

Constitution Community Bible Church

Article I – NAME

This organization shall be known as THE COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH of Central Point, Oregon, a non-profit, non-denominational organization.

Article II – DOCTRINE

We believe:

The Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:13-14; Genesis 1:26; Colossians 1:17; Matthew 28:19-20).

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory (John 1:1-3, 14; Matthew 1:18; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

For the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7).

In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-40; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13).

In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost (Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

They that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19; Revelation 20:11-15).

In the spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:23-33; 1 Corinthians 12:12-28).

Article III – PURPOSE

It is the express purpose of this organization to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to lead others to put their trust in Him, to provide a place of fellowship and spiritual nurture

for all who belong to Christ, and to encourage people to give themselves unconditionally for service to God.

Article IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Applying for Membership

All who have made a decision to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in new birth are members of God's invisible, universal Church.

Those who attend Community Bible Church and are 16~~18~~ years of age or older may apply to the Elder Team for membership if they:

- Identify with Jesus Christ through a new birth testimony and post-salvational baptism,
- Have read, accept and support the Statement of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of Membership of Community Bible Church,
- Accept the authority and discipline of the leadership of the Church administered through its Elders,
- Faithfully attend, minister, pray for, and give financially to the work of Community Bible Church, its ministries, and its missionaries at the sound discretion of the Elders.

The Elder Team will review applications for approval.

Section 2: Classifications of Membership

- Member in Good Standing: a member in good standing is someone who has applied for membership, been accepted who meets all of the requirements for membership outlined in Article IV, Section 1
 - When someone ceases to abide by the membership expectations in Article IV, Section 1, they automatically cease to be members in good standing. The Elders will regularly review and update the membership roster.
- Associate Member: someone who wishes to associate themselves with Community Bible Church, but cannot meet one or all of the following requirements listed in Article IV, Section 1:
 - They are at least 16, (Associate members who are accepted into membership before 18 years of age can be rolled over into full membership upon turning 18 at the discretion of the Elder Team)
 - They are not in fellowship regularly with CBC, do not minister regularly in the ministries of CBC and/or do not give financially to the ministry of CBC because they are currently fulfilling those membership expectations in a different local church of like faith and practice out of the area.
- Associate members shall not have voting privileges

Section 3: Removal from Membership

- If a member fails to comply with the expectations of membership laid out in Article IV, Section 1, the Elders have the right to remove them from the membership of CBC.
- If a member fails to comply with the expectations of membership laid out in Article IV, Section 1 due to transfer to a church of like faith and practice, they may be removed from the membership of CBC or re-designated “Associate Member” at the discretion of the Elders.
- A member in good standing may request to be dropped from the membership roll at any time at their discretion.
- If a member dies, they will automatically be removed from the membership of CBC.

Article V -- CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Those holding the position of Elder, deacon, church secretary, church treasurer or involved in the ministry of leading a worship team, lead teacher, or other ministry leadership the Elders deem necessary, shall:

- Complete the application for the appropriate department,
- Be approved by the Elder overseeing that ministry.
- Be a member of Community Bible Church.

Article VI -- CHURCH COVENANT of MEMBERSHIP

The members of Community Bible Church do affectionately welcome all to fellowship with us in the blessings of the Gospel, and covenant together, God helping us, to put away from us “all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking, ...and to be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven [us]” (Ephesians 4:31-32). We also covenant that as we have the opportunity, we will do good to all men, especially to them that are of the household of the faith (Galatians 6:10).

Recognizing the privilege and duties of being a follower of Jesus Christ and a part of a local fellowship of believers, each of us will strive, with the aid of the Holy Spirit to:

- A. Live honest, pure lives before God and others (1 Peter 1:15).
- B. Put the success of others before our own (Philippians 2:3-4).
- C. Clear up personal differences with others privately rather than publicly. (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15ff, Ephesians 4:3).
- D. Bear with one another (Galatians 6:2).
- E. Receive and give Biblical correction with humility (Galatians 6:1-2).
- F. Respect and submit to the spiritual leadership of the church including official “Teaching Positions” defined by the Elders. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17).

Article VII – ORDINANCES

We believe two ordinances exist which encourage our faith and reveal our willingness to obey our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Those ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We practice baptism through the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism serves as the testimony of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Christ. It is our public confession that the believer is to be dead to sin and risen to newness of life in Christ Jesus.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death 'until He comes'.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are important acts of obedience; they are not to be regarded as a means of salvation. The Lord's Supper and Baptism are memorial in nature and not an aid or process to salvation.

Article VIII – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1: Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. His authority is expressed through the indwelling Holy Spirit in the congregation and the leadership, and through the teachings of the Apostles as contained in the sixty-six (66) books of the Old and New Testament.

Section 2: Elders are male members from the congregation of Community Bible Church recommended by the Elder Team and affirmed by the congregation at the annual meeting or a properly called business meeting.

Section 3: Elders shall meet the qualifications as directed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Elders shall agree with and support the Doctrinal Statement of Community Bible Church in Article II.

Section 4: The Elder Team shall be responsible to make decisions in the governance of the Church. Elders are to give oversight to the direction of ministries of the church, and give care and correction to the members and attenders of Community Bible Church. The Elder Team shall seek to reach decisions through prayer and consensus. The Elders shall be free to seek input from the congregation on any topic.

Section 5: The number of Elders shall be determined by the Elder Team to match the needs of the congregation and the roles of the Elders. The Elders shall select positions, offices, and assignments from among the Elders as deemed necessary. Paid Pastoral Elders should constitute less than half of the Elder Team.

Section 6: The Elder Team shall consider and report its conclusions to the church concerning transactions involving the sale, purchase or mortgage of any real estate, as well as any construction program, or long range spending program involving substantial outlays of money. With proper two (2) weeks notice, the membership shall consider and vote to approve such transactions. With a majority approval of those attending the meeting, the Elders may take appropriate action in the name of the corporation.

Section 7: The term of an Elder shall be up to 3 years, and may be elected to serve in multiple, subsequent terms.

Section 8: Annually, the Elder Team shall appoint a Nominating Committee to include Elders and members to seek out qualified individuals. The Nominating Committee shall submit a list of qualified and willing individuals to the Elders. The Elder Team shall select some, all, or none of individuals from the list to present to the congregation.

The congregation, at its annual meeting, will vote on the affirmation of the nominated individuals. In the event that 10% or more of those members voting vote against affirming an individual, the Elders shall re-evaluate the individual and bring the result back to the congregation.

Those affirmed shall take office immediately.

Section 9: Any position of appointment or election including Elders, and pastoral staff may be removed from office by the Elder Team for moral failure or any issue causing dissention within the Church (Titus 3:10-11) with the appropriate application of Matthew 18, 1 Timothy 5:20-21, prayer, and unified agreement by the balance of the Elder team. In the event of removal of Pastoral staff, the Elder Team shall determine the appropriate course of action up to and including dismissal. Restoration to fellowship does not necessarily ensure a reinstatement into a previous position.

Article IX -- PASTORAL STAFF

Section 1: Pastors have been called of God to vocational ministry (a salaried position) through Community Bible Church. The Senior Pastor is accountable to the Elder Team and participates as an Elder. Other Pastoral staff may serve as Elders by appointment from the Elder Team. Pastoral Staff and their wives are automatically accepted into the membership of the church as part of their call & hire.

Section 2: In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senior Pastor, the Elder Team and the Pastor staff will develop a transition plan to continue the ministry work while searching for a new Senior Pastor.

Section 3 4: The Pastoral staff shall be responsible to supervise other employees of the Church as directed by the Senior Pastor or Elder Team. The Senior Pastor, in concert with the Elder team, is responsible to maintain an effective organizational layout and its associated reporting relationships.

Article X -- DEACONS

Deacons are men appointed by the Elder Team from the membership of Community Bible Church who assist the Elder Team in carrying out their responsibilities of oversight of the congregation and the ministries of Community Bible Church. The specific duties and terms of office shall be set forth by the Elder Team (Acts 6:1-6; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-14).

Article XI – OTHER OFFICES, OFFICERS, COMMITTEES

The Elder Team may appoint at their discretion other positions, committees, or task groups to meet the needs of the Church.

Article XII -- ANNUAL MEETING/BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1: The church shall have its annual business meeting on a date to be determined by the Elder Team. With the exception of Article VIII, Section 8, all decisions voted on must be passed by a majority vote of those members present.

Section 2: The annual meeting and all business meetings shall be announced at the weekly worship services at least two (2) consecutive weeks in advance.

Section 3: A quorum for a properly announced business meeting shall be the members in attendance. A simple majority of those present shall be required to approve any business.

Article XIII -- AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be repealed, amended, or added to at any regular or other properly announced meeting of the church by a majority vote of the members present.

Article XIV -- DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Community Bible Church, the disbursement of all assets will be determined by the Elder Team in support of other like-minded ministries either local, national or international.

Article XV -- PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS

A supplement to this constitution known as the By-Laws may be approved at the annual meeting or a properly called business meeting for regulating the activities of Community Bible Church in addition to this Constitution.

This Constitution approved at a Congregational Meeting on _____

Signed,

Elder

Printed name

Secretary

Printed name