

CHRISTOPHER CREEK BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CONSTITUTION

ADOPTED ON FEBRUARY 23, 2016

ARTICLE I - NAME

Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God and therefore it is the final and absolute source of guidance for every believer in Christ. Our desire for this church is to conduct all our affairs in obedience to and in harmony with the precepts clearly laid out for us in God's Word. In this constitution we have expressed what we believe are the major issues and precepts that will guide our faith and practices as we earnestly seek to obey and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this Association shall be to further spiritual fellowship and Intercessory prayer; to promote mutual helpfulness and conferences concerning missionary principles and practices; to make possible a united testimony concerning the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and concerning the existing need for a speedy and complete evangelization of the world; and to establish a united voice.

ARTICLE III - AUTONOMY

A. This is an autonomous church, independent of any external ecclesiastical control. We are, however, in fellowship with The Independent Fundamental Churches of America (IFCA) and will continue to fellowship in cooperation with them so long as their policies and doctrinal statements are in accord with our positions as stated in this constitution.

B. This church will seek fellowship with all those who uphold the doctrines of the faith as delivered by our Lord's Apostles & recorded in Scripture and who honor Christ as the Son of God and as the Savior of all who come to Him by faith alone.

C. This church shall not at any time become a member, sanction, or support an apostate, charismatic or ecumenical activity or organization.

D. This church shall endorse and/or contribute funds only to those organizations, Boards, agencies, or individuals whose policy, program & doctrinal statements are in accord with this constitution.

ARTICLE IV — MEMBERSHIP

A. Position Statement

Biblically, "church membership" is not specifically stated in the Word of God. Anyone who trusts in Jesus Christ alone as Savior is a "member" of God's universal church. He/she is also considered a "member" of this assembly of believers, provided he/she is regenerate and is willing to put him/her-self

under the teaching of the Word of God and the loving care and Biblical authority of our spiritual leadership (as they submit to the scriptures).

B. Corporate Members

We do have a group of "corporate members" for the purpose of satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements for establishing and maintaining a non-profit status in the State of Arizona. These legal, corporate members consist of the Elders & Deacons who comprise the Board of Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church.

C. Member

Any person requesting membership, may become a member by recommendation of the board of Deacons, who will make such recommendations upon being satisfied (by hearing the applicants personal testimony) that such a person has genuinely been born again.

If at any time one finds him/her-self opposed to the fundamental doctrines or practice of this church, he/she will not seek to disrupt it's fellowship, but will quietly withdraw from its fellowship.

D. Associate membership

Because we have many semi-permanent residents, living in Phoenix and So. Arizona in the winter and the Christopher Creek area in the summer, any such person may become an associate member on the same basis as regular membership; while retaining their membership in their home church in the valley.

ARTICLE V — DISCIPLINE/SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

A. The threefold purpose of church discipline.

The purpose of church discipline is to:

1. Glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6)
2. To edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20)
3. To promote the spiritual welfare of the offending party by calling him/her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).

B. Definition and purpose of church discipline.

Discipline is that procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition and rebuke, both private and public, for the purpose of accomplishing all or any one of the above mentioned objectives. If a "member" shall refuse to receive such correction or help, it may be necessary to exclude him/her from fellowship.

C. Matters requiring discipline:

1. Differences between individuals. The order given in Matthew 18:15-22 shall be followed to resolve disharmony between members.

2. Heresy. Members who hold and/or persistently propagate doctrines opposed to the doctrinal statement espoused by this church shall be subject to church discipline.

3. Public Sin. Members found leading lives in ways unbecoming disciples of Jesus Christ may be subject to disciplinary action after careful consideration by the Board.

D. Procedures for Discipline.

1. Responsibility for Discipline.

The Board shall be responsible to see that discipline is administered, when needed, in a scriptural manner and in love. In cases where dismissal of someone is deemed necessary, such action shall be carried out in full view and knowledge of the church body.

2. Restoration of disciplined members.

Excluded members may be restored to fellowship by the Board, if there is satisfactory evidence of genuine repentance for the wrong-doing.

E. Removal and Resignation of Board Members.

Any corporate officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board. Any officer may resign by giving written notice to the Board, or to the chairman. Any resignations shall take effect on the date of the receipt of the notice or at any time specified in it. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

F. Disputes between Church members or Staff.

In any disputes arising between church members or staff pertaining to any matters of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or purchases with church contributions, the disputes shall be resolved by the Board. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration in a spirit of humility, with each spiritual leader regarding one another before himself.

Members who live in unrepentant, flagrant sin towards the Lord or who show indifference toward the life, work, or leadership of Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church shall meet with the Pastor-teacher and/or other Elders (if necessary) for the purpose of remedying problems or concerns. Any members who fail to be restored to fellowship, but instead manifest flagrant sin, wrong attitudes, or indifference toward the churches doctrinal or moral standards shall be further confronted and may ultimately be asked to leave or be expelled from the assembly at the discretion of the Board. (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:15 21; Galatians 6:1).

ARTICLE VI — GOVERNMENT

Our spiritual leadership ideally consists of a Pastor-Teacher with a plurality of godly elders and deacons (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 1:1)

A. Ministry of Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship

The ministry of Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship Church shall be under the authority and direction of the Lord Jesus Christ (via the Word of God) working in and through the Board of the Church. The Board will be the primary decision-making body within the church. The chairman shall be elected from the Board. It is critical that the Elders take the lead and rule, and that the Board makes decisions for the benefit of the assembly and for the cause of Christ based on carefully assembled facts, scriptural insight, prayer, the individual and corporate leading of the Holy Spirit, and input from the whole assembly when needed. (Acts 6:5; 14:21-23; Ephesians 4:11, 12; Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; James 5:16)

The church is not a democracy or a government where the majority rules. Jesus Christ Himself is the head and ruler of the church. The Lord Jesus leads and directs in accord with the Scriptures through both the church body and the spiritual leaders. The Lord Jesus dwells in each member of the Body of Christ, and so leads and directs through the body as to needs, desires, and responsibilities for each local church, consequently, it is important and necessary for spiritual leaders to seek and welcome input, information and feedback from the assembly, especially on practical matters of church life. As a result of these gathered facts, in certain major decisions of church life, the assembly at large will be consulted to determine support for the matter in question. The following are examples of major decisions:

1. Making major financial decisions
2. Adding or removing paid staff positions
3. Amending the constitution or doctrinal statement

As a self-governing body, however, the congregation shall delegate the function of its ministries and the oversight of the normal temporal needs of the church to the Board.

The board has freedom to spend monies for the regular supplies and on-going needs of operation; for repairs and maintenance of all the church buildings, grounds and equipment. The board does not have the authorization to encumber by mortgage or any other means any of the church facilities without 100% agreement of all of the board members and a simple majority of church members.

B. The Board

1. The Board shall elect a chairman, secretary & treasurer to implement the church policies and oversee the ministries of the church.

The Board shall:

- a. Consist of the pastor-teacher, Elders, and Deacons
- b. Be the primary decision-making body within the church
- c. Oversee and provide spiritual direction for the activities and growth of the flock
- d. Have the responsibility of all discipline regarding the believers who make up the church
- e. Make decisions after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote, or majority vote (if necessary) in a spirit of humility and mutual respect.

2. The term of pastor-teacher, Elders, & Deacons:

- a. The pastor-teacher shall serve an indefinite term
- b. The Elders shall serve indefinite terms
- c. The Deacons shall serve at the discretion of the Elders.

3. Qualifications of pastor-teacher, Elders & Deacons

The pastor-teacher and all other Elders must be active members of the church, whose lives characterized by the qualities set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:6-9.

An elder must be:

- a. a male believer who demonstrates his desires for the office of Elder by exercising spiritual leadership in the church.
- b. Blameless as a steward of God; (above reproach)
- c. Husband of one wife; (a one-women man who is devoted to his wife, if married)
- d. Temperate, (sober, vigilant)
- e. Sober-minded, (prudent)
- f. Of good behavior; (orderly, respectable)

- g. Given to hospitality
- h. Apt to teach; (able to teach and he can exhort believers & refute false teaching)
- i. Not given to wine
- j. Not violent; not pugnacious able to spiritually manage his interpersonal relationships
- k. Patient, (moderate, forbearing, gentle)
- l. Not a brawler; (not contentious; not soon angry or quick tempered)
- m. Not covetous; (not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain)
- n. Rules well his own house in a biblical manner; (his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion against God)
- o. Not a novice; (not a new convert)
- p. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders nonmembers/unbelievers
- q. Not self-willed
- r. A lover of good men and things
- s. Just, (fair)
- t. Holy (a life set apart unto Christ)
- u. Self controlled

The Deacons shall be men who meet all the qualifications of Scripture set forth in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

- a. They must desire to be servants of this local body, and be able to serve.
- b. They must possess the same qualities set forth for Elders with the exception of:

i. Desiring for the office of Elder.

ii. Apt to teach.

The by-laws may be amended to add other governing boards, such as “Board of Elders”, “Board of Trustees”, “Board of Deaconess” and others as anticipated growth deems necessary.

Any such changes will require full approval of the Board of Deacons and a simple majority of the church membership.

ARTICLE VII — SELECTION AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. Selection of the Pastor-Teacher

Upon the need for the selection of a Pastor-Teacher, the Board shall negotiate with suitable men. Capable, mature men from within the congregation should be prayerfully considered before a potential pastor is sought elsewhere. No man shall be heard as a candidate until he has given written consent to the entire constitution, and until he has been examined by the Board. When agreement has been reached with a qualified man as to conditions and salary, the Board shall call the congregation together for prayer and input, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28). After hearing this man preach and receiving feedback from the congregation, the Board will vote on the candidate before hearing a second candidate. The Board must be in unanimous approval in order to call the candidate to become the Pastor-teacher.

B. Duties of the Pastor-teacher

The Pastor-teacher shall:

1. Have the oversight of all of the ministries (Acts 20:28)
2. Give himself to prayer, studying & teaching God's Word (Acts 20:6:4; 2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-2)
3. Guard and protect the flock (Acts 20:29-31; Hebrews 13:17)
4. Oversee and provide spiritual direction for the activities and growth of the flock (1 Peter 5:2,3)
5. Aid in finding & developing gifted teachers of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2)

6. Warn and discipline (I Timothy 5:19,20; I Thessalonians 5:14)
7. Support, encourage, counsel & lead in humility (I Thessalonians 5:12-14; Matthew 20:25-28)
8. Provide guidance to the other Elders & Deacons as needed (Acts 15:13 ff)
9. Pray for & encourage & instruct those in the flock with spiritual and physical needs (I Thessalonians 1:2,3; 3:1,2, 9-13; James 5:14)
10. Make decisions & perform any other duties as situations within the church dictate.

C. Dismissal or Resignation of the Pastor-teacher

The Board reserves the right to dismiss the Pastor-teacher upon giving him written notice of their intention and reasons for dismissal. If the Pastor-teacher is recommended for dismissal by an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the Board, he will be dismissed. The Pastor-teacher must give written notice to the Board at least 6 weeks in advance if he intends to resign.

All the functions of a normal "pulpit committee" shall be conducted by the Board.

1. Thorough investigation shall be made of the candidate's qualifications.
2. The candidate must fill the pulpit for at least one week
3. If the Board, in consultation with the congregation approve the candidate, they shall invite him to serve as Pastor-teacher.

D. Selection of Elders

The Board should assume a guiding and directing role in the selection of the right man. The flock may be asked to suggest qualified men based on the biblical criteria found in I Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:6-9.

After the Board determines the man to be qualified the Pastor-teacher or some other Board member will approach the nominee(s) to explain the specific nature of the need and to determine his willingness to serve (I Timothy 5:22)

When the nominee signifies his understanding of the need and his willingness to serve, and gives written consent to the entire Constitution, the Board will announce this to the flock for the congregation to pray, to give feedback and to address any concerns about the proposed nominee. If God continues to affirm this direction, then upon unanimous vote by the board, the nominee shall be appointed to the Board to assist in leading God's flock as long as he remains qualified, willing, and able to serve.

If no qualified men are available, or if those qualified are unable or unwilling to serve, no appointment will be made. The church shall wait on the Lord to provide a qualified man or men to meet the need (Acts 20:28)

E. Dismissal or Resignation of an Elder

The Board reserves the right to dismiss an Elder upon giving him written notice of its intention and reasons for dismissal. If an Elder is recommended for dismissal by an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the Board he will be dismissed. Any Elder who intends to resign must give written notice to the Board stating his intentions.

F. Selection of Deacons

Deacons shall be appointed to serve at the discretion of the Board as long as they are qualified and willing to serve and as long as a need for their ministry exists.

First Timothy 3:10 teaches that potential deacons are to be tested. The primary means of testing is time; time for the flock to evaluate a man's spiritual growth and service to the Lord, his qualifications according to I Timothy 3:8-12, his doctrinal understanding, and his willingness to serve the local body. The flock and the Board should be on the alert to those men who demonstrate the qualifications of a Deacon.

When the need arises to add or replace a Deacon, the Board should assume a guiding and directing role in the search for the right man. The flock may be asked to suggest qualified men for the position (Acts 6:1-6) based on the biblical criteria for Deacons (I Timothy 3:8-12)

If the Board deems a man to be qualified, the Pastor-teacher or another Board member will approach him to explain the nature of the need and determine his willingness to serve.

When the nominee signifies his understanding of the need and his willingness to serve, and gives written consent to the entire Constitution, the Board will announce this to the flock for the congregation to pray, to give feedback and to address any concerns about the proposed nominee. If God continues to affirm this direction, then upon unanimous vote by the board, the nominee shall be appointed to the Board to assist in leading God's flock as long as he remains qualified, willing, and able to serve.

If no qualified men are available, or if those qualified are unable or unwilling to serve, no appointment will be made. The church shall wait on the Lord to provide a qualified man or men to meet the need (Acts 20:28)

G. Duties of the Board

The Elders will take the lead in the spiritual needs and direction of the church by:

1. Giving themselves to prayer, studying & teaching God's Word (Acts 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:15, 4:1-2)
2. Guarding and protecting the flock (Acts 20:29-31; Hebrews 13:17)
3. Overseeing & providing spiritual direction for the activities and growth of the flock (I Peter 5:2-3)
4. Aid in finding and developing gifted teachers of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2)
5. Warn and discipline (1 Timothy 5:19,20; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
6. Support, encourage, counsel, and lead in humility (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; Matthew 20:25-28)
7. Provide guidance to the other Elders & Deacons as needed (Acts 15:33 ff)
8. See to the oversight of the finances of the church (II Corinthians 8:17-21)
9. Pray for and encourage those in the flock with spiritual and physical needs (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 3:1-2, 9-13)
10. Seek the Lord's will to interpret the articles and provisions of this constitution in the light of Scripture (James 1:5)

11. Make decisions and perform any other duties as situations within the church dictate.

The Deacons shall assist the Elders in shepherding the saints, giving aid in the general spiritual care of the church and will take the lead in addressing the physical needs of the church (such as caring for the building & property), and serving in other ministries or leadership capacities as their gifts & training allow. They also will act in an advisory capacity making recommendations to the Board.

H. Dismissal or Resignation of a Deacon

The Board reserves the right to dismiss a Deacon upon giving him written notice of its intention and reasons for dismissal. If a Deacon is recommended for dismissal by an affirmative vote of at least three-fourths of the Board he will be dismissed. Any Deacon who intends to resign must give written notice to the Board stating his intentions.

I. Less than three Board Members on the Board

The Board shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than fifteen (15) as set forth under Article VII of “Articles of Incorporation”. One third (1/3) of the board members shall be elected annually and such nominees for election shall be chosen from the membership of the church at large. Such nominees under consideration shall be selected by the two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Deacon Board that are not up for re-election. In addition to the elected board of Deacons, the pastor will be a member of the board on a continuing basis. No person may be considered unless he totally agrees with the doctrinal “Statement of Faith” contained as part of these by-laws, and will have satisfied the board of Deacons by personal testimony that he is a born again believer.

If at any time there are less than three persons on the Board, the existing Board may elect (after receiving feedback from the congregation) from among the members of the church. Individuals who will temporarily serve as trustees of the church for the purpose of carrying out any required corporate business. The terms of such temporary directors shall expire when sufficient Elders have been elected and ordained/appointed to bring the number of Board members to 3 or more.

ARTICLE VIII — MUSIC

The music must be scripturally sound — Psalms hymns & spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18-20)

Worship must be centered around the Person, and work of the Lord Jesus Christ who is our Savior, Lord, life, hope and head of the church. (Acts 2:42; I John 1:3-7; 2 Peter 1:11; Colossians 3:4; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 12, 13)

ARTICLE IX — FINANCES

Our mode of giving is grace-giving out of love for the Lord as He has prospered us. (2 Corinthians 8, 9).

This church shall be financed by grace-giving and the wise stewardship of resources. No assessments, pledges, tithes, or money-raising schemes, such as suppers, bazaars, or rummage sales, etc. will be utilized. We shall not knowingly solicit funds from the unsaved (3 John 5-8) The Word of God instructs us that each believer in Christ is to give "...according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7)

Monies of this organization shall not be used to support any individual or organization which does not seek to confine themselves to the establishment and support of local churches which adhere to the doctrinal statement of this constitution.

The board of Elders may establish the salary of the pastor by 100% agreement and a simple majority of the church members. At no time, however, is the pastor's salary to be more than the average annual income of all of the active church members.

This church is committed to financial integrity and responsibility (2 Corinthians 8:16-21)

A. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be a member of the Board & be appointed by them to this office. His duties shall be:

1. Count with at least one other person all monies received each week.
2. Maintain complete and accurate records of all monies received and disbursed.
3. Provide receipt of those who request them.
4. Keep a record of those who have given money by check and provide them with a statement at the end of the year if requested.
5. Keep accounts of all monies deposited in the bank.
6. Provide periodical financial updates for the Board and congregation.
7. Produce & render a proposed budget for the Boards consideration toward the end of each fiscal year.
8. Make payments of all obligations incurred by the church.
9. Reimburse believers for ministry related expenses paid out of pocket.

ARTICLE X — OTHER CHURCH OFFICES

Other Church Offices All other church offices which may be required in the future, including teachers In all departments must agree with our “Statement of Faith”.

A. Church Staff

1. Secretary
2. Pianist
3. Custodian

B. Hiring Church Staff

1. The church staff will be selected by the Board with input from congregation.
2. The Board will prayerfully determine the salary of each employee

ARTICLE XI — ORDINANCES

A. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be observed the first Sunday of each month. This communion shall be open to all members and to visitors who are believers in Jesus Christ as Savior.

B. Baptism

Baptismal services shall be held as needed. Baptism as administered by this church shall be by immersion.

ARTICLE XII — BY-LAWS & AMENDMENTS

A. Establishing By-laws and amendments

The Board of this church may at any time establish such by-laws, rules, and regulations as they deem proper and expedient to manage the affairs of the church and regulate the duties of the officers that are not contrary to the laws of the State of Arizona and of this constitution.

B. Altering the Constitution

If it does not infringe upon the doctrinal principles of this church, this constitution may be altered, amended or replaced and a new constitution may be adopted by the Board at any regular meeting or at any special meeting. The Elder/Deacon requesting a change shall provide at least two weeks written notice to each Board member of his intention to alter or repeal this constitution or to adopt a new constitution at a meeting of the Board. The congregation shall be informed and consulted prior to a vote of the Board. A unanimous vote of the Board is required for the approval of any proposed change to this constitution.

ARTICLE XIII — DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

A. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following Fundamentals of Faith formed a part of our Incorporation by-laws, incorporated in the State of Arizona, approved by the State of Arizona Corporation Commission, January 31, 1984.

The following articles of faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. They are only set-forth to emphasize that the Christian life is not determined by emotions (feelings) experiences, man-made rules, regulations or covenants. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, & discipline, our board is the church's final interpretative authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The member missions do affirm and declare their belief in and defense of the historic Christian faith as set for in the following:

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible, consisting of Old and New Testaments only, is verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit, is inerrant in the original manuscripts, and is the infallible and authoritative Word of God.

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12, 13).

2. The Godhead

We believe that the one triune God exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – coeternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

3. The Person and Work of Christ

a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35).

b. We believe that Jesus Christ is God, was born of a virgin, died vicariously, shed His blood as man's substitutionary sacrifice, rose bodily, and ascended to heaven, where He is presently exalted at the Father's right hand.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24, 25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; and 2 Peter 2:1).

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1, 12).

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14).

b. We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

5. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that Adam, created in the image of God was tempted by Satan, the god of this world, and fell. Because of Adam's sin, all men have guilt imputed, are totally depraved, and need to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit for salvation.

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation consists of the remission of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, and the gift of eternal life received by faith alone, apart from works.

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18, 19).

7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39 ; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

8. The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

9. Separation

a. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 14:13; John 2:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

b. We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and one woman (as genetically defined), within the love and bonds of marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

10. Missions

We believe that Christ commanded the church to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptizing and teaching those who believe.

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:19,20).

11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

b. We believe that the biblical offices of pastor and elder in the church, or their equivalents, are restricted to biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

c. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15).

12. The Church

We believe that the church, the body of Christ, consists only of those who are born again, who are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ at the time of regeneration, for whom He now makes intercession in heaven and for whom He will come again.

a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27 ; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

c. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7; 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

d. We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

13. Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. "Three of these" -- the age of law, the age of the Church, and the "age of the millennial kingdom" -- are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:24,25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6).

14. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

15. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent, and that it will be visible and personal.

We believe in that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

16. The Eternal State

We believe that the saved will be raised to everlasting life and blessedness in heaven, and that the unsaved will be raised to everlasting and conscious punishment in hell.

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vv. 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

17. Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psa. 139).

At NO TIME, CAN THE 'STATEMENT OF FAITH' BE ALTERED, nor can anyone serve on a duly authorized board without being in total accord with such "Statement of Faith".

B. Belief Regarding Marriage, Gender, and Human Sexuality

We believe marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the Scriptures (which we believe to be the Bible, God's inspired Word to mankind and serve as the ultimate authority in matters of faith, doctrine and Christian living.) This body, known as Christopher Creek Bible Fellowship, recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this body, its Board of Directors, its pastors, its staff members will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages; nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within biblical marriage. Hence, we believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, & attempting to change one's biological sex or otherwise acting upon any disagreement with one's biological sex) is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree with this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

C. Movements Contrary to Faith

a. Ecumenism

Ecumenism is that movement which seeks the organizational unity of all Christianity and ultimately of all religions. Its principal advocates are the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

b. Ecumenical Evangelism

Ecumenical Evangelism is that effort to promote the Gospel by bringing fundamentalists into an unequal yoke with theological liberals and/or Roman Catholics and other divergent groups.

c. Neo-Orthodoxy

Neo-Orthodoxy is that theological movement which affirms: the transcendence of God, the finiteness and sinfulness of man, and the necessity of supernatural divine revelation of truth; but, while using evangelical terminology, seriously departs from orthodoxy: in accepting the views of destructive higher criticism, in denying the inerrancy of the Bible as historic revelation, in accepting religious experience as the criterion of truth, and in abandoning important fundamentals of the Christian faith.

d. New Evangelicalism (Neo-Evangelicalism, New Conservatism)

These terms refer to that movement within evangelicalism characterized by a toleration of and a dialogue with theological liberalism. Its essence is seen in an emphasis upon the social application of the Gospel and weak or unclear doctrines of: the inspiration of Scripture, Biblical creationism, eschatology, dispensationalism, and separation. It is further characterized by an attempt to accommodate biblical Christianity and make it acceptable to the modern mind. We believe that these movements are out of harmony with the Word of God and the official doctrine and position of IFCA International and are inimical to the work of God.

ARTICLE XIV — MISSIONS

Missions includes ministries that extend the arm of evangelism and discipleship to areas of the world otherwise unreachable by the local church (Matthew 9:37-38; 28:18-20; and John 4:35; Acts 1:8).

A.. Purpose – The purpose of this Missions Policy is guide CCBF in advancing the work of world-wide evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

B. Exceptions to this Policy – Exceptions to this policy require the concurrence of the Board.

C. Prospective Missionaries

1. We strongly support and desire to encourage believers who are seeking the Lord's will in their lives regarding missions as a full-time vocation.

2. In selecting Career Missionaries, the church is looking for someone who:

- a. Is a baptized believer with assurance of salvation.
- b. Is personally interested in missions and is motivated by the Holy Spirit toward missions.
- c. Is growing spiritually.
- d. Has strong interpersonal skills.
- e. Is active in Christian service and in the local church's ministries in such a way that fruit bearing is evident to other members of the church.
- f. Views our congregation as an important part of his ministry.
- g. Is thoroughly familiar with and in agreement with the doctrinal statement of our church.
- h. Is open to counsel regarding preparation and plans.
- i. Shows a willingness to be accountable in goals, methods, communication, and evaluation.
- j. Possesses a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures and of theology.
- k. Prays regularly and specifically for our church.
- l. Has established, and will maintain key contacts at The Bible Church.

3. Our commitment to the prospective missionary will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Appropriate counseling and encouragement as well as opportunities to minister in ways designed to strengthen personal abilities.
- b. Prayer with and for the prospective missionary, seeking God's will in his life.
- c. Advice and suggestions regarding the selection of a mission board or agency.

D. Missionaries and Mission Agencies

1. The church will hold the missionary accountable for consistent service to Jesus Christ, and holds itself accountable for a set amount of the missionary's monthly financial support.
2. The support of effective missionaries is a key element of the church's missions program. Recognizing that there will always be more needs than we can fulfill, our primary objective is to support missionaries who have demonstrated a pattern of faithfulness and active involvement. With this in mind, priority will be given to church planting, evangelism, Bible translation, discipleship, teaching nationals, and support ministries that facilitate evangelism and church planting
3. The following requirements must be fulfilled before a prospective missionary for can be chosen as a missionary of our church:
 - a. Doctrinal Agreement – The candidate shall review the doctrinal statement of the church and express agreement or cite any exceptions in writing for consideration by the Board.
 - b. Completion of a Career Missionary Application (attachment 1).
 - c. Provide of appropriate references.
 - d. A personal interview with pastor and/or the Board. to cover such items as:
 1. Background and salvation experience
 2. Reasons for choosing missions
 3. Educational background
 4. Choice of an approved mission board or agency
 5. Immediate plans prior to assignment
 6. Current financial support
 7. Abilities, spiritual gifts, and interests as related to the chosen type of ministry.
 8. Ministry experience
 9. Evangelism skills and ability to share one's faith
 10. Knowledge of the Bible and theology
 11. Practice of worship, prayer and Bible reading
 - e. Acceptance by a mission board or agency.
 1. There must be acceptance by a mission agency approved by the Church. Written evidence of this acceptance must be provided, including a statement by the board regarding the candidate's proposed ministry and immediate plans.

2. Only evangelical mission boards which are in essential agreement with our doctrine and missions purposes will be approved. We will give consideration, also, to the agency's management, leadership, and ministry methods and effectiveness. A mission board new to the church will be carefully evaluated and must be approved by the Board.
- f. Approval by the Board – Once the above items have been completed, the Board will meet regarding the candidate's application. A unanimous vote of the Board is required for acceptance. Acceptance of a missionary for recommended support by the Board may be appealed by any church member in writing to the Missions Committee.
4. Responsibility of the church to the Approved Missionary
 - a. To support the missionary in prayer, and to promote prayer for that missionary within the congregation.
 - b. To encourage the missionary, being open to helping with problems.
 - c. To send our pledged monthly financial support to his mission agency in a timely manner.
 - d. To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness on the field, and to continue the process of holding the missionary accountable through an annual report.
 5. Responsibility of the Missionary to the church through the Board.
 - a. To support the church in prayer.
 - b. To communicate with the church at least quarterly and, preferably, more often.
 - c. To submit a written report of ministry, personal welfare, and financial status.
 - d. To visit the church during furlough/home assignments. This will allow us to deepen our relationship with the missionary, participation in the services of the church, and if applicable, participation in missions conferences. Thus, the missionary is to inform the church, in advance, of plans to be in the area.
 - e. To seek to stimulate the world missions in the congregation.
 - f. To assist the church in the placement of Short-Term Missionary candidates.
 - g. To notify the Church Board immediately of:
 - i. any variance with the doctrinal statement of The Bible Church.
 - ii. any significant changes in ministry and/or location.
 - iii. any problems with or change in status with the missionary's mission board.
 - iv. substantial changes in financial status.

6. Financial support of the Missionary

- a. The church will strive to support new candidates, who have been accepted as missionaries, at a minimum financial support level of \$50. However, the actual support level may be greater than this minimum, and will be determined by budget considerations and by the support needs of the missionary candidate. The support amount will be reviewed periodically. It is the responsibility of the missionary to advise the church of significant changes in budgeted support.
- b. All designated financial giving for an approved missionary will be directed to that missionary's account on a monthly basis.
- c. No missionary will be dropped from support without prior approval of the Board and at least two months advanced notice.
- d. All members and, particularly, any member who pledges financial support for a missionary or missionaries will be encouraged to pray for that missionary on a regular basis.

7. Change in Status

- a. Each missionary is responsible to inform the Board of any change in status. The Board will monitor the ministries of all approved missionaries of the church. Support for a missionary may be reconsidered when a significant change in the missionary's status occurs. Support may be reconsidered when:
 - i. The affiliation of the missionary with his mission board is altered or severed, or when the missionary makes an unapproved transfer to another board. The transfer to another board must first be reviewed and approved by the Board
 - ii. The missionary's beliefs no longer conform to the doctrinal statement of The church.
 - iii. A personal, family, or health problem requires the missionary to change or leave the field of service for longer than one year.
 - iv. The missionary fails to fulfill his responsibilities to The Bible Church, as outlined in this policy.
 - v. The missionary chooses to relocate for personal reasons.
 - vi. There is a significant change in the nature of the missionary's ministry.
 - vii. There is evidence of lack of effectiveness in ministry.
 - viii. The missionary remains on furlough or leave for an extended period of time.
- b. In all cases, the Board will endeavor to allow the missionary an opportunity to give an account of any situation which might impact the missionary's acceptance as a missionary of the church. Additional information may be sought from the missionary's board.

8. Termination of Support

- a. If support is to be terminated, the Board will provide 2 months written advance notice to the missionary and the mission board. However, such action may be taken immediately if circumstances warrant.
- b. Recommendation for termination of support for reasons other than retirement or leaving the ministry requires prior approval of the Board.

9. Retiring Missionaries

Support for retiring missionaries may be continued, if needed, at an appropriate level. Any determination regarding retirement support requires approval of the Board.

ARTICLE XV — CHURCH COVENANT

Those who enter into membership of this church shall make the following covenant after subscribing to the Statement of Faith.

With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we covenant:

1. To walk together in Christian love.
2. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another.
3. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows and joys.
4. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness.
5. To seek to preserve and encourage a spirit of godliness.
6. To assist, as the Lord enables, in the work of the church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.
7. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church, the relief of the needy and the evangelization of all peoples.
8. To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions where possible.
10. To bring up children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
11. To walk circumspectly in the world, to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be faithful in engagements, exemplary in deportment, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts.
12. To endeavor by example, by word and by prayer to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7)

ARTICLE XVI — DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

No part of the net assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or other officer of the corporation or private individual. No donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets.

Upon dissolution, the Board will distribute any assets of the corporation to one or more organizations having the same essential doctrinal statement, purpose and practice.