

Constitution

Community Independent Bible Church

(Formerly Warren Center Independent Bible Church)
(Updated April 7, 2019)

Preamble to the Constitution

Recognizing the New Testament principles governing the formation of a local New Testament church as found in the scriptures, we the members of the Community Independent Bible Church, accepting our responsibilities, adopt and subscribe to this constitution and by-laws.

Constitution of Community Independent Bible Church

Article No. 1

Name: The name of this assembly shall be called, “Community Independent Bible Church”, located at 879 Maple Street, Little Meadows, PA. The former name of this assembly was “Warren Center Independent Bible Church”, located at R. R. 1, Box 556B, Warren Center, PA 18851.

Article No. 2

Purpose: The purpose of this assembly is to be as follows:

1. To glorify God (Eph. 1:12, I Cor. 10:31)
2. To call out a people for His name - saving souls (Acts 14:14, Acts 1:8, Rom. 1:16, I Thes. 1:8, Eph. 4:12)
3. To proclaim the whole counsel of God's word (Acts 20:27, Rom. 15:4, II Tim. 2:15, 3:16, 4:2) for the purpose of:
 - a. Equipping the saints
 - b. Effective service of the saints
 - c. Edifying the saints - spiritual growth (Eph. 4:12)
4. To intercede and be of help to one another (Eph. 6:18, James 1:27, Gal. 6:1-2, Rom. 12:13, Acts 2:45)
5. To send forth missionaries that souls might be saved and built up in the faith (Matt. 28:19, Acts 13:3)

Article No. 3

Articles of Faith:

Because of these last days in which we are living, when the Word of God is taken from, added to and changed, the Community Independent Bible Church sets forth these articles of faith in order to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3, Acts 2:42). Therefore, these doctrinal statements, the Articles of Faith, shall remain intact without the right of amendment, believing we are defending the truth of scriptural teaching.

The following articles cover the broad scope of the beliefs of this church but are not exhaustive. The beliefs that need to be classified and mentioned are done so in order to express our convictions.

I. The Holy Scriptures:

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, verbally inspired, equally inspired, eternal Word of God. To say anything less discredits the Bible as mere human teaching. The Holy Spirit miraculously guided the men of Scripture so that what was recorded was the Word of God. The Scriptures are inspired, or God breathed, and the men were the vehicles used of God. The Bible is God's revelation to man and cannot be altered in any way (II Tim. 3:16-17, II Pet. 1:20-21, Matt. 5:18, 24:35, John 10:34-35). We reject all modern attitudes toward the Bible such as Liberalism, Neo-orthodoxy and New Evangelicalism. These three modern movements found within many churches today discredit the Bible as being the inerrant word of God and fully believe that the teaching of men, as well as the programs designed and developed by man take precedent over the teaching of Scripture in the design and running of the church.

II. The Godhead:

We believe in one, triune God, existing in three persons and not manifestations. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that the deity of each member of the Godhead is seen in the Scripture. Their offices are distinct, but their being, nature, power, glory, attributes and perfections are all the same.
(Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19, Acts 5:3-4, John 1:1-9, I John 5:7, 5:20)

III. The Person and Work of Christ:

- A. We believe in the pre-existence, incarnation and virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The eternal Son of God became man at His birth, yet He was still always God. He was born of the virgin Mary so that He, being the God-man, might reveal God to a sinful world and redeem all those who believe in Him for salvation. (John 1:1-2, 12, 14, 18, Micah 5:2, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:35, Rom. 10:13)
- B. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose again the third day. The death of Christ was not an accident, nor did Christ die as a martyr. He was the God-man, Jesus Christ, who by divine plan and for a divine purpose died upon the cross. We believe that we are justified and redeemed by the blood of Christ alone through receiving Jesus Christ as savior. His

blood is divine blood that can wash away sin today. The death of Christ extends to all mankind and is not limited to any select group of people. His grace is unlimited and is abounding today to a lost and dying world. This church rejects the Calvinistic philosophy which promotes a limited atonement and its teaching. Calvinism teaches that God created a certain people to go to heaven while others He created to go to hell. Calvinism teaches that those who were created to go to heaven will not be able to resist the grace of God, while at the same time those who were created for the purpose of going to hell will not be able to be saved no matter what. A Calvinist does not believe that individuals have a choice, and that everything is pre-ordained and controlled by God. This is false teaching and contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture.

- C. We believe the literal, bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead gives proof and security that our justification has been paid for in full by His death. Without His resurrection, we are lost and yet in our sins. (I Cor. 15:1-4, 17, John 1:10-18, Eph 1:9, Rom. 3:24-25, 5:8-9, Heb. 9:22, 27, I John 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19, 2:24, Rom. 10:13, I Tim.2:4, Titus 2:11, Rom. 4:25)
- D. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven. Jesus is now seated and exalted at God's right hand, where He fulfills His priestly ministry on the behalf of the redeemed. (Acts 1:9-10, Heb. 1:3, 9:24, 7:25, Rom. 8:34, I John 2:1-2)

IV. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead. He is not a mere influence but a person. On the day of Pentecost, He indwelt, filled and empowered the believers. He is the person within the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and is the agent of regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. He indwells and seals a believer until the day of redemption. He is a living teacher who guides all believers into truth. He also fills them as they yield to and are filled with God's word. To the Christian, He is a source of power, victory, fruit and assurance. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts today. (Acts 2, John 14:16-17, 16:8-11, 13, Titus 3:5, John 3:6-7, I Cor. 12:12-13, Eph. 4:30, 5:18, I John 2:27, Gal. 5:22-23, Rom. 8:16)

V. The Person and Work of Satan:

We believe in a personal devil who was created by God and was barred from Heaven because of the sin of pride. He is powerful, deceitful, and the declared enemy of God, the prince of demons and the ruler of this world or god of this age. Satan, along with his emissaries, seeks to allure and devour the saints. His present working is to blind the minds of unbelievers, accuse the brethren, tempt and do anything to thwart God's program. Satan's doom was sealed at the cross and will be brought into final judgment in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-12, Eze. 28:13, Luke 11:21, II Cor. 4:3-4, Eph. 2:2, Col. 1:13, Rev. 12:9-10, Gen. 3:1-6, Luke 18:10, Rev. 20:10)

VI. The Total Depravity of Man:

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God and not evolved by evolutionary process. In the act of Adam's sin of disobedience, the entire human race was plunged into sin. Every person born is now born with a sin nature and is alienated from God, totally incapable of saving themselves. Every person needs to be born again, receive new life and become a child of God. Man does possess a free will and can be saved. (Gen. 1 :26-27, Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12, Eph. 2:1-3, 12, Acts 16:31)

VII. Salvation:

We believe that salvation is the gift of God and cannot be worked for in any way. It is only through the grace of God that a person can be saved. Salvation is offered to all men on the basis of Christ's finished work. (Eph. 2:8-9, John 1:12, Titus 2:11)

VIII. The Eternal Security or Assurance of the Believer:

We believe that all believers who have truly accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and savior can never be lost. They are saved forever and can be assured of their salvation and home in heaven. (Heb. 5:9, Rom. 8:1, John 10:25-30, Eph. 1:6, Titus 1:2, I Pet. 2:25, Heb. 6:11)

IX. The Two Natures of the Believer:

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, the new and the old. When a person is saved, their old nature is not improved but remains just as sinful as before. However, we are given a new nature which is guided by the Holy Spirit who indwells us. When we yield to the Holy Spirit, He gives us victory over our old sin nature, which Satan still tries to use to influence us to sin. (II Pet. 1:4, I John 1:9-10, Rom. 7:7-25)

X. The Church

- A. We believe that the church is the body of Christ and the espoused bride of Christ. The entire Church is the "organism," which consists of all believers from Pentecost until the coming of Christ. At the moment of salvation, a person is placed into the body of Christ which is the church. (Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27, I Cor. 12:14 II Cor. 11:2)
- B. We recognize that within the company of all the redeemed, there are local organizations such as this local church, whose key purposes are stated in Article No. 2. (Acts 13:1-4, 14:27, 20:17, 28-32, I Tim. 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-11)
- C. We believe in believer's baptism (by immersion) in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Baptism is for this age and a picture of one's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-4, Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 2:38,41, 8:12, 10:47-48, 16:15, 33, 18:8, 19:5)
- D. We believe in the Lord's Supper as a memory of the death of Christ. The elements are merely material and cause us to remember the great suffering of Christ until He comes for His church (I Cor. 11:23-26). The Lord's Supper shall be held as the Lord leads and is open to those who are visiting and know Christ as Lord and savior.

These are the only two ordinances (C & D above) that Christ has instituted for church. These are to be obeyed and observed by all who have already exercised faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and savior and cannot be entered into by unbelievers on the basis of Scripture.

XI. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts:

We believe that God has given the church gifts of gifted men such as evangelists and pastor-teachers for the edifying and perfecting of the church. The Holy Spirit also gives gifts to all believers who are to use them for God's glory. However, we believe certain sign gifts have ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed. Such gifts as tongues, healings, miracles and prophecies have ceased and are no longer in existence. We do believe that God heals today according to His own will for the sick and afflicted; however, we do not believe it is by the faith healers of today. (Eph. 4:11-12, I Cor. 12:11, I Pet.4:10, I Cor. 13:10, James 5:13-15, II Cor. 12:7)

XII. Missions:

We believe that every Christian is commanded to be a witness for Jesus Christ by life and by word. Missions involve neighbor, state, country and foreign fields. This assembly does not cooperate in Ecumenical evangelism. Ecumenical evangelism is the cooperation of various different religious groups which do not all believe the doctrines taught in the Scriptures. It would involve those who believe in "baptismal regeneration, salvation through works, etc. Ecumenical evangelism is the effort to promote the gospel by bringing Bible believers into an unequal yolk with liberals and other denominations which do not believe as we do on the major doctrinal teaching of the Scripture. (Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, II Cor. 5:19-20)

XIII. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ:

We believe in the pre-tribulation and pre-millennial return of Christ. First, we recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to take the Church, which is His bride, out of this world (commonly referred to as the rapture). This coming is imminent, therefore, could happen at any moment. At the close of the tribulation He will come with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. (I Thes. 4:13-18, I Thes. 1:10, Rev. 3:10, Zech. 14:4-11, Rev. 1:7, Jude 14, Rev. 19:11-16)

XIV. The Eternal State:

- A. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at the time of death, absent from their bodies and present with the Lord in a literal heaven. It is here that they await the first resurrection when they will be reunited with their bodies to be glorified forever with the Lord. (II Cor. 5:8, I Thes. 4:14, Phil. 3:21, Rev. 21:4-6)
- B. We believe that the souls of unbelievers go to a literal hell which is a place of torment and suffering. At the time of the second resurrection, their souls will be united with their bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment to be cast into a literal hell, or lake of fire forever. This will not be annihilation but a continuation of torment throughout eternity. (Luke 16:19-26, Matt. 25:41-46, Rev. 20:11-15)

XV. Separation:

We believe that the Christian has been saved from the world's condemnation, therefore, they should live separated from the world's contamination. We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity or separation from worldly and sinful practices. We should live in such a

way as to not bring reproach upon the Savior. This church will separate from all worldly music, practices and movements such as Ecumenism, Ecumenical Evangelism, Neo-orthodoxy, New Evangelicalism and cultic practices. (These are all movements within certain denominations and churches which promote secular teachings as well as secular practices, placing the Scriptures in a non-authoritative place in the life of the church.) (Isa. 29:13, Matt. 15:8-9, I John 2:15-17, II Cor. 6:14-18, Rom. 12:1-2, I John 5:21, II John 9-11)

XVI. Dispensationalism:

We believe that when interpreting the Scriptures in their natural, literal sense, the bible reveals dispensational periods or rules of life, whereby God directs man according to His purpose. In these certain divinely ordered stewardships, men were tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God. Rightly dividing the Scriptures causes one to see at least the age of law, the church age and the millennium. This church does not believe in Ultra-dispensationalism, which rejects water baptism, divides the early church from the body of Christ and says that the gospels have nothing to do with this dispensation. A dispensation is a "dispensing" of time by God at which time certain rules and regulations were in place to govern and guide man (i.e. Adam and Eve were created perfect and had only one rule, not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil). This is referred to as the time of innocence. We do not know how long this time lasted before the fall, however, after the fall, man was allotted a period of time whereby their conscience ruled them. When this failed, God instituted the law, and man lived under the law for approximately 1500 yrs. Then, God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to offer reconciliation through His blood, thereby instituting the Church age. This is the period of time, or dispensation we live in right at this present time. There will be at least two more periods of time whereby man will live, they are the tribulation and the millennium. Each period of time was instituted by God, for man, and was distinctly different from the previous time. This is what is referred to as "dispensationalism," or the study of different times and rules God has given to man. Ultra-dispensationalism breaks the Bible down into many more times, and thereby misinterprets the clear teaching of Scripture. (Gen. 1:26, 3:7, 9:1-2, Exodus 19:1-8, John 6:29, Eph. 2:8-9, 3:2)

This church also rejects the teaching of progressive dispensationalism, which teaches that Christ is sitting on the throne of David in Heaven and has in some sense already inaugurated the Davidic Kingdom.

Article No. 4

The Church Government:

The Bible never speaks of the congregation ruling itself, but rather the congregation working with the God given leadership of the Church, which is responsible for direction and decisions within the church (Acts 20:28, I Thes. 5:12, Heb. 13:7, 17, I Peter 5:2-3). In these verses, we see how the pastor or elder was to be a leader of the people, responsible for the spiritual direction of the church.

The congregation did participate in various decisions of the church by interacting with the leadership's decisions. They submitted names of potential leaders and supported disciplinary matters. (Acts 15:2, 6, 22-23, 6:3, 6, Matt. 18:17, I Cor. 5:4-5, 13)

In view of the Biblical example, a voting congregational government will be established in this church, concerning those matters which are worthy of a congregational vote. The church itself will be prayerfully guided through the governing body of the board, which consists of the pastor and deacons. The board is to represent the congregation and serve them as their chosen leaders. The pastor or elder shall remain the spiritual leader of the flock at all times.

Anyone serving in a leadership role in the church shall give testimony to a consistent Christian life, separated from the world and worldly amusements, and whose first allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ and this local assembly of which they are members. They shall have a moral conduct beyond reproach.

A. Duties of the Official Board:

1. The board shall consist of a pastor, possibly an assistant pastor and deacons.
2. The board shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church.
3. The board shall be the executive voice of the congregation in the church's dealings with any outside organization.
4. The board shall have supervision over all the business transactions and general work of the church and all its organizations. This means that the board, which is chosen to

represent the congregation, will determine the raises of the pastor according to the growth and giving of the congregation. They shall have the care of physical properties and finances of the Church. The board shall not borrow money without the authorization of the membership present at a congregational meeting.

5. The board shall have the authorization to call congregational meetings for the purpose of recommending such actions as call for a vote of the congregation.
6. The board shall handle and consider suggestions, recommendations and grievances upon the part of any member or organization affiliated with this church.
7. Any deciding vote within the board shall be passed by a majority vote. The majority of members on the board must be present at the time of voting. The vote of each board member is of equal weight.
8. The official board shall have as officers, a chairman and secretary. The pastor shall be the chairman. The secretary shall be elected from the board by a majority vote.
9. The official board shall prepare a report of their activities and submit it to the congregation every four months.
10. The official board shall schedule their regular business meetings once a month. The meeting time will be agreed upon by the board members. It shall be understood that circumstances may arise that may prevent a meeting from occurring during a particular month, but every effort should be made to ensure a meeting is not missed. Meetings should not be missed in consecutive months.
11. In case of vacancies of any of the elected offices, other than pastor, the board shall have the ability to appoint persons to fill the vacancies until the next annual meeting, at which time the congregation shall elect persons to fill the positions.

B. The Role of Women in the Church

According to Galatians 3:28, the family of God includes men and women who are equal in worth. As outlined in Scripture, the role of women in the church shares some commonality with and some distinction from that of men. Scripture clearly defines the roles of pastor and deacon as those belonging to men (I Timothy 3). Beyond these two distinctive roles, men and women share many additional

aspects of ministry within the church. Of particular note, women are encouraged to be hospitable and faithful in their service (Acts 9:36-39; Acts 16:1-15) and to privately teach God's Word (Acts 18:26). Timothy exhorts older women in the church to train younger women (Titus 2:4). The application of these Scriptural principles includes, but is not limited to, youth and children ministries, ministry to women in the church, participation in music, leading Vacation Bible School, and ministry to missionaries, shut-ins, and all additional forms of hospitality. Community Independent Bible Church encourages women to be actively involved in ministry that brings glory to God.

C. Offices:

1. Pastor:

- a. We recognize that God has given to the local church the gift of a pastor-teacher to teach, guide, lead and shepherd the flock. We recognize that the pastor is to be the overall spiritual leader of the church. He is to be called to the ministry by God and is to watch over the affairs of the church and guard it from error or perversion. We also recognize that the church must not look at the pastor as an employee, but as a God ordained spiritual leader which is God's gift to the church for edification. (Eph.4:11-16, Acts 20:28, I Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:9, I Peter 5:1-4, Heb. 13:7, 17, Acts 13:2, 20:28, Eph. 3:7)
- b. The pastor is to meet the qualifications as set forth in I Tim. 3:1-7, I Pet. 5:1-4, and Titus 1:6-9. We interpret "the husband of one wife" (I Tim. 3:2) to also mean the pastor has never been divorced.
- c. The pastor is to be the moderator of the annual congregational meeting and any specially called congregational meetings. In the event the pastor is absent due to illness, vacation, etc., the board secretary shall serve as the moderator.
- d. The church shall recognize the responsibility of providing for the material needs of the pastor, so that he is as free as possible to study and give himself to meeting the spiritual needs of the church. (Phil. 4:10-19, I Tim 5:17)
- e. In selecting a pastor, the official board is to act as a pulpit committee. Other church members in good standing may

be added to the committee. Each candidate shall be presented to the church for questioning and give several sermon deliveries. At least one of these sermons shall be in person on the Lord's Day. Additional sermons can be submitted by other means, for example online recordings. A seventy-five percent majority vote by ballot of the members in good standing is required to call a candidate as pastor . If called, he shall be welcomed in as a member of this assembly.

- f. The pastor or any assistant pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time to serve until the Holy Spirit has directed him that his ministry is fulfilled. The pastor is required to give a note of resignation at least sixty days before leaving.
- g. In the event the pastor is suspected of becoming corrupt in doctrine or practice, the evidence will be presented to the official board for consideration. If, according to biblical reference, he is found guilty, by a simple majority, the evidence will be announced to the congregation and he will be dismissed by the official board's declaration. This being such an important matter every member of the official board, with the exception of the pastor, must vote.
- h. The service of the pastor may also be terminated at any time by a three-quarters vote of the members in good standing at a meeting called for that purpose by the Board. A minimum of two weeks' notice is required before holding the vote.

2. Deacons:

- a. Deacons are to assist the pastor as helpers, attendants or servants in the area of administration. The assistance of these men will give the pastor ample time for studying the Scriptures, prayer, and other pastoral duties. Deacons are to be men of spiritual discernment, helping the pastor. They are to be spiritual examples and godly men along with the pastor within the local church. (Acts 6:1-7 I Tim. 3:8-13)
- b. The deacons are chosen by the congregation as their representatives on the official board (Acts 6:3). This

allows the board to act on the behalf of the congregation as their chosen representatives.

- c. The deacons shall assist in ministering the ordinances of the church. They shall be expected to take part in the visitation ministry of the church for the unsaved as well as for the new, sick and sorrowing saints. They will seek to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of members and investigate delinquency on the part of any members.
- d. The deacons shall have the oversight of regular and special services of the church.
- e. The deacons are to meet the qualifications as set forth in I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3 We interpret “the husbands of one wife” (I Tim 3:12) to also mean the deacons have never been divorced. Deacons are chosen under the supervision of the board and by a congregational vote. They are to be spiritual and capable men. We require that a deacon be at least twenty-one years of age and a member of this church.
- f. Deacons will be added to this board as the church grows. There shall be five deacons for the first one hundred members. Thereafter, one deacon shall be elected per 50 additional members.
- g. Nominations for the office of deacon shall be written on a piece of paper and handed to one of the board members at least six weeks prior to the annual congregational meeting. The board will then consider the nominee.
- h. For the two weeks immediately preceding the annual congregational meeting, a notice will be placed in the bulletin, listing the qualified candidates so that the church can pray for God's leading. At the annual congregational meeting, each voting member of the church will be able to vote for the number of candidates necessary to fill the vacancies. The top vote getters shall be the candidates installed into the vacant positions. The newly elected deacons will take office at the next regularly scheduled board meeting,
- i. When the board is initially established two deacons shall be elected to serve for three years, two deacons shall be elected to serve for two years, and one deacon shall be elected to serve for one year. Thereafter, deacons shall

be elected to serve for three years. When a sixth deacon is added to the board, he shall be elected to serve a term of one to three years. The length of the term is assigned so that at most, only two deacons will leave the board in a given year. When a seventh deacon is added, he shall be elected for a term of three years. When more than seven deacons are needed, new positions shall be added in a manner that balances the number of deacons being replaced each year. At no time shall a deacon serve more than three consecutive years. Any deacon may be re-elected after being off the board for a year.

- j. In the event a deacon is suspected of becoming corrupt in doctrine or practice, the evidence will be presented to the official board for consideration. If, according to biblical reference, he is found guilty, by a simple majority, the evidence will be announced to the congregation and he will be dismissed by the official board's declaration. This being such an important matter every member of the official board, with the exception of that deacon, must vote.

3. Treasurer:

- a. The treasurer may or may not be an official board member but must be a member of the church in good standing. He or she (hereafter referred to as "he") will be responsible for the payment of bills as authorized by the board. He shall provide the business report for the monthly board meeting and the annual congregational meeting.
- b. The treasurer shall be elected by a majority of the voting membership at the annual congregational meeting and shall serve for a period of one year. He may serve for an unlimited length of time.
- c. The official board may appoint an assistant treasurer as recommended by the treasurer. A simple majority vote of the board is required to make this appointment.

4. Secretary of the Board:

- a. The secretary, who is an official board member, shall keep an accurate record of the board meetings and a

record of the annual business meetings. He shall, with the pastor, sign official papers and perform other duties as the official board requests.

- b. The secretary of the board is nominated and voted into office by a simple majority of the board.

5. Church Clerk (Church Secretary):

- a. The church clerk does not have to be a member of the board but does have to be a member of the church in good standing. He or she is to keep accurate records of the church membership and attendance, and can perform other duties as the official board requests. These duties may extend to the paying of bills and depositing of money in the local bank. These particular duties will be done with the oversight of the treasurer.
- b. The qualified candidate for church clerk will be recommended by the board and elected by a simple majority of the voting members at the annual business meeting. The term will be for one year, and the clerk may serve multiple consecutive terms.
- c. The official board may appoint an assistant church clerk as recommended by the church clerk. A simple majority vote of the board is required to make this appointment.

6. Sunday School Superintendent:

- a. The Sunday school superintendent must be a member in good standing of this church and may be a member of the board.
- b. The official board shall nominate and appoint that individual who will act in the capacity of Sunday school superintendent. A simple majority vote of the board is required to make this appointment.

7. Sunday School Teacher:

- a. Sunday school teachers must be members in good standing of this church. They are required to teach the Scripture and not their own ideas. They also must be a spiritual example within the church. They will be required to attend the services for a six month period of

time before being eligible to be elected or appointed to teach a class on a regular basis.

- b. The official board shall approve Sunday school teachers as recommended by the Sunday school superintendent. A simple majority vote of the board is required to approve new Sunday school teachers.
- c. A one time or temporary speaker may lead a Sunday school class or provide a sermon if approved by the official board, and the subject matter and presentation are consistent with the Holy Bible and the Articles of Faith of the Community Independent Bible Church.

Article No. 5

Congregational Meetings:

- A. There shall be a called annual congregational meeting to take place on a Sunday in June. Matters of business shall include:
 - 1. Approval of the church budget
 - 2. Election of church officers (Deacons, Treasurer, Church Secretary). The election of deacons and other officers of the church will require only a simple majority vote (by ballot). Voting by absentee ballot will be permitted for active members. These ballots must be submitted in writing and be signed.
 - 3. Presentation of annual reports.
- B. Special congregational meetings may be called by the action of the board. Agenda items may include:
 - 1. Election of a pastor. The election of a pastor will require a seventy-five percent majority vote by ballot of the members in good standing.
 - 2. The approval of any single line item expense in excess of one thousand dollars. This shall require a congregational vote with a seventy-five percent majority of those voting for passage.
- C. Those considered eligible to participate in any congregational meeting shall be members who are faithful to the stated services of this fellowship, regularly support this work and share in the communion services unless hindered by sickness. We require that the minimum voting age be eighteen years.

Article No. 6

Membership:

- A. Those who desire to become members in this assembly shall be at least twelve years old and must agree with the Articles of Faith which is the doctrinal statement of the Community Independent Bible Church. They shall give their personal salvation testimony to representatives of the official board and be examined.
- B. Any member of the assembly, who willingly fails to attend the stated services for a period of three months, shall be placed on an inactive list and be notified by the official board for delinquency. If after two months, anyone on an inactive list fails to renew their fellowship, they shall be automatically dropped from membership. While a member is on the inactive list, they do not have the right to vote. Once dropped from the membership of the church, they can be reinstated as an active member by proving their faithfulness for at least three months.
- C. The voting age of a member will be 18 yrs. of age and the age whereby a member may hold office will be 21 yrs.
- D. Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in sinful practice, while not eligible for membership, are invited and welcomed to attend the church (unless under church discipline from another church) provided their actions on church property and at church functions are consistent with the church's rules regarding permitted uses of facilities. In addition to not being eligible for membership without first repenting and turning from sin, such persons may not participate in any leadership or elevated or teaching role. A practice is "sinful" when it is contrary to the teaching of the Holy Bible. (Instituted by Amendment II)

Article No. 7

Church Discipline:

All church discipline will follow the Scriptural teaching of God's word as found in Matt. 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1. The erring member should be seen in private, then by several witnesses. If the several witnesses are not successful in the individual's restoration, then the matter will be taken to the official board. If the official board cannot bring restoration, they will take the matter before the church. The board, which represents the congregation, will officially notify the membership that the individual is being disciplined. The board shall have the right to place the individual on the inactive list.

The reason for the discipline is three fold:

1. To protect the testimony of the local church (I Cor. 5:1)
2. To correct the erring behavior in the believer and restore the brother or sister. (II Thes. 3:14-15, Matt. 18:15-17, Gal. 6:1)
3. To maintain the purity of the local church. (I Cor. 5:6-7)

The causes for church discipline are:

1. Immorality (I Cor. 5:1)
2. Doctrinal error (Rom. 16:17-18, Titus 3:10)
3. Division (Rom. 16:17-18)
4. Disorderly life (II Thes. 3:6-15)

This assembly will terminate disciplinary measures upon the erring one if he or she confesses and forsakes their sin or sins. (II Cor. 2:6-8, Eph. 4:21) The purpose in all discipline should not be for revenge or to make a person pay for what he or she has done. The purpose is to bring them back into fellowship with Christ and fellowship with the church.

Article No. 8

Missions:

We recognize the God-ordained blueprint for the local church to give prayer and support to those missionaries and agencies that are true to God's word, that are separated from false teaching and are winning the lost to Christ. (Acts 13:1-4, Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8)

1. **Missions criteria:** There are many types of missions emphasis. The following criteria will be used to determine which missionaries and agencies we support.
 - a. **Doctrinal statement:** The doctrinal position and practice of the missionaries we support must be consistent with the doctrinal statement of the Community Independent Bible Church.
 - b. **Ministry emphasis:** The efforts of the missionaries we support must be directed toward reaching the lost and/or establishing local churches.
2. **Overseas missions:** A desperate need for the gospel in foreign lands is evident. This assembly will certainly aid foreign missionaries who meet the mission's criteria.

3. **United States evangelization:** Missionaries and evangelistic individuals and associations within the United States can be eligible for support. We believe the United States is one of the greatest mission fields on earth. (Acts 1:8)
4. **Missionary support:** As we are able and as the Lord leads us, we will endeavor to support faithful missionaries, evangelists and associations spreading the gospel and establishing churches. We will also endeavor to support those missionaries and agencies who the Lord leads this assembly to support with a tithe offering. This being ten percent of the church's total budget to be divided amongst all missions outreach as the Lord allows. Any church member may suggest missionaries or agencies. The suggested amount of support will be brought before the church for approval by a seventy five percent majority of those active members present at the congregational meeting. This assembly will review the missionary's work and commitment to the Lord before giving any financial aid. The board must review potential missionaries before presenting them to the congregation for a vote.

In the event that any missionary becomes involved in worldly or questionable activities concerning their walk or work, the board will withdraw support and announce it to the congregation.

Article No. 9

Federations:

This church assembly shall never become denominational in character. It shall be independent, strictly governed by the Scripture in all matters. It shall not be under the influence and control of any denomination or federation. All matters shall be determined through prayer that the Holy Spirit might give the wisdom of God and that we might have the mind of Christ. (James 1:5-6, I Cor. 2:9-16)

Article No. 10

Finances:

This church shall be supported by the free-will offerings of those who are led by the Holy Spirit to contribute to its support. People are to give

systematically, proportionately, purposefully, liberally and cheerfully. They shall give according to the Biblical standards set forth for giving. (I Cor. 16:1-2, II Cor. 8:7-9, 9:6-7)

Article No. 11

Amendments:

Amendments of this constitution may be accepted by a seventy five percent majority of the voting members in good standing. The proposed amendments will be publicized at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the calling of the meeting. The doctrinal standard of this constitution, known as the “Articles of Faith” shall remain intact, as stated in Article No. 3. Article No. 3 shall not be amended except to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

Any voting member may propose a change to the constitution in writing, stating the reason(s), Biblical justification and anticipated results of the change to the official board. The official board will then consider the proposal and vote on accepting or rejecting the proposed change for presentation to the church for acceptance. A favorable vote by the board will be considered to be a simple majority of the voting membership present at the meeting. If the proposal is rejected by the board a written explanation will be provided to the submitting member(s).

Article No. 12

Dissolution:

In the event of dissolution of this church, all remaining funds, after all bills are paid, will be given to a Bible believing, nonprofit Christian church or churches whose doctrine is consistent with the Articles of Faith of this church or to missionaries who are being actively supported by this church. All such funds shall remain in the immediate area if possible when giving to another church or churches.

Article No. 13

Permitted Use of Church Facilities:

Neither property nor facilities owned or controlled by the church (or used with permission obtained by the church) shall be used or permitted to be used for any activity or speech that is contrary to any stated or implied doctrine or religious belief or practice of the church. (Instituted by Amendment I)

Article No. 14

Employment with the Church:

Except as a vendor or independent contractor, in order to be eligible for employment at the church, the applicant or employee must be a member of the church. The purpose of the church is to teach and instill Biblical values in attendees and members of the church. Because every employee of the church is a representative of the church, and is hired for that purpose, in order to be eligible for employment at the church, the applicant shall not be actively engaged in unrepentant sin and shall not be perceived to undermine or contradict, through his or her actions, behaviors, or speech, the tenets of the Bible or of the doctrine of the church. (Instituted by Amendment III)

Article No. 15

Pastors and Marriage Ceremonies:

Church ministers, church members, church staff, and individuals ordained by the church shall not use their title, position, or ordination in a way that contradicts or undermines the teaching of the church and the Holy Bible by, including but not limited to, officiating over or solemnizing weddings or ceremonies joining more than two people or two people of the same sex. This applies to weddings performed or solemnized whether they are in the church, on church grounds or anywhere other than the church and its facilities. (Instituted by Amendment IV)

Article No. 16

Scriptural Authority:

In the event of a doctrinal question, the King James version of the Holy Bible shall be the final authority.

Charter Members

1. Pastor Dale & Linda Anschuetz
2. Dan & Sharon Abell
3. Gerald & Bonnie Abell
4. Alan & Ruth Chase
5. Jim & Naomi Clink
6. Rodney & Rosemary Darling
7. Robert & Martha Dewing
8. Earl & Paula Gamble
9. David Gamble
10. Gary & Marsha Hallett
11. Thomas & Kimberly Horne
12. Gordon & Laurel McCluskie
13. Sharon McGuigan
14. Ted & June Mott
15. Terry Patterson
16. Carl & Donna Pitcher
17. Jim & Sue Russell
18. Donna Wiles
19. Ray & Elnora Wilson
20. Glenn & Mary Wolfe
21. Craig Wolfe
22. Stacy Wolfe
23. Doug & Janice Young