

**Cornerstone Baptist Church
18040 Unsicker Rd.
Groveland, IL**

Constitution

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ARTICLE I

Name and Organization

The name of this organization shall be Cornerstone Baptist Church of Morton, Illinois. Cornerstone Baptist Church was incorporated in the State of Illinois on September 17, 1987. It is an Illinois religious corporation organized under the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE II

Affiliation

Cornerstone Baptist Church shall be independent and autonomous and shall not join or bring itself under the authority of any ecclesiastical organization.

ARTICLE III

Purpose

Cornerstone Baptist Church is organized for exclusively religious purposes (including charitable purposes common to a New Testament model of the church as defined by Scripture). Cornerstone Baptist Church is a unified body of Christian families that exists to promote the will of God through expository preaching, evangelistic outreach, edification of the saints and exultation of the triune Godhead (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:13; Romans 11:36).

ARTICLE IV

Statement of Faith

The statement of faith of Cornerstone Baptist Church is attached at the end of this Constitution (Appendix 1) and incorporated by reference herein.

ARTICLE V

Covenant

As a bond of unity among us, the members of Cornerstone Baptist Church accept the following covenant:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior and on profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ (Romans 12:5).

We promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the spirit of brotherly love, that we will remember one another in our prayers, and that we will aid each other in sickness and distress (Romans 15:1-2; Galatians 6:1-2).

We further agree, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of Cornerstone Baptist Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations (Acts 20:28-30; 1 Timothy 3:15).

We further covenant to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to

abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ; to strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior; and that in the midst of an evil report or a good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us (Hebrews 10:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-6).

We, moreover, covenant that if we leave Cornerstone Baptist Church 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 (Hebrews 10:25).

ARTICLE VI

Corporate Membership

Section 1. Members

The members of Cornerstone Baptist Church shall have the right to affirm (1)the selection of Elders and Deacons, (2)the purchase, sale or mortgage of real property, (3)selection or removal of Pastors (4)the appointment of the Pastor-Teacher, (5)the amendment or repeal of any part of this Constitution or approval of a new constitution, (6)the disillusion of Cornerstone Baptist Church, and (7)any other matters that the Board of Elders may submit to the congregation from time to time.

Section 2. Other Rights

All other rights are vested in the Board of Elders (Acts 14:23; 15:1-6, 22-23; 16:4; 20:17,28; 21:18; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-2).

ARTICLE VII

Church Membership

Section 1. Membership

Membership in Cornerstone Baptist Church shall be open to all persons who (a) confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; (b) have been baptized by immersion; (c) have met the requirements for membership as set forth in Section 3; and (d) have been approved by the Board of Elders (Acts 2:47).

Section 2. Affirmation Privileges

Membership in Cornerstone Baptist Church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall only entitle the member to affirm at a meeting of the members on those matters that the members are eligible to affirm.

In such cases, affirmation privileges are restricted to members who are not under any disciplinary action, and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age. Membership shall not be assignable inter vivos by any member nor shall membership vest to any personal representative, heir or devisee of any member.

Section 3. Application and Requirements for Membership

All requests for membership shall be made to a Pastor, Elder or Deacon. Upon making such a request, the person shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of this Constitution, including the Statement of Faith. The Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof) shall meet with the applicant following receipt of the application. Each applicant shall assent to and show evidence of agreement with the Statement of Faith and the Constitution, complete the membership class and shall testify publicly before a duly constituted subcommittee of the Board of Elders (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 10:9-10).

Section 4. Denial of Membership

If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements for membership, then membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board of Elders shall be final and there shall be no appeal to Cornerstone Baptist Church or to any court from that decision.

Section 5. Admission of Applicants

Applicants admitted for membership shall, if possible, present themselves at a worship service designated by the Board of Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as members.

Section 6. Responsibilities of Members

Members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and shall submit to the loving rule of the Board of Elders.

Section 7. Church Discipline

(a) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6); to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 3; 5:20); and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).

(b) Members of Cornerstone Baptist Church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18. Before such dismissal, however, (1) it shall be the duty of any member of Cornerstone Baptist Church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then (2) the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur within no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then (3) it shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof) at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders. If the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof) at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders determines (after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19), that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned, or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Board of Elders shall inform the church at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then (4) he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the membership of the church at a regularly scheduled worship service and all fellowship therewith shall be severed. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), then he or she at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders (or duly constituted subcommittee thereof), shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and membership.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Elders in the exercise of their discretion may proceed directly to the third stage of church discipline, (i.e. informing of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth stage of church discipline (i.e. the dismissal from the fellowship and membership of the church) when one or more of the following have occurred: (i) where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole church (1 Cor. 5:1-5); (ii) where the disciplined party has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the Board of Elders, then chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the Board of Elders (Romans 16:17); or (iii) where the disciplined party has been warned twice to cease from divisive conduct and has chosen to disregard that warning (Titus 3:10-11).

(d) The members of Cornerstone Baptist Church agree that there shall be no appeal to the church or to any court because of the dismissal of any member or because of public statements to the congregation about any member at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members, who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from Cornerstone Baptist Church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.

(e) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), a member may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.

Section 8. Removal from Membership

Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), the names of any members who have not attended at least one worship service, Sunday School class session or small group meeting at Cornerstone Baptist Church for a period of six months or longer may be removed from the membership rolls by the Board of Elders after reasonable attempts to contact the member in person, or if unable, in writing.

**ARTICLE VIII
Meetings**

Section 1. Regular Meetings

A regular annual meeting of the church members shall be held at the principle office of the church as the same shall be from time to time designated in the minutes of the Board of Elders in December of each year. At such regular annual meetings, the members shall consider reports of the affairs of the Corporation, and transact such other business as the Board of Elders determine shall be brought before the members, including, but not limited to, affirmation of the appointments made by the Board of Elders of those who shall serve as Elders for the ensuing year and the affirmation of those qualified for the office of Deacon.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by order of the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings

Notice of regular meetings shall be given during the regular Sunday morning worship service at least two successive Sundays immediately prior to the meeting. In addition thereto, notice shall be published in the regular church bulletin for two successive Sundays immediately prior to such meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be given during the regular Sunday morning worship service at least seven (7) days immediately prior to the meeting and shall be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting. The subject matter(s) of any special meeting shall be included in the notice of the special meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

At all meetings of the members, whether regular, special or adjourned, the members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5. Voting Rights

Those admitted to church membership do not constitute a legislative body, nor do they constitute members of the Corporation, and they cannot vote, pass resolutions binding upon the Corporation, nor shall they have any equity in the personal or real property of the Corporation, or any right to vote on its disposal.

ARTICLE IX

Elders

Section 1. Powers

All the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, who are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the church. Without prejudice to such general powers, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board of Elders shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by this Constitution (Acts 14:23; 15:2,4,6; 16:4; 20:17, ff; 21:18, ff):

(a) to select and remove all the officers, agents, pastors, staff, and employees of the Corporation; prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures and with this Constitution; and fix the terms of their offices and compensations. However, for selection or removal of pastors the Board of Elders shall present the decision to the members for affirmation.

(b) to make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Corporation as are required to fulfill the purposes of Cornerstone Baptist Church; and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Corporation and to make such rules and regulations consistent with the Scriptures or with this Constitution, as they may deem best.

(c) to establish policies and practices for the church consistent with the purposes of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

(d) to assist in the administration of the ordinances of baptism and communion.

(e) to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Corporation and to cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidences of debt and securities. However, for the purchase, sale, or mortgaging of real property, the Board of Elders shall present the decision to the members for affirmation.

Section 2. Number of Elders

The authorized number of Elders on the Board of Elders shall not be less than two (2) (Acts 14:23).

Section 3. Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Recommendations to fill the office of Elder shall be requested once a year from all church members. A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board of Elders, who shall also designate a chairman of the committee. At least three (3) members shall be selected from the church at large. This committee shall receive and review all recommendations and determine the qualifications of each person recommended. A proposed Stephen T McGinnis

Page 7 8/9/2022list of nominees prepared by the nominating committee shall then be submitted to the Board of Elders, along with any relevant comments. The Board of Elders shall consider the recommendations made by the nominating committee and then approve, disapprove, or add any name to the list of nominees. The Secretary of the Corporation shall publicize the nominees approved by the Board of Elders in alphabetical order at least three (3) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the church members. At the annual meeting, the nominees shall be presented individually to the members for affirmation. The new Elder(s) shall assume office immediately. The term of office for any Elder shall be indefinite (1 Peter 5:1).

Section 4. Qualifications

Each member of the Board of Elders must be a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall be:

(a) blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)

(b) husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)

(c) temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)

(d) sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)

(e) of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)

(f) given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)

(g) apt to teach; able to teach; he can exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)

- (h) not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (j) patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- (k) not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (m) rules well his own house; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- (n) not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- (p) not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- (q) a lover of good men and things (Titus 1:8)
- (r) just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- (s) holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- (t) self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

Section 5. Vacancies

Any Elder may resign or request a sabbatical effective upon giving written notice to the Chairman of the Board of Elders or to the Secretary of the Board of Elders, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

A vacancy in the Board of Elders shall be deemed to exist when the number of resident Elders falls below the minimum number established by this Constitution. In such event a successor may be selected by the remaining Elder if any, and the Deacons, and presented to the church for affirmation. Any Elder who is on a sabbatical is a non-resident Elder. All other Elders are resident Elders.

Section 6. Removal of Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), after thorough corroborating investigation by the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof) at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders, in accordance with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19-21. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent of that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the congregation at a regularly-scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

Section 7. Place of Meetings

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in this Constitution, any meeting (whether regular, special, or adjourned) of the Board of Elders may be held at any place within or without the State of Illinois.

Section 8. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons shall be held on a date to be determined by the respective Boards, unless otherwise modified by the Board of Elders. Regular meetings shall be open to church members.

Section 9. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall determine at their sole discretion whether special meetings shall be open to the church members.

Section 10. Notice of Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be held upon four (4) days notice by first-class mail or a forty-eight (48) hour notice given personally or by telephone or other similar means of communication. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Elder or at such Elder's address as it is shown upon the records of the Corporation

or as may have been given to the Corporation by the Elder for such purpose. All reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that actual notice of special meetings are received by each Elder. The subject matter(s) of any special meeting shall be part of the notice.

Section 11. Quorum

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the Board of Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns (1) calling or dismissing a Pastor, (2) buying, selling, or mortgaging real property, or (3) entering into any written contracts, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the resident members of the Board of Elders. The act or decision done or made by the Board of Elders present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders.

Section 12. Adjournment

A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting of the Board of Elders to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Elders if the time and place is fixed at the meeting adjourned, provided, however, that if the meeting is adjourned for more than forty-eight (48) hours, all reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that actual notice of the adjourned meeting is received by each Elder.

Section 13. Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board of Elders shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders and shall be documented by attaching the resolution and written consent with the minutes of proceedings of the Board of Elders.

Section 14. Rights of Inspection

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all financial records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Corporation of which such person is an Elder, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an Elder.

Section 15. Decisions of the Board of Elders

All matters coming before the Board of Elders shall be decided by a unanimous vote after prayerful consideration in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding others before himself (Phil. 2:4). However, with respect to any matter dealing with the removal of an Elder, the Elder in question shall be required to abstain from the vote. Whenever any matter is required to be submitted to the church for affirmation, the Board of Elders reserves the right to proceed with any decision made by the Elders after prayerful consideration of any church affirmation or lack of affirmation.

Section 16. Fees and Compensation

Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from Cornerstone Baptist Church shall not be in a position to determine the nature or amount of said compensation. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

ARTICLE X

Deacons, Committees and Councils

Section 1. Deacons

The nomination, selection, removal and term of office of Deacons shall be the same as for Elders. Each Deacon must be a member not under disciplinary action of Cornerstone Baptist Church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The Deacons shall assist the Elders in the shepherding of the saints, at communion and baptismal services, in the general spiritual care of the church and with such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Elders from time to time.

He shall be:

- (a) reverent (1 Timothy 3:8)
- (b) not double-tongued (1 Timothy 3:8)
- (c) not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:8)
- (d) not greedy for money (1 Timothy 3:8)
- (e) holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience (1 Timothy 3:8)
- (f) first tested (1 Timothy 3:10)
- (g) blameless (1 Timothy 3:10)
- (h) husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:12)
- (i) ruling their children and homes well (1 Timothy 3:10)

Section 2. Committee and Councils

To promote efficient handling matters involving the Board of Elders, the Board of Elders may appoint various committees or councils from within the Board of Elders, the staff and from the church at large. All persons appointed to committees and/or councils shall be members who are not under disciplinary action and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age. These committees or councils shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and with powers specifically delegated by the Board of Elders. The general functions of committees or councils are:

- (a) to bring considered recommendations to the Board of Elders concerning ministries.
- (b) to provide a wider base of counsel to the Board of Elders having the oversight of specific ministries.

All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the Board of Elders. All Elders shall be ex-officio members of all committees and councils. However, only the Board of Elders shall make decisions on:

- (a) the filling of vacancies on the Board of Elders or on any committee or council thereof.
- (b) the amendment or repeal of the Constitution or the adoption of a new Constitution.
- (c) the amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board of Elders which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable.
- (d) the appointment of other committees or councils of the Board of Elders or the members thereof.

The Board of Elders shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which proceedings of any committee or council shall be conducted. In the absence of any such prescription, any committee or council shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which its proceedings shall be conducted. Unless the Board of Elders or such committee or council shall otherwise provide, the regular and special meetings and other actions of any such committee or council shall be governed by the provisions of this Constitution applicable to meetings and actions of the Board of Elders. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of each committee or council.

ARTICLE XI

Officers

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be Elders. The Corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, such other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 2. Appointments

The officers of the Corporation, except such officers as may be appointed in accordance with this Article, shall be chosen annually by, and shall serve at, the pleasure of the Board of Elders. Each officer shall hold office until the successor shall be appointed and takes office.

Section 3. Subordinate Officers

The Board of Elders may appoint, and may empower the Chairman to appoint, such other officers as the business of the Corporation may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as the Board of Elders may from time to time determine.

Section 4. Removal and Resignation

Any officer may be removed by the Board of Elders at any time. Any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party, by giving written notice to the Board of Elders or to the Chairman. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 5. Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, or removal, shall be filled in the manner prescribed in this Article for regular appointment to such office, provided that such vacancies shall be filled as they occur and not on an annual basis.

Section 6. Inability to Act

In the case of absence or inability to act of any officer of the Corporation and of any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Board of Elders may, from time to time, delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or other person whom the Board of Elders may select.

Section 7. The Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall determine who presides at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to the scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8. He shall have such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders.

Section 8. Vice-Chairman

In the absence or inability of the Chairman to perform his usual and customary duties, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders or this Constitution.

Section 9. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all business meetings of the Corporation with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principal office of the Corporation, a church membership register, or a duplicated membership register, showing the names of the members and their addresses, the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution of Cornerstone Baptist Church. The Secretary shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Elders.

Section 10. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation (2 Corinthians 8:20-21). The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with the laws of the State of Illinois and this Constitution. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. With the exception of the individual giving amounts, the books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any member. The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. The Treasurer shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders,

shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. The Treasurer shall make, or cause to be made available, the financial reports at each regular meeting of the Board of Elders and at the regular annual meeting of the members.

ARTICLE XII

Ordination and Licensing

Section 1. Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Section 2. Licensing

The Board of Elders is empowered to recommend licenses in recognition of a man's call to that ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church.

ARTICLE XIII

The Pastor-Teacher

Section 1. Election

The Pastor-Teacher shall be selected by the Board of Elders and affirmed by the members of the church at its annual meeting or at a special business meeting. He shall be an Elder. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Board of Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Pastor-Teacher upon giving him one month's written notice of its intention to dismiss. The Pastor-Teacher must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor-Teacher's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Pastor-Teacher and the Board of Elders by mutual agreement provide otherwise.

Section 2. Duties

The Pastor-Teacher shall be responsible for all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. In the absence of the Pastor-Teacher, the Board of Elders shall be responsible to arrange for the services of the church.

ARTICLE XIV

Settlement of Disputes

Section 1. General

In any dispute arising between church members, pastors, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders of the church (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof). A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3). The decision of the Board of Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof) shall be final as to all such matters and there shall be no appeal to the church or to any court.

ARTICLE XV

Other Provisions

Section 1. Endorsement of Documents, Contracts

The Board of Elders may authorize any officer, agent, or employee to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee of the Corporation shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount. Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance, or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between Cornerstone Baptist Church and any other person, when signed jointly by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary and the Treasurer of Cornerstone Baptist Church, shall be valid and binding on Cornerstone Baptist Church in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the other person that the signing officers had no authority to execute the same.

Section 2. Instruments in Writing

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation and all written contracts of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer, agent, or employee as the Board of Elders may from time to time by resolution designate.

Section 3. Representation of Shares of Other Corporations

The Chairman or any other officer authorized by the Board of Elders are each authorized to vote, represent, and exercise on behalf of the Corporation all rights incident to any and all shares of any other Corporation or Corporations standing in the name of the Corporation. The authority herein granted may be exercised either by any such officer in person or by any other person authorized to do so in proxy or power of attorney duly executed by said officer.

Section 4. Amendments

Any portion of this Constitution may be amended or repealed or a new Constitution may be adopted at any time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted to said Board of Elders in this Constitution and shall be affirmed by the Church membership.

Section 5. Record of Amendments

Whenever an amendment or a new Constitution is adopted, it shall be copied in the book of minutes with the original Constitution along with the date of any such change.

ARTICLE XVI

Receipt, Investment, and, Disbursement of Funds

Section 1.

The Corporation shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Corporation was formed (as shown by the Articles of Incorporation). However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Corporation as shown by said Articles.

Section 2.

The Corporation shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

ARTICLE XVII

Corporate Records and Reports

Section 1. Records

The Corporation shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business.

Section 2. Fiscal Year of the Corporation

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

ARTICLE XVIII

Dissolution

The Board of Elders shall submit any request for dissolution of the Corporation to the church for affirmation. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Corporation or organization with purposes similar to that identified in its Articles of Incorporation and Statement of Faith.

Appendix 1:

Statement of Faith

Of the Scriptures

II Timothy 3:16,17; Isaiah 8:20

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its Author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its content; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge

us and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

see also I Thessalonians 5:21; II Peter 1:21; Ezekiel 1:3; Hosea 1:1

Of God

John 4:24; Psalm 83:18; Exodus 15:11

We believe that there is one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme ruler of Heaven and earth; that He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost - equal in every divine attribute and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

see also Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 10:30; Ephesians 2:18

Of the Fall of Man

Genesis 1:31; 3:6-24; Romans 5:19

We believe that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, inclined to evil, and therefore under condemnation to the eternal lake of fire without defense or excuse.

see also Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19,20; Romans 1:20

Of Jesus Christ

John 17:5,21; Hebrews 7:26

We believe that Jesus Christ was God come in human flesh; that He was born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, sacrificing the independent exercise of His divine attributes that He might take upon Himself the form of a servant, subjecting Himself to the will of the Father and control of the Holy Spirit; that the shedding of His blood on the cross satisfied the demands of God's holiness offended by man's sin; that his death procured salvation for all mankind.

see also Revelation 19:13; 22:13; Luke 6:8; Colossians 1:16,17

Of the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 9:14; II Peter 1:21

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God; that He is of the same essence with the same power as the Father and the Son and is the third person of the Holy Trinity; that He can be tempted, lied to, grieved, resisted, insulted, and blasphemed; but a believer cannot lose the Holy Spirit

see also I Corinthians 2:10,11; Luke 1:35; Psalm 104:30; Acts 5:3,4

Of Justification

Acts 13:39; Romans 4:4,5; 5:1-2,9

We believe that the great gospel blessing, which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood His righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that justification brings us into a state of peace and favor with God for eternity.

see also Genesis 15:6, I Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 5:24

Of the Freeness of Salvation

Isaiah 55:1; John 5:40

We believe that salvation is offered to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept it by a penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel.

see also Luke 3:6; Acts 2:21; Romans 5:18; 10:13; Titus 2:11,12

Of Grace in Regeneration

John 3:3,8; II Cor. 5:17

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

see also Ephesians 5:9; Galatians 5:16-23; I Peter 1:22-25

Repentance and Faith

Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; and at the same time we heartily receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and rely on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

see also Ephesians 2:8,9; Acts 2:37,38; Romans 10:9,10

Of God's Purpose of Grace

II Timothy 1:8,9; 2:10

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, God's purpose comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that grace is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that grace utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy.

see also II Thessalonians 2:13,14; Exodus 33:18,19; II Peter 1:10,11

Of Sanctification

I Thessalonians 4:3; I John 2:29

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the grace of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means - especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

Of Separation

Romans 16:17; I Timothy 6:5; II John 2

We believe that current trends of theology that lead to discrediting the Bible and undermining the fundamentals of the faith, such as, Neo-Orthodoxy, New Age, and the Charismatic Movement are contrary to the clear teaching of Scripture and historic fundamentalism, and therefore' should be avoided.

see also II Thessalonians 3:6; II Timothy 3:5

Of the Perseverance of Saints

John 3:31; I John 2:19

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

see also Roman 8:28; Philippians 1:6

Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

Romans 3:31

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; and that the one great end of the Gospel is to deliver them from this inability and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

see also Romans 7:12; 8:2-4, 7-8

Of a Gospel Church

Matthew 18:17; 28:20; Titus 1

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only Scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

see also I Corinthians 1:1-13; 11:2; Acts 2:41-42; I Timothy 3

Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Acts 8:36-39

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by sacred use of the bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, is to be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

see also John 3:22-23; Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4

Of the Lord's Day

Acts 20:7; Psalm 118:24

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity; by devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for all the people of God.

see also Hebrews 4:3-11; 10:24-25; Isaiah 58:13-14

Of Civil Government

Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 22:21

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of all conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

see also Matthew 23:10; Acts 5:29

Of the Righteous and the Wicked

Malachi 3:18

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem, which all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and that this distinction hold among men both in and after death.

see also Romans 1:17; I John 5:19; Luke 16:25

Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of this age is approaching. We believe in "that blessed hope" - the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

I Peter 4:7; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 24:15; Matthew 24:31-46; Revelation 22:11