



CROSSROAD
BAPTIST CHURCH

Constitution

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PREAMBLE

Believing that God is not the author of confusion and that He desires His work to be done decently and in order, we, the members of Crossroad Baptist Church, willingly and cheerfully agree to submit ourselves to the following Statement of Faith and Constitution.

Article I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - The name shall be “Crossroad Baptist Church.”

Section 2 - Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Crossroad Baptist Church is to glorify God through our worship. Worship is the response of all that man is to all that God is and does.

To glorify God in our worship we purpose to:

(A) Provide the opportunity for people to enter into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by communicating relevant Bible teaching and preaching, by fellowshiping with one another, by discipling believers into maturity, and by emphasizing strong families.

(B) Foster and encourage personal devotion, loyalty, worship and prayer resulting in believers’ personal involvement in ministry and, empowered by God the Holy Spirit, bringing others into spiritual maturity.

(C) Train and involve people in ministry by providing an excellent environment of love and acceptance that produces a commitment to Christ, to family, and to the local body of Christ. In and from this environment, people will employ their spiritual gifts to serve those within and without the church.

(D) Recruit and send laborers into the world to reach the untold multitudes with the good news of salvation provided by Jesus Christ.

Article II
STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 - We affirm our confidence in God's inerrant, preserved Word. We treasure its truths and respect its reproofs. We believe it to be divinely inspired, therefore the only complete and final revelation of the will of God (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Section 2 - We express our belief that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, all equal in divine nature and personality, set forth in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

(A) We acknowledge the Creator-God as our heavenly Father, infinitely perfect, and intimately acquainted with all our ways (James 1:17; Psalm 139:3).

(B) We claim Jesus Christ as the Son of God, our Lord – very God who came in human flesh through a virgin's womb – the object of our worship and the subject of our praise (John 1:1-4,14; Matthew 1:18-20).

(C) We recognize the Holy Spirit as the third member of the Godhead, who indwells and seals us unto the day of redemption. We believe that He gives each of us one or more spiritual gifts to be used in ministering to the body of Christ (Acts 5:3-5; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:11).

Section 3 - We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, who is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and who is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

Section 4 - We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that God created the universe in six literal days (Genesis 1:1).

Section 5 - We confess that Adam's fall into sin left humanity without the hope of heaven apart from a new birth, made possible by the Savior's death, burial, and bodily resurrection (Romans 5:12).

Section 6 - We believe the offer of salvation is God's love-gift to all. Those who accept it by faith, apart from works, become new creatures in Christ, and they will persevere, kept by His power, never to be lost again (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Section 7 - We anticipate our Lord's promised return for His church, which could occur at any moment, and the subsequent establishment of his kingdom (Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:21-24; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13).

Section 8 - We are convinced that all who have died will be bodily resurrected - believers to eternal communion with God in heaven, and unbelievers to everlasting separation from God in hell (I Corinthians 15:50-57).

Section 9 - We acknowledge that all true believers make up the church universal, but we believe that Christ has ordained the local church, His visible body over which He is head, to proclaim God's truth and to administer the two ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed these ordinances to the local church. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of his death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Section 10 - It is through the local church that the saints are equipped to reach the world with the gospel (Acts 13:1-4). As ambassadors of Christ, we must seek to fulfill the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20; 3 John 5-7).

Section 11 - We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, has a financial obligation to support his local church (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Galatians 6:6).

Section 12 - We affirm that God has ordained marriage to be between a man and a woman, and He intends marriage to last a lifetime and all intimate sexual activity to be enjoyed within the bonds of marriage (Genesis 2:22-25).

Section 13 - We affirm that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life (Psalm 139:14-16). We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other state or condition from conception to natural death. We are, therefore, called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

Section 14 - We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from any external authority or control other than the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word (Acts 2:41-42).

Section 15 - We believe every Christian has been called to a life of holiness in separation from sinful practices and obedience to the divinely appointed Civil Government, except in those instances where government opposes the written will of our Lord Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that the Scriptures teach that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members (1 John 2:15-17; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8).

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Responsibilities of Membership

Members of this local church must understand what a privilege it is to fellowship with other believers of like faith, and make it a priority to pray for one another. Members should bear one another's burdens, be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation, love and pray for their spiritual leaders, and have as their highest goal the desire to see God's will done in this local church and His kingdom furthered throughout the world.

Section 2 - Requirements for Membership

Membership in this church is open to anyone who has personally received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, has been baptized by immersion as a public profession of Christ, has the desire to grow as a Christian, and agrees with the views of faith, doctrine, and practice of this church.

Section 3 - Admission to Membership

(A) A candidate for membership shall meet with at least two elders to give testimony of personal faith in Christ, their baptism testimony, and to express their agreement with the church's views of faith, doctrine, and practice.

(B) Upon approval of the elders, the recommendation will be made to the church for membership, and a vote will be taken. A simple affirmative majority is required.

Section 4 - Privileges of Membership

The membership shall be classified as follows:

(A) Active – An active member is one who is participating in the corporate worship activities of the church, who is in a spirit of co-operation with the ministry of the church, and who is not undergoing discipline by the church (see Section 5).

(B) Voting – A voting member is an active member who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 5 - Discipline of a Member

(A) In order to maintain its purity and peace, a local church has the Scriptural responsibility to discipline its members who are in need of such action (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:13). The goal of this discipline is to restore the member, and it is to be administered with love and meekness (Galatians 6:1).

(B) When a member's conduct is not consistent with the spiritual walk of a believer set forth in Scripture, the following steps shall be taken:

(1) The concerned brother is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and the goal of restoration (Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1).

(2) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This step should be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility, with the goal of restoration (Matthew 18:16).

(3) If the matter remains unresolved after steps 1 and 2 above, it should be brought to the elders for a hearing. If the matter is not resolved during this hearing, the elders shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort to go personally to the offending member and seek the member's restoration (Matthew 18:17).

(4) If the matter is still unresolved after steps 1, 2, and 3 above have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church.

Section 6 - Termination of Membership

(A) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice, if the member in question has not been present in any worship activity of the church in a six (6) month period. However, upon good cause and at the elders' discretion, termination may be waived in the case of any individual member.

(B) The membership of any member shall be automatically terminated when he unites with another church.

(C) Membership shall be automatically terminated upon the request or death of a member.

(D) An individual's membership may be terminated under the provisions of Article III, Section 5 (B)(4).

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1 - Offices

The Biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons.

Section 2 - Elders

(A) Qualifications - Under the authority of Jesus Christ, Crossroad Baptist Church will be led by a plurality of men called by God to be its elders, based on the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. In Scripture, the terms *elder*, *bishop*, *pastor*, and *overseer* are interchangeable and synonymous. These elders may be either paid or unpaid staff. We do recognize that, among the elders, it is necessary to have one man who is the "first among equals." This elder is responsible to take the lead role of the elders.

(B) Pastor - The pastor shall be an elder, and he will be the elder considered to be the "first among equals." He shall perform the duties of an elder as defined in the Bible and the church constitution. In the absence or incapacity of the pastor, the remaining elders will assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated. The church may select an associate pastor or youth pastor to perform such duties as may be directed by the elders. The associate pastor and youth pastor shall also be elders.

(C) Elder Selection - The existing elders will select new elders with the affirmation of the church membership.

(D) Voting Among the Elders - The elders desire unanimity whenever possible. On most issues, if a unanimous decision cannot be reached immediately, the elders will continue to seek wisdom from the Lord through prayer until it is reached. In the rare case when a decision must be reached and the elders remain divided, then the vote of the majority shall prevail.

(E) Duties -

(1) The elders shall be responsible to govern and lead the church under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, using Scriptural principles.

(2) The elders' responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to the following: (1) the teaching and preaching of God's Word, (2) instruction of the believers in sound doctrine, (3) visiting and praying for the sick, and (4) judging doctrinal issues.

(F) Congregational Affirmation - Most day to day decisions will be made by the elders. However, the congregation must vote on certain decisions at Crossroad Baptist Church. In situations when a membership vote is required, the elders will bring a recommendation to the church members for a vote. The following decisions require a congregational vote: (1) the yearly budget, (2) the purchase or sale of property, (3) the building of facilities, and (4) the affirmation of elders and deacons. Approval is contingent on majority affirmation.

(G) Term of Service - The term of service for an elder will be as long as he desires to function in that role or until he is removed.

(H) Removal of an Elder - In order for an elder to be removed from the leadership of the church, a unanimous decision must be reached by the remaining elders. The elders' decision will be announced to the congregation.

Section 3 – Deacons

(A) Qualifications - Deacons shall qualify for their office according to the standard of 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and the principles found in Acts 6:1-7.

(B) Deacon Selection - The elders shall determine the number of deacons necessary (Acts 6:3). The elders will select new deacons with the affirmation of the church membership.

(C) Duties -

(1) Deacons shall assist the elders in administering the Ordinances.

(2) Deacons shall assist in carrying out all functions to support the ministry, and in caring for the administrative needs of the church.

(3) Deacons shall hold in trust the physical needs of the church. They shall oversee necessary repairs, improvements, and additions to the property of the church.

(D) Terms of Service - The term of service for a deacon will be as long as he desires to function in that role or until he is removed by decision of the elders.

(E) Removal of a Deacon - In order for a deacon to be removed from the leadership of the church, a unanimous decision must be reached by the elders. The elders' decision will be announced to the church.

ARTICLE V

ADDITIONAL CHURCH STAFF

The church staff will be selected and employed according to the needs of the church. Additional staff may be appointed by the elders as needed.

Section 1 –Treasurer/Financial Secretary

(A) Selection - The Treasurer/Financial Secretary shall be selected by the elders.

(B) Duties -

(1) The Treasurer/Financial Secretary shall take charge of all moneys received, ensuring they are deposited in the local bank account established in the name of this church.

(2) The Treasurer/Financial Secretary shall keep a full and faithful account of all moneys received and disbursed.

(3) The Treasurer/Financial Secretary shall provide a financial statement to the church annually, or as requested by the elders.

Section 2 – Church Secretary/Clerk

(A) Selection - The Secretary/Clerk shall be selected by the elders.

(B) Duties -

(1) The Secretary/Clerk shall keep, in the church minute book, a full and careful record of all church administration meetings.

(2) The Secretary/Clerk shall maintain a complete and up-to-date register of all members and their addresses, admissions, dismissals, deaths, baptisms, ordination services, and the dates of any action pertaining to any member.

(3) The Secretary/Clerk shall perform additional duties as required.

ARTICLE VI **MEETINGS**

Section 1 – Meetings for Worship

Unless otherwise determined by the elders, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship and at any other times deemed appropriate.

Section 2 – Business Meetings

A business meeting at Crossroad Baptist Church is defined as any meeting where the congregation must vote to approve a decision brought by the elders. Business meetings must be announced at least two weeks prior to their occurrence. The annual meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the first day of January.

Section 3 - Special Meetings

Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the elders deem appropriate.

Section 4 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be from January 1– December 31.

Section 5 - Quorum

The voting members present at any constitutionally called congregational meeting shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII **FINANCES**

Section 1 - Tithes and Offerings

(A) This church shall be supported by the tithes and free-will offerings of those who are led by the Holy Spirit to contribute to its support. However, various ministries of the church may raise funds for special projects with the approval of the elders.

(B) No board, committee, department or any other organization of this church may maintain a separate treasury or depository funds without the approval of the elders.

Section 2 – Donations and Property

(A) From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Per I.R.S. regulation, contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the discretion of the elders. No fiduciary obligations shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

(B) No one shall have the power to buy, sell, or mortgage any of the church properties without specific vote of the congregation, with a simple majority required.

ARTICLE VIII **COMMITTEES**

The elders may establish committees made necessary by the work of the church.

ARTICLE IX **TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

Section 1 - Private Inurement

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I Section 2 hereof.

Section 2 - Political Involvement

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be for the furtherance or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 3 - Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the church, the elders shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the elders shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

Section 4 - Racial Nondiscrimination

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE X **ORDINATION**

Section 1 - Ordination Qualifications

A male member of this church may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel if he is in good standing with this local church, has given satisfactory evidence of his definite call by the Lord into service, and possesses and demonstrates a Christ-like lifestyle.

Section 2 - Ordination Procedure

(A) Upon a conference with the elders and after they have approved the candidate for ordination, the elders shall arrange an ordination council to examine and determine the qualifications of the candidate. This council shall consist of ordained ministers and others approved by the elders.

(B) The elders shall arrange the ordination service.

ARTICLE XI **AMENDMENTS**

(A) Proposed amendments to this constitution must be first approved by the elders; made available to members at least one month prior to a called congregational business meeting; and approved by a majority affirmation of the members present at the meeting.

(B) This constitution abolishes and supersedes any constitution, rules, by-laws, and amendments that preceded it.

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