

Constitution and Bylaws

Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments only, to be the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, authoritative, infallible and God-breathed; and that they are the only supreme and ultimate authority for faith and practice. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical-contextual meaning. The English Standard Version shall be the primary translation used by the church in teaching and preaching. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; I Corinthians 2:10-13)

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 are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6)

The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and are eternal in being identical in essence, equal in power and glory and having the same divine attributes. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26)

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe 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. (Matthew 1:18-20; John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35; II Corinthians 5:19-21)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all that put their faith in Christ are justified on the ground of His work on the Cross. (Romans 3:24, 26; 4:25; I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21).

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ and that our redemption and salvation is guaranteed to us by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead; in His bodily ascension into heaven; and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Intercessor. (Matthew 28:5; I Corinthians 15:12-19; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:23-25, 9:24; I John 2:12).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and the same substance and nature; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; bears witness to the truth; is the agent of the new birth; and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies and helps the believer; that He baptizes them into the Church, the Body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon each one, and fills for service those yielded to Him. (John 3:8; 14:16; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 5:1-4; Romans 8:9 I Corinthians 12:4-13; 13:8-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18).

We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27; I Corinthians 2:14)

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)

We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit, and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the race fell, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all mankind have inherited a sinful nature, are totally unable

to regain their former position, and are without excuse before God. (Gen. 1:26; 3:1-2; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-16).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to men by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. Salvation is solely through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who shed His blood for the forgiveness of our sins and, being a free gift, is not earned by any good works whatsoever. All those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are regenerated and become sons of God. (Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; John 1:12; 3:5-7).

Regeneration

We believe that the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that change in the soul by the Holy Spirit by which a new nature and spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus; and without it salvation is impossible. (John 3:3-6; II Corinthians 5:17; I Peter 1:23; Titus 3:5)

Sanctification

We believe that immediate, positional sanctification is the act of God whereby believers are, at the time of regeneration, eternally set apart as belonging to Him by redemption, thereby being placed in the family of God as children, joint heirs with Jesus Christ. We believe that progressive sanctification is the process by which, according to God's will, we are made partakers of His holiness that it is progressive; that it is begun in regeneration; that it progresses if the believer is yielded to the Holy Spirit's control; that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, self examination, watchfulness and prayer. We believe that ultimate sanctification will be the portion of every believer when finally in the presence of the Lord, complete and entire, with soul and spirit united in the resurrection body free from every trace of the effects of sin and rebellion. (I Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; Proverbs 4:18; I John 2:29, 3:1; Ephesians 6:18; John 17:17 I Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 10:10-14).

The Eternal Security and Assurances of Believers

We believe the salvation of every believer is secure for all eternity from the moment of regeneration. This security is guaranteed to each believer by the fact that the life received is eternal life, by the keeping power of God, by the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit, and by the interceding ministry of Christ (John 5:24; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 29, 30, 38, 39; Ephesians 4:30).

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. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

The Church

We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

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 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

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; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

We believe that the Bible teaches the following offices of the church should be held by men only: Pastor and Deacon (1 Timothy 2:23; Acts 6)

Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)

The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

The Eternal State

We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory; but, that the soul of unbelievers remain after death in conscious

misery unto the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the end of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15; 14:9-14)

The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is literal and personal, and the agent of the fall, the prince and power of this world, and that he shall be judged and eternally punished. (Revelation 20:1-10; Ephesians 2:1-4)

Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject Evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1- 2; Ex. 20:11)

Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

Family Relationships

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders

(pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. If the pastor(s) of this church hold convictions against marrying divorced individuals they should not be required to marry them, however the members of the church are not mandated to hold to this conviction personally. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

Abortion

We believe 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. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable reasons for choosing to have an abortion. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

In case of a Tubal Pregnancy it is has been medically shown that a fetus cannot survive in the fallopian tube and will die. In case of such an event, where if left to natural causes both the mother and fetus would die; we believe it would be acceptable to save the life of the mother in such circumstances.

Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring

up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17- 21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes among members. We believe that believers are to settle confrontation with one another in accordance with the process given in Matthew 18. In such a case where all steps have been taken to follow this biblical process and after the arbitration process as outlined in Article 12 has taken place, it is our belief that believers have the scriptural authority to use the God ordained government as a means to settle their disputes. However we understand that this option to use our civil government to settle a dispute becomes a personal choice after the biblical process has been carried out. – Section 3.04 (Romans 13; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all biblical means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46- 48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

Giving

Since God has designed the church to function off the giving of its members, we believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a principle for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

Covenant

Having been led by the Spirit of God we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. Based on our faith in Christ, we have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Spirit. Now, in the presence of God, and this gathering, we joyfully and sincerely commit ourselves to one another as one united body in Christ.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we commit to walking together in love as followers of Christ. We will work to grow this church in knowledge, holiness, and encouragement. We'll support its spiritual growth, worship, practices, and teachings, giving it priority above all human institutions. We promise to give regularly and joyfully to support the ministry, care for the church's needs, help the poor, and spreading the Gospel around the world.

We also commit to maintaining personal and family prayer and devotion to Christ. We will raise our family with biblical values and seek the salvation of our family and friends. We'll aim to live with integrity in the world—being honest in our business, faithful in our commitments, and setting a good example in our behavior. We will avoid gossip, slander, and anger that leads to sin. We will stay away from anything that dishonors Jesus, causes others to stumble, or hinders a soul from receiving Christ. We commit to being passionate and active in advancing Christ's mission and keeping Him at the center of all we do.

We also promise to care for one another in love—praying for each other, helping in times of sickness or hardship, showing compassion, and speaking with kindness. We'll be slow to take offense, quick to forgive, and always willing to seek reconciliation in line with Jesus' teachings.

Finally, if we move away from this church, we commit to joining another church as soon as possible where we can continue living out the heart of this covenant and the truths of God's Word.

Bylaws

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in home and foreign lands, this church shall be governed by the following Constitution:

Constitution

Article I: Incorporation

Community Bible Church

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church shall be Community Baptist Church. Community Baptist Church will do business as Community Bible Church.

Article II: Purpose and Powers

The purposes for which this corporation is formed are:

1. To establish a Biblical Christian Church with missionary, literature, educational and all other departments it may deem useful to propagate and practice the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for its service to the community.
2. It is one purpose of this local church corporation to earnestly seek and promote the unity of God's people in the Scriptural manner of Godly love, respect and faithful voluntary cooperation with liberty. To that end it shall associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations.
3. To act as Trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation and to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property subject to such trust.
4. To enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose without limit as to amount and with any person, firm, association or corporation; to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, issue and execute promissory notes, warrants and other negotiable or transferable interests.
5. To take, purchase or otherwise acquire; to own, hold, occupy, use and enjoy, manage, improve, develop and work; to grant, sell, exchange, let, demise and otherwise dispose of real estate, buildings; and improvements and every right, interest and estate therein without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated; to erect, construct, alter and repair buildings; to assume any and every kind of contract, agreement and obligation by or with any person, firm, corporation or association, or any Federal, State or other Government for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, renewal, equipment, improvement, development, use, enjoyment, leasing, management or control of any buildings, improvements or structures of any kind wherever the same may be situated.
6. To purchase or otherwise acquire, to own, hold, use and enjoy, to sell, assign and transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of, deal in or deal with personal property of every kind and description without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated.
7. To borrow and to loan money and to give and to receive evidence of indebtedness and security thereof; to draw, make accept, endorse, execute, and issue promissory notes, warrants, and other debentures of the corporation, or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust deed or otherwise.
8. To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the Laws of the State of Your State, upon non-profit corporations.
9. This corporation shall not be controlled by any other corporation, or person, except in an advisory manner; but is entirely independent and sovereign in all its actions.

Article III: A Non-Profit Corporation

This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Minnesota; the property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment, shall not inure to the benefit of any private person except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for religious or charitable purposes and as designated in Article XV of this Constitution.

Article IV: Ordinances

Section 1: Baptism

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as commanded in the Scriptures, shall be administered to all those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their fruit (Matthew 28:19, Colossians 2:12).

Section 2: Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as a part of public worship, as commanded by the Lord (Luke 22:19, 20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

Article V: Officers

Section 1: Designation of Corporate Officers

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Senior Pastor shall serve as President of the Corporation; the Minister of Records shall serve as Secretary of the Corporation; the Minister of Finances shall serve as Treasurer of the Corporation; and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons or an Associate Pastor shall serve as Vice President of the Corporation.

Section 2: Terms of Office

1. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor offices shall be permanent until death, resignation or dismissal.
2. The term of office for all volunteer offices and positions in the church, except the pastor(s), shall be three years, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected for another two-year term at the end of which they must take a one year waiting period to be elected for the same position.
3. In the event of limited biblically unqualified candidates for any elected offices, except the office of pastor, the church body may choose by majority vote at a regular business meeting to wave the one year waiting period between re-election.
4. All newly elected officers shall take over at the first Sunday following the election.
5. No member can become an officer of the church unless he or she has been a member of the church for at least 1 year.
6. An office may be dismissed by majority vote in the event that he or she is in violation of Biblical commands, doctrine and the church bylaws.

7. Disciplinary removal of a pastor automatically terminates his membership with the church.
8. Any officer who neglects their duties as outlined in the bylaws or becomes Biblically unqualified may be removed from office at the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Section 3: Election of Officers

The election of officers by the church shall occur during the annual business meeting. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy may be filled at any regular church business meeting.

Section 4: Eligibility for Officers

Only church members who uphold and agree with the Statement of Faith and show a life reflective of Living for the Lord are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

Section 5: Senior Pastor

Sub-Section 1: Vacancy of Senior Pastor

Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the board of deacons will recommend a pastoral search committee to the church for its approval by a majority vote.

Sub-Section 2: Qualification of Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor must meet the spiritual and moral qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. A Senior pastor must meet these qualifications, evidence a calling to ministry, and be known in the church community as a man who exemplifies Christ-likeness and servant-leadership both publicly.

Sub-Section 3: Duties of Senior Pastor

1. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation.
2. The Senior Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all the church activities.
3. The Senior Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him.
4. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
5. He shall preside over all business meetings of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
6. He shall inform all newly elected officers of the function and the responsibilities of their respective offices.
7. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church.

Sub-Section 4: Support of Senior Pastor

The Pastor shall be supported according to his needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon by the Board of Deacons in its regular business sessions.

Section 6: Associate Pastor(s)

Sub-Section 1: Qualification of Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor must meet the spiritual and moral qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. An associate pastor must meet these qualifications, evidence a calling to ministry, and be known in the church community as a man who exemplifies Christ-likeness and servant-leadership both publicly.

Sub-Section 2: Duties of Associate Pastor(s)

1. The Associate Pastor shall provide pulpit fill when the Senior Pastor is absent from the service.
2. Assist the Senior Pastor in overseeing the church.
3. The Associate Pastor may serve as the Vice President of the Corporation based on the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

Sub-Section 3: Support of Senior Pastor

The Pastor shall be supported according to his needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon by the Board of Deacons in its regular business sessions.

Section 7: Board of Deacons

Sub-Section 1: Qualification of Board of Deacons

1. The Board of Deacons must meet the spiritual and moral qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Acts 6:1-7. A Deacon must meet these qualifications and be known in the church community as a man who exemplifies Christ-likeness and servant-leadership both privately and publicly.
2. The Board of Deacons must be comprised of at least 2 men who have been church members for at least one year.

Sub-Section 2: Selection of Board of Deacons

Recommendations for the Board of Deacons shall be accepted from any church member. The Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons shall review the recommendations. At which time the recommendations will be selected and presented at the annual business meeting and will be accepted by a majority vote.

Sub-Section 3: Duties of Board of Deacons

1. Appoint a Chairman of the Board of Deacons who will serve as the Vice President of the Corporation.
2. The Board of Deacons shall act in conjunction with and to aid the Senior Pastor in all church matters and operations.
3. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or request on behalf of the church.
4. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of

- the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges
5. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
 6. They shall assist the pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church.
 7. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church.
 8. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership.
 9. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the deacon's fund.
 10. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church.
 11. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor.
 12. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor is unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant.

Section 8: Minister of Record

Sub-Section 1: Duties of Minister of Record

1. Serve as the secretary of the corporation.
2. Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
3. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law.
4. Read previous meeting minutes and give reports as necessary at business meetings.
5. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.
6. Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions.
7. See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed.
8. Within reasonable time frame provide a copy of any church records upon request.
9. Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to the successor upon leaving the office.

Section 9: Minister of Finance

Sub-Section 1: Duties of Minister of Finance

1. Serve as treasurer of the corporation.
2. Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Senior Pastor or Board of Deacons.
3. Receive, and give receipts for contributions, gifts, and donations to the church if desired by the donor.
4. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, the board of deacons, or the budget adopted by the members of the

church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements.

5. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital.
6. Pay all church bills in a timely manner.
7. When and as requested, render to the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons accounts of all his transactions as minister of finance and of the financial condition of the church.
8. Present a written report at the church business meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual church business meeting.
9. Deliver financial records to the successor upon leaving the office.
10. Prepare the church financial records for an audit.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1. Meeting for Worship

Meeting for public worship shall be held on Sunday and during the week as directed by the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of Community Baptist Church. This business meeting shall be held at the end of the fiscal year. New officers, and deacons shall be installed and all reports shall be read.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor, the board of deacons, or by written petition of three-fourths of the membership.

Section 4. Notice of Business Meetings

Notice of the date and place of the Annual Business Meeting and of any special business meetings shall be sent to all active members at least fourteen days prior, unless an emergency situation dictates otherwise as determined by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Section 5. Quorum

No record of any special or regular business meetings shall be made unless one-half or more of members are present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Order of Business

The regular order of a business or special meeting shall be conducting in an orderly fashion include but is not limited to the following topics:

1. Prayer
2. Reading and Approval of previous minutes
3. Reception & dismissal of members
4. Reports of officers

5. Report of committees & directors
6. New business
7. Prayer & adjournment

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 7. Other Meetings

Other meetings such as Biblical conferences may be held at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Article VII: Finances

1. All funds needed for the maintenance of the church shall be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings. Every member shall decide before God what he or she can cheerfully give to the support of the Lord's work at home and in the foreign field (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 12:8).
2. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature.
3. All cash income shall be counted by at least two members.
4. Deposits must be made promptly to a local bank as designated by the Board of Deacons.
5. The church will have and maintain account(s) for all church financial activities.
6. Reports will be furnished to the office and made available to the membership.
7. All purchases outside of the approved budget must be reviewed and approved by the Senior Pastor and the Board of Deacons.
8. Only appointed members shall make purchases on behalf of the church.
9. Members may submit church purchases for reimbursement to the church which will be reviewed for approval by the Senior Pastor or Board of Deacons. A best effort must be made to use the church's non-profit status to avoid paying additional taxes.
10. Under the direction of the Minister of Finance, members of the church may be asked to assist with the day-to-day financial record keeping.
11. Safe guards must be in place to protect physical and digital financial records.
12. The Pastor shall act as overseer of all financial activities.
13. The bank account signers shall be comprised of all church officers and any member as designated by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Article VIII: Membership

Section 1: Membership Requirements

Individuals seeking membership shall be considered if they meet the following conditions.

1. Life shows evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in & acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, renounce sin and endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord.
2. Follow and agree to the Statement of Faith and the covenant contained herein.
3. Agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein.

4. Who have observed the ordinance of baptism or will be baptized as part of the membership process.
5. If seeking restoration of membership, provide evidence of true Biblical repentance of their sin(s) to the senior pastor and board of deacons, publicly confess and repent of their sins to church membership.

Section 2: Membership Class

All applicants for membership must complete the new members class as directed by the Senior Pastor. At the conclusion of the class the applicants will complete an interview with church members, who shall, after due consideration, provide a recommendation to the church.

Section 3: Membership Acceptance

All applicants who wish to seek membership upon completion of the membership class and receive approval from the interview shall present their salvation testimony at a designated church service. Upon a majority vote of members present, membership shall be granted to the applicant.

Section 4: Duties of a Member

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant, each member agrees to:

1. Love, honor, and esteem the pastor(s).
2. To pray for the pastor(s).
3. Provide for the pastor(s) as the Lord leads them.
4. To recognize the Senior Pastor's authority in spiritual affairs of the church .
5. Cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church
6. To support the church in time, talents, prayer, and tithes as the Lord enables in accordance with Biblical commands.
7. Support the Gospel through a lifestyle that affirms the beliefs of Jesus Christ as their personal savior.
8. To be an active and serving member of the church body.

Section 5: Transfer of Membership

Members who are not under the disciplinary process may request a letter of recommendation from the Senior Pastor to be sent to another church.

Section 6: Dismissal of Membership

Membership dismissal shall be reviewed by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons for the following conditions. If deemed appropriate, dismissal of membership shall be taken to the church for termination during a business meeting.

1. An individual has not attended a regular worship service for at least six consecutive months.
2. A member joins membership with another church.
3. A member is involved in unrepenting sin and has gone through the discipline process.

4. A member requests to end their membership.

Section 7: Discipline of a Member

The purpose and focus of discipline is to help member(s) restore their relationship with Jesus Christ and other church members. The discipline process is based on the Biblical truths and principles defined in these verses: Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11. All members, including pastors and church leaders are subject to this process.

1. Before approaching any another member, one should first examine their own heart to ensure they are approaching the situation with Biblical truths and a spirit of humility.
2. When a member becomes aware of an offense that hinders the spiritual growth of themselves or the offending member and testimony of Jesus Christ, following Matthew 18:15 they are to go alone to the offending party and seek restoration.
3. If reconciliation is not reached, following Matthew 18:16, one or two other members are to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter to assist with restoration.
4. If the matter is still unresolved following Matthew 18:17, the church is to be notified. The notification is to be given to a pastor or the Board of Deacons. Upon the notification, a discipline committee shall be formed to assist with seeking restoration.
 - a. The discipline committee shall consist of at least two members. This will typically be the pastor(s) and the board of deacons unless they are the subject of the disciplinary process.
 - b. No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in the previous steps have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
5. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined above have been taken, the member(s) shall be brought forth for dismissal of membership as outline in article 8 section 6.
6. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, contact with that member from that point forward should be for the sake of restoration.

Section 8: Privileges

1. All members may attend business meetings, however, members 18 years of age or older who are physically present at a business meeting shall be entitled to vote. There is no proxy or absentee voting.
2. A member with sufficient notice may request to review or obtain copies of church business meeting reports and minutes.
 - a. Members will not be provided with access to other members' contribution records.
3. Membership does not afford the member with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government.
4. A member may seek out Biblical counseling with qualified members in the church.

5. A member may seek approval to use the church property for activities and events. Each request will be reviewed, and a decision will be made by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Article IX: Committees and Directors

Section 1: Committees

The Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons shall appoint and dissolve committees as the needs arise in the church. Committees shall be subject to the supervision, control and direction of the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Section 2: Directors

The Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons shall appoint and dissolve director position(s) to oversee specific aspects of the church's operations. The director position(s) shall be under the supervision, control and direction of the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.

Article X: Ministry of Education

Section 1: Purpose

To provide the members and their families with an education based on and consistent with Biblical truths and doctrines.

Section 2: Teaching Requirements

1. The teachers, instructors and supporting roles must be church members.
 - a. Missionaries, evangelist, special speakers, and preachers are exempt from this requirement with approval from the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.
2. Adhere to and be in full agreement with the statement of faith.
3. The serving member's lifestyle shows consistency with the statement of faith, Biblical truths and doctrine in and out of the classroom

Section 3: Teaching

1. All teaching shall be conducted following Biblical truths and doctrines in accordance with the statement of faith.
2. Teaching materials and programs shall be selected or approved by the Senior Pastor and Board of Deacons.
3. Educational programs and courses are offered by the church for the benefit of the members, and outreach to the community.

Article X: Ordination

Section 1: Qualifications

Any male member of this church who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

Section 2: Process

1. Upon a conference with the Senior Pastor and after the candidate is approved for ordination, the Senior Pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
2. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may recommend the candidate to the church for ordination.
3. The Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

Article XI: Property

The Officers shall have power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article V. The President, Secretary and Treasurer's signature shall be sufficient for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Articles.

Article XII: Indemnification

Section 1: Actions Subject in Indemnification

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2: Expenses Subject to Indemnification

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

Section 3: Limitation of Indemnification

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

Section 4: Timing of Indemnification

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the board of deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

Section 5: Extent of Indemnification

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

Section 6: Insurance

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted

against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

Article XIII: Binding Arbitration

Section 1: Submission to Arbitration

Believing that lawsuits between believers are a last resort, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

Section 2: Notice of Arbitration

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described this article, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant in this article, below.

Section 3: Limitation of Arbitration

1. Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined in discipline of a member, were followed.
2. Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in discipline of a member, were followed.

Section 4: Arbitration Procedures

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor and the board of deacons.

Article XIV: Organization

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article XV: Conduct of Organization

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization 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. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article XVI: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XVII: Amendments

This Statement of Faith, Covenant, Constitution and Bylaws may be amended or changed by a 3/4 vote of members at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that no less than 3/4 of church members are present and due notice of such proposed change shall have been made.

Adoption

These bylaws were adopted by three-fourths majority vote during a business meeting. These bylaws supersede any other bylaws of Community Baptist Church.

Date: _____

Senior Pastor: _____

Signature: _____

Minister of Record: _____

Signature: _____

Board of Deacons: _____

Signature: _____