, they are not to be divisive but rather are to seek clarification through proper channels or quietly and peacefully withdraw from the membership of the church.

## **SECTION V: Contributions of Members**

- Clause (A) All members are expected to contribute regularly and systematically to the current expenses of the church and its benevolences, according as the Lord has prospered them.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION I: Public Worship**

- Clause (A) Public worship services shall be held regularly on the Lord's Day.
- Clause (B) The practice of observing the Lord's Supper will be held regularly at one of the worship services.
- Clause (C) Additional meetings for prayer, Bible study or fellowship may be recommended by the Board.

### **SECTION II: Business Meetings**

- Clause (A) The fiscal year of this church shall begin the first day of April and close the thirty-first day of March.

- Clause (B) Business meetings shall be held in March (annual), October (semiannual) and as needed.
- Clause (C) Quarterly reports shall be sent out to members every quarter, whether there is a business meeting or not.
- Clause (D) Church business may be conducted at any time when the church meets. Major business shall have previous announcement two Sundays before the date of meeting except in cases of emergencies.
- Clause (E) All active members sixteen years of age and above shall be eligible to vote, except in corporate business where the State of Ohio requires a minimum age.
- Clause (F) One-third of the active voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
- Clause (G) The budget shall be prepared by the Board for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting. The whole budget will be submitted for consideration. However, at the request of any voting member, any item of budget may be considered independently from the whole.

### **SECTION III - Elections**

- Clause (A) A pastor: when deemed necessary due to death, resignation, or removal of any pastor, the church, without unnecessary delay, shall elect to its pastorate a minister of God's choosing. A call to a pastor shall be extended at a business meeting of the church called for that purpose and announced for no less than two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A call of a new pastor must be by at least three-fourths of the qualified voting members present.
- Clause (B) Annual election of officers: candidates shall be presented by the Nominating Committee. The election of officers shall take place at the annual business meeting. Those elected shall take office and assume their duties on the first Sunday in April.
- Clause (C) Vacancies: vacancies in any elected office, except that of pastor, shall be filled at a special business meeting of the church. In the case of a deacon a replacement shall be elected if fewer than four deacons remain. The vote shall be by ballot. They shall assume the duties of their office on the first Sunday following their election, and said office shall be filled until the next annual meeting. The one filling the office for the remainder of the year would be eligible to be considered for election to a regular term.
- Clause (D) Voting: except in matters of great importance as determined by the Board, a majority of members present and eligible to vote, but never less than a quorum shall be required to decide any question, motion or resolution coming

before the church. Questions of importance to the entire membership shall be decided by a ballot vote.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND BOARD**

### **SECTION I - Officers of the Church.**

- Clause (A) The government of this church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and facilitated by the Board, is vested in the office of the body of believers who compose it, whose vote shall be final.
- Clause (B) The Board of the church shall consist of the current pastors and deacons. They shall be the servants of the church, not its lords; they shall be the executors of the will of the assembly. All their actions shall be governed by the will of the congregation as expressed either in its Constitution and Bylaws or by the vote of the membership.
- Clause (C) Other officers of the church are clerk and treasurer. These officers may have assistants, if needed, to be approved by the Board.
- Clause (D) All officers of the church shall be members subscribing wholeheartedly to the Articles of Faith, the Constitution and the Church Covenant.

### **SECTION II - Pastor**

- Clause (A) A candidate for a pastoral position shall be examined by the Board as to his spiritual, educational and practical qualifications (see 1 Timothy 3:1-7). The candidate must be in full support of this Constitution.
- Clause (B) A call to a pastor shall be extended at a special or regular meeting of the church which shall be announced at least two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the business meeting. A three-fourths majority of those voting members present shall be necessary for a call. Voting shall be by ballot.
- Clause (C) A pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting shall be announced for at least two Sundays prior. A call for such a meeting must come either from the Board or by a petition signed by one-third of the adult membership in good standing.
- Clause (D) A pastor shall give the church no fewer than thirty days nor more than sixty days notice of his intention to discontinue as a pastor. The church shall give a pastor no fewer than sixty days notice of dismissal. If necessary, other terms may be worked out in mutual consent by a pastor and the church. If, in the judgment of the church, the conduct of a pastor justifies immediate termination of

his ministry, the church may declare the position vacant, at which time they shall give that pastor four weeks severance pay.

- Clause (E) The Pastoral Staff shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church. The Senior Pastor shall be the church moderator; Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guideline for all business meetings. The pastors shall be ex-officio members on all committees and shall serve on the Board without voting privileges. The Senior Pastor shall have general oversight of the work of the church officers and staff.

### **SECTION III - Deacons**

- Clause (A) The church shall elect deacons from its membership at its annual meeting. Their terms shall be three years, ending alternately. No deacon may serve more than two consecutive terms without a one year absence from the Board. This Board shall consist of not less than four qualified men; however, additional deacons may be elected commensurate with church growth.
- Clause (B) The qualifications for deacons shall be as are described and set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:8-13).
- Clause (C) It shall be the duty of the deacons to (1) assist the pastors in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; (2) prepare the elements and table for the Lord's Supper; (3) carefully examine with the pastors all candidates for church membership; (4) have charge with the pastors on all matters of discipline of members; (5) exercise prudent watch-care over the church membership; (6) be responsible to review staff compensation annually and make recommendations to the church; (7) document, create, and amend church policies and procedures; (8) report to the membership changes to policies and procedures on a timely basis.
- Clause (D) Deacons shall elect among themselves: (1) a Chairman, who shall chair the official Board meetings and serve as Vice Moderator of the church; (2) a Vice-Chairman, who shall serve as Church Moderator in the absence of a pastor and the Vice-Moderator; (3) a Secretary, who shall keep the minutes of their meetings in a permanent record. Election of these officers shall take place every year, following the annual election of the church.
- Clause (E) Deacons shall constitute the Pastoral Search Committee, along with any remaining pastors, recommending candidates for pastoral positions.
- Clause (F) Deacons shall administer the Deacon Fund to members and others that they deem worthy of assistance.
- Clause (G) Deacons shall serve as Trustees of this church, representing this corporation as its agent. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to handle legal matters and be responsible for the care and upkeep of the physical properties of

the church. They shall have liberty to spend 2% of the annual budget without church action.

- Clause (H) A quorum shall consist of one member more than half of the members of the Board. It shall make a report of its work at each annual meeting.
- Clause (I) Deacons shall select among themselves men to be official liaisons to all standing committees of the church.

#### **SECTION IV - Clerk**

- Clause (A) The church clerk shall have charge of the official correspondence and shall keep a record of all business meetings of the church.
- Clause (B) The clerk shall keep a permanent record of membership, baptisms, and the reception and dismissal of members.
- Clause (C) The clerk shall provide the treasurer promptly with a transcript of the minutes of each church business meeting in which authority has been granted for the disbursement or transfer of funds.

#### **SECTION V - Treasurer**

- Clause (A) It shall be the duty of the treasurer or assistant treasurer, 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 each Sunday.
- Clause (B) The treasurer or assistant treasurer shall be responsible for the recording of all financial transactions in permanent records. The treasurer shall make quarterly and annual reports to the church.
- Clause (C) The treasurer shall pay all bills of the church.

### **ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES**

#### **SECTION I - Nominating Committee**

- Clause (A) During the month of January at their regular meeting the Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of at least one (1) deacon and at least three (3) other active members of the congregation.
- Clause (B) The committee shall select its own chairman.
- Clause (C) The committee shall select a slate of candidates for each elected office. If it is felt that there are not enough candidates available to provide two (2) or more for each office, then just one (1) name shall be submitted. The

committee shall follow the general rule that it is better to leave an office vacant than to place someone in an office who is not spiritually qualified.

- Clause (D) The committee shall obtain the consent of each prospective candidate before the list is made public.
- Clause (E) At least three (3) Sundays before the election, the committee shall have posted in the church a complete list of candidates. Any active voting member may then submit additional nominations to the committee. The committee will then finalize the candidate list and submit it to the Board.
- Clause (F) The church charges the pastors and deacons to remove any nominee from the list if they deem it necessary for the welfare of the Lord's work in the church.
- Clause (G) After the annual election, the Nominating Committee shall be automatically disbanded.

## **SECTION II - Auditing Committee**

- Clause (A) The membership of this committee shall include two elected members of the congregation and a deacon liaison.
- Clause (B) It shall be their responsibility to audit all financial accounts of the church.

## **SECTION III - Additional Committees**

- Clause (A) Other committees may be formed as the need arises. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to appoint persons and/or Service Committees to see to the care and to do the work of the ministry of Cornerstone Baptist Church. Those which are temporary committees shall serve until their purpose has been completed, at which time they are to be disbanded.

## **ARTICLE VII - SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

- Clause (A) No subsidiary organization of this church shall engage in any practice or policy contrary to the general position of the church itself.
- Clause (B) Although each group is self-governing, it is ultimately subject to the Board in accord with the official position of the church.
- Clause (C) All officers of subsidiary organizations shall be members of the church.



- Clause (D) All teachers and leaders of subsidiary organizations must be members of the church. Any guest speaker must be approved by a pastor or the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII - DECLARATION OF FAITH**

- Clause (A) The Articles of Faith attached to the Constitution shall be known as The Cornerstone Baptist Declaration of Faith and shall be the Confession of Faith of this church.
- Clause (B) This church may approve other Confessions of Faith, provided they be in harmony with the Confession of Clause (A) of this section.
- Clause (C) The Church Covenant shall be a part of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

- Clause (A) This Constitution may be amended at a business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present. The amendment shall be recommended to the church by the Board and the amendment itself shall be given in writing at a previous business meeting or at the church service no less than two weeks in advance of the vote.

## **ARTICLE X - CHURCH OPERATION**

- Clause (A) Final authority in all matters pertaining to church operation, policy, and Biblical interpretation shall be vested and remain in the active church membership with each member personally responsible to uphold the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

## **ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

- Clause (A) In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall by a corporate vote prior to dissolution be irrevocably designated to such nonprofit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Articles of Faith adopted by this church, and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954, (Internal Revenue Code of 1986) Section 501(c) (3).

## Cornerstone Baptist Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 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.

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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 doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

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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. We engage to seek God's help in abstaining from all practices which harm our bodies or jeopardize our own or another's faith and will seek to perfect holiness in the fear of God, doing everything in word and deed to His honor and glory as we zealously advance the kingdom of our Savior.

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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 feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

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We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **Cornerstone Baptist Church Articles of Faith**

### **Article One**

We believe that the Bible, in its original text, is God's divinely inspired Word. It is infallible, it speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and it is the sole and final source of all that we believe. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:160; John 17:17)

### **Article Two**

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice 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 that come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; Romans 11:33)

### **Article Three**

We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, of virgin birth, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension and visible, pre-millennial return to the world according to His promise. (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4; I John 5:20; Matthew 24:42; Revelation 19:11-20:3)

### **Article Four**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ. The Spirit also dispenses spiritual gifts to believers though some of these gifts were limited as to time, such as apostles, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues; many others are permanent gifts for the total church age. (John 14:16-17; John 3:5-6; John 15:26-27; John 16:8-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:16; I Corinthians 13:8; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 2:3-4)

### **Article Five**

We believe that all men, by nature and by choice, are sinners but that "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." We believe, therefore, that those who accept Christ as Lord and Savior will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God and condemned to everlasting punishment in Hell. (Genesis 3:1-3; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:10-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; John 3:16-17; Romans 5:9; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:13-14; Revelation 20:11-15)

### **Article Six**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through death. We are therefore called to value all human life, protecting and defending

it against any effort to shorten it unnaturally. We also believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that God creates marriage, regardless of how civil authorities define it, to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman. This covenant is intended to last a lifetime, and intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. (Psalm 139:13-16; Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18-25; I Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4)

#### **Article Seven**

We believe in the Church - a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion on a credible confession of faith and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches were committed, for perpetual observance, the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper to believers. We believe that God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior, and the enthroning of Him as Lord and Master. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:22-32; Acts 2:41- 42; I Corinthians 11:2; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:4-5; I Corinthians 11:23-28)

#### **Article Eight**

We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore, church and state must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23- 24; I Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 10:28; Matthew 23:10; Philippians 2:10-11)