

# **CORNERSTONE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

## **CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS**

(Revised: 12/31/94, 3/08, 7/8/12; 7/19/15; 8/16/15, 6/7/18, 7/9/18, 8/12/18, 9/16/2/18, 10/14/18, 11/18/18, 12/16/18)

### **ARTICLE I – NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

1. This organization shall be known as Cornerstone Bible Fellowship.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship:
  1. Provide Christian fellowship to its members.
  2. Provide Biblical teaching in accord with the statement of faith and to foster Christian growth. [1 Pet. 3:18](#); [Eph. 4: 4-11](#).
  3. To evangelize our community by outreach and exposure of testimony of members.

### **ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION**

1. Cornerstone Bible Fellowship is an independent, non-denominational church.

### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

1. Cornerstone Bible Fellowship shall consist of born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who take the Holy Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, who have been baptized by immersion and who agree to be governed by this constitution.
  1. Qualifications - Any person may become a member of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship upon recommendation of the Deacon Board and Elder(s) and Pastor(s). Candidates must be born again and show evidence of a change of heart and the testimony of a Christian life.
    1. Upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and having been baptized by immersion.
    2. Must be upstanding (of good report) in the community.
    3. Must agree to be governed by this constitution.
    4. A former member whose membership has lapsed, due to dereliction on his/her part, may be restored to fellowship on profession of faith, agreement of this constitution, and coming before the Elder(s) to be reinstated as members.

5. A member of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship will not maintain or join an organization whose oath is counter to scripture.

6. New member candidates shall meet with the Elder(s) for an interview. Upon meeting with Elder(s), the Deacon Board shall vote to accept or deny membership

## 2. Duties of Members (What is expected from membership)

1. Maintain attendance, Lord willing. [Heb. 10:25](#)

2. Financial: Support Cornerstone Bible Fellowship with tithes and offerings as the Lord blesses. [II Cor. 9:6-14](#), [Prov. 3:9](#), [I Cor. 16:2](#)

3. Prayer: Praying for the Pastor(s) and needs of each other. [Eph. 4:11-16](#), [Gal. 6:2](#)

4. Visitation: Visit and/or invite others to church functions and services to share Christ personally or help others in time of need. Provide information to the Pastor(s) about potential calls in the community.

5. All members shall hold themselves subject to discipline of the church in accordance with this covenant. [Matt. 18](#).

## 3. Dismissal of Members

1. Voluntary: A member may be dismissed to the fellowship of another church by a letter of recommendation, and his/her name shall be dropped from the roll.

2. By Exclusion: Any member guilty of misconduct and persists in the same after due admonition by the Elder(s) and Deacon Board and/or church member involved, may be excluded from membership of the church by recommendation of the Elder(s) and Deacon Board. Meeting for dismissal must be announced two Sundays in advance of any vote taken by the Deacon Board. [Matt. 18:15-17](#), [Gal. 6:1](#), [I Cor. 5](#).

3. Any member guilty of habitual, long continued and unjustifiable absence from the services of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship and non-support of the church for 6 months, automatically by such action dismisses himself/herself. They shall be notified by letter of the intent of the church.

## 4. Church Discipline

1. All members shall hold themselves subject to the discipline of the church and shall conduct themselves in accordance with the articles of this instrument
2. A member under discipline is prohibited from all rights of membership. If found guilty of the charges made, he may be excluded from fellowship; provided, however, that due notice of the meeting be given to the church members in advance and the accused member afforded an opportunity to appear on his/her own behalf. [Matt. 18:15-18](#) and [I Cor. 5](#) being followed.
3. If a member under discipline shall voluntarily make a confession to the standing committee and manifest an evidence of true repentance, no further proceedings shall be entertained. One who has been excluded from membership may be reinstated to full fellowship upon making a voluntary confession and showing true repentance and by expressing his/her desire to reunite with the church fellowship.
4. In the instance where a sin has been committed and the offending party refuses to acknowledge his/her sin and repent, the matter will be presented in writing to the Elder(s) and Deacon Board. The Elder(s) and Deacon Board shall constitute a standing committee on discipline in all cases of unrepentant sin and no one shall accuse any member publicly, unless that person, or group of persons, has first presented the alleged sin to the Elder(s) and Deacon Board.
5. The purpose of church discipline is always the restoration of the repentant individual to full fellowship with both God and his/her fellow believers.

#### 5. Voting Age

1. Minimum voting age for all members shall be 18.

### **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

1. The officers of this church shall consist of the following: Elder(s) and Deacons and such other officers as the church may decide.
  1. The Pastor(s) is to be chosen by the church Elder(s) and Deacon Board and subject to the approval of the church membership and is to serve an indefinite term.
  2. The relationship of the Pastor(s) and church can be dissolved by the Pastor(s) or the Elder(s) and Deacon Board.

3. The chairman of the Deacon Board will act as moderator at any meeting to dissolve this relationship.
4. The Pastor(s)/Teaching Elder(s) shall preach the Word of God regularly, administer the ordinances, supervise the teaching ministry of the church and tenderly watch over its membership and spiritual interests and organize and develop its strength for the best possible service.
5. The Pastor(s)/Teaching Elder(s) shall be a member ex-official of all boards and committees of the church and its auxiliary organizations.
6. The Pastor(s) shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such duties as generally appertain to such a position.
7. The Elder(s) shall assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in organizing and developing its strength for the best possible service and in conducting the religious services and all other work of the church.
8. Elder(s) shall assist the Pastor(s) in home visitation and other evangelistic work. They shall cooperate with the Pastor(s) in providing pulpit supply in his absence.
9. Elder(s) will be chosen by the Pastor(s) and dismissed by the Pastor(s) as need be.
10. Elder(s) may not serve on Deacon Board while serving as Elder(s).

## 2. Deacon Board

1. The official Deacon Board of this church shall consist of a minimum of three and the maximum to be at the discretion of the board. The board shall appoint a member of the church as secretary, treasurer, and chairman of the board for an indefinite period.
2. All board members will be men of high standing in the church and expected to adhere to all scriptural expectations of a board member as stated in [Acts 6:1-3](#); [1 Tim.3: 8-12](#); (All questions of divorce as it “pertains to a husband of one wife” shall be considered by the Elder(s) and Deacon Board on a case by case basis).
3. Election of board members will be by a yes or no vote of the majority of those members present of the church at the annual business meeting. Board members will be elected for a term of 2 years.
4. The Elder(s) and Deacon Board will select men from the church membership for nomination. Anyone nominated must be contacted prior

to the election to determine if they are willing and eligible to serve the office. Members wishing to nominate must submit their choice(s) to the Elder(s) and Deacon Board at least two Sundays prior to the election.

5. Vacancies in the official Deacon Board shall be appointed by the remaining board members and such appointment shall be effective until the term has been completed.
6. The Deacon Board shall hold in trust all property of the church.
7. The church secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings.
8. The church treasurer shall receive all contributions and shall disburse the same as ordered by the Deacon Board. The treasurer shall give a monthly financial report to the Deacon Board and a detailed financial report showing the actual financial condition of the church at each annual meeting. All checks must be signed by the treasurer.
9. The salary of the Pastor(s) will be set and regulated by the Deacon Board accompanying an annual review.
10. Deacons may not serve as Elder(s) while on Deacon Board.

#### **ARTICLE VI – TEACHERS**

1. All of those who teach in the church shall be members.

#### **ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS**

##### 1. Meeting for Worship

1. Unless otherwise provided, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship and each Wednesday for Bible study and prayer. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly.

##### 2. Meeting for Business

1. The business meetings shall be held monthly. The annual meeting will be held the second Sunday of March. Business shall be conducted by a majority of those members present. Any item of business must be presented to the Deacon Board two weeks prior to the meeting. All business meetings will be led by the Chairman of the Deacon Board or another member of the Deacon Board.

##### 3. Special Meetings

1. Special business meetings may be called by the Deacon Board or the Elder(s), whenever such a meeting is desired.

##### 4. Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the church will begin January 1st of each year and end December 31st.
5. Marriage Covenant Ceremonies
  1. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself ([Gen 2:18-25](#); [Matt 19:4-6](#)), Cornerstone Bible Fellowship will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the [pastors/ ministers/clergy] of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship shall only solemnize marriages between one man and one woman who have gone through pre-marital counseling with the Pastor(s). Finally, the facilities and property of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship shall only host weddings between one man and one woman who are determined by the Pastor(s), Elder(s), and Deacon Board to be born again believers of the Lord Jesus Christ ([John 3:3](#), [John 3:7](#), [1 Peter 1:3](#), [1 Peter 1:23](#)).

#### **ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY**

1. In case of organic division of the church membership, the church property shall belong to those members who abide by this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT**

1. This Constitution may be revised or amended, provided a revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit a minimum of two weeks before the vote is taken. All language being removed and added shall be written and announced from the pulpit including an explanation of the changes. At no time shall any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to the beliefs and practices of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship.