

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLES OF FAITH

&

BYLAWS

MINISTRY STRUCTURE OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Table of Contents

Preface Page 2

I. Who we are Page 3

II. Our Purpose Page 3

III. What we Believe Page 4 -11

IV. Organizational Structure Page 11-14

A. Senior Pastor

B. Deacons...servant leaders

C. Trustees and Treasurer

D. Secretary

E. General Leadership

F. Leadership for Outside Purposes

V. Membership Page 14-17

A. Requirements

B. Expectations

C. Covenant

D. Arbitration

VI. Conducting Business Page 17-18

A. Finances

B. Property

C. Dissolution

I. WHO WE ARE

“But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” I Peter 2:9,10

From a Scriptural standpoint, we are a group of believers that gathers together as part of the body of Christ in *Westerville, Ohio* . To satisfy our modern cultural requirements, we are known as a religious, non-profit corporation called *Central Baptist Church of Westerville, Ohio* . As such, we are organized exclusively for tax-exempt purposes-- religious, charitable, and educational. We willingly submit to governmental authorities in the area of health and safety in order to be conscientious citizens who have the welfare of those we serve at heart (Romans 13:1). We draw the line if and when governmental mandates become oppressive and infringe upon our God-ordained purposes. We must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

II. OUR PURPOSE

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Matt. 22:37-39

“ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matt. 28:19,20

Central Baptist Church exists to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ and to fulfill His great commission. We believe that is best accomplished by ensuring every project or ministry that we promote, falls into one of three objectives:

- **To Love God**
- **To Love people**
- **Serve the world**

These three objectives will help us Clarify our purpose and process of ministry, Move people through the growth process, Align ourselves in every aspect of ministry, and stay focused on the objective of a closer walk with the Lord, bringing glory to Christ, and reaching a lost and hopeless world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

III. What we Believe

About the Bible

We believe the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. All ministry of the Central Baptist Church shall be done using the KJV Bible.

1. By “The Holy Bible” we mean the collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
2. By “inspiration” we mean the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
3. Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89,105,130,160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:31; 24:25-27,44-45; John 5:39,45-47; 12:48; 17:17; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Romans 3:4; 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:19

About the True God

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible worship, praise, and glory; in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Genesis 17:1; Exodus 20:2-3; 15:11; Psalm 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:23; 1 Corinthians 12:10-11; 8:6; 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 5:7; Revelation 4:11

About the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine Person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; He was active in the creation; in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God’s purpose is fulfilled; He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; He is the agent in the New Birth; He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Genesis 1:13; Matthew 3:11; 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 3:16; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11,13; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans

8:14,16,26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:7,13; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2

About the devil or satan

We believe satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness - destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 4:1-3; 13:25; 25:41; 27:39; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; 2 John 7; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11,16,20; 20:1-3,10

About Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was they should bring forth only "after their kind." We believe that God created all things in six literal days and rested on the seventh.

Genesis 1:1,11,24,26-27; 2:21-23; Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 17:23-26; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6

About the Fall of Man

We believe man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:18,20,28,32; 3:10-19; 5:12,19;
Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1,3

About the Righteous and the Wicked

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

Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 11:31; 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:34; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21; 12:25; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 1:17; 6:16-18,23; 7:6; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:18; 1 John 2:7,29; 5:19

About the Virgin Birth

We believe Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, with no earthly father, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35;
John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:47; 1 John 5:20

About the Atonement for Sin

We believe the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

Isaiah 53:4-7,11-12; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; 10:18; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 9:12-15; 12:2

About Grace in the New Creation

We believe in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; the new birth is a new creation in

Christ Jesus; it is instantaneous and not a process; in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Luke 5:27; John 1:12-13; 3:3,6-7; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17,19; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:1; 5:9; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 5:1

About the Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28; John 3:15-18,36; 5:40; 6:37; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:29-30; 10:13; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 22:17

About Justification

We believe one of the great gospel blessings which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Isaiah 53:11; Habakkuk 2:4; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 4:1; 5:1-9; 8:1; Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 10:38

About Repentance and Faith

We believe Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Psalm 51:1-4,7; Isaiah 55:6-7; Mark 1:15; Luke 12:8; 18:13; Acts 2:37-38; 20:21; Romans 10:9-11,13

About the Church

We believe a Baptist Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the Divine and Eternal Grace; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; its officers of ordination are pastors (also called bishops or elders) whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded.

We believe that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Leviticus 27:31; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:1-3; 11:2; 12:4,8-11; 16:1-2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

About Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relationship and to the Lord's supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 3:6; 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12

About the Perseverance of the Saints

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

Psalm 121:3; Matthew 6:20; 13:19-21; John 8:31-32; 10:28-29; 16:8; Romans 8:28,35-39; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 2:19

About Civil Government

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

Exodus 18:21-22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Psalm 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14,17

About the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe Christ rose bodily “The third day according to the Scriptures”; He ascended “to the right hand of the throne of God”; He alone is our “merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God”; “that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven,” bodily, personally, and visibly; the “dead in Christ shall rise first”; the living saints “shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump”; “that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David”; and “Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet.” We believe in Pre-millennial, Pre-tribulation view of the end times.

Psalm 72:8; Isaiah 11:4-5; Matthew 24:27,42; Matthew 28:6-7; Mark 16:6,19; Luke 1:32; Luke 24:2,4-6,39,51; John 14:3; John 20:27; Acts 1:9,11; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Philippians 4:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9; 8:1; 9:28; 12:2

About Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches. We are to go ourselves or help send people into the entire world to evangelize the lost and teach the saved.

Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-15

About the Grace of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of our faith. Giving is a form of obedience as well as a part of our worship. We believe that we are to bring our gifts into the storehouse (Common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week. We believe that the tithe is holy unto the Lord and thus we give it out of obedience. The tithe is the beginning. The New Testament form of giving was grace giving - thus over and above that of obedience, this would be our gifts to the Lord. We also practice faith promise giving or sacrificial giving.

II Cor. 8:7; I Cor. 16:2; Heb. 7:2,4; Matt. 23:23; Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:10; Acts 4:35,37; II Cor. 9:6-8

About 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, transsexualism, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 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

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 head of the home and men are to be the

leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for the ministries of pastors or deacons.

About Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that marriage was instituted by God to be a permanent union. We further believe that God hates 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 and spiritual desertion. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for a pastoral office or deacon.

Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:14-17; Mt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:12-16; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

About Abortion and Euthanasia

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 mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

Job 3:16; Ps 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44

IV. Organizational Structure

“ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.” Col. 1:17,18 This speaks of our Savior, the under-shepherd. Next is the office of Pastor.

A. Senior Pastor I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

- **Duties of the Pastor:** The Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Corporation known as Central Baptist Church and generally shepherd the spiritual lives of the members of the church, the regular church services, and administration of the church and its ordinances. He will be treated with love, respect, and honor as he seeks, by the grace of God, to declare the whole counsel of God in this sacred office wherein he is the overseer of the

flock of God. He will endeavor as a minister to hold forth the Word of Life as a faithful servant.

- He shall approve and invite all speakers to occupy the pulpit when planning special programs and all speakers for church organizations are to be respectfully submitted to him for approval. He shall be an official member of all meetings of all boards and committees connected with the church or any of its organizations. He shall act as moderator for all church meetings unless previously agreed upon otherwise.
- The staff and employees of the church are hired and dismissed by the Pastor without the approval of the church or officers but with much prayer and godly council. The finances of the church are overseen by the Pastor and his representatives after the budget has been passed. The church budget will be voted on at the annual meeting giving the Pastor the authority to work within the limits of this ministry structure. The Pastor has the privilege of forming ministry teams for advisory or vision that is not made up of the Deacons or other leaders. As this is the Lord's work the Pastor will be free to choose the methods by which he exercises the ministry God has given him including doing evangelistic or Bible Conference work as deemed beneficial to the overall vision of the church.
- **Calling a Pastor:** When a vacancy occurs in the Pastorate, the Deacons shall elect a Pulpit search team consisting of two Deacons and two members not officers. The senior Deacon shall be the chairman of the search team, the duty of which shall be to search for a suitable Pastor. This team must vote unanimously on any candidate before they present him to the church. Any candidate recommended to the church must be voted upon and receive at least 75% vote of the active church membership before becoming pastor of *Central Baptist*. Only one candidate can be presented and voted upon before another candidate is presented to the church.
- **Dismissal of the Pastor:** The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term. The Pastor may resign his position after giving written notice thirty days (30) prior thereto to the Deacons, or the Pastor may be removed from his position by 75% vote of all active members of the church at a duly announced business meeting. Upon resignation or removal the Pastor will receive a severance of at least 90 days compensation. If the dismissal is due to moral or spiritual reasons, the severance may be eliminated by the current church officers.

B. Deacons...servant leaders

“But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Matt.23:11

Central Baptist recognizes the biblical servant position of the “deacon.” Jesus Himself was the epitome of servant leadership. The very word “deacon” means “servant.” We follow the Scriptural qualifications as noted in 1 Tim 3. In the Bible, deacons are upheld as examples of

godly servanthood. Scripture does not focus in detail on what deacons did, however Acts 6 is generally believed to be a typical example of their humble ministry role.

1. **Selection process**

The church will submit names of qualified individuals to a team of men known as the nominating team. This team is made up of those appointed by the pastor, himself being the Chairman, to verify Biblical qualifications of the candidates. Those that are selected will be brought before the church at the annual business meeting to be confirmed by the membership.

2. **Terms**

The deacons will be elected for a period of three years and must be approved by the nominating team and confirmed again by the people in order to serve consecutively should the need arise. After his term of service and with a one year interval, he can be approved again as a deacon.

A deacon can be removed from his ministry by the pastor if his spiritual life becomes inconsistent with the Biblical principles of 1 Timothy 3.

3. **Number of deacons**

The number of deacons is not specified in Scripture. The number at *Central Baptist* is at the discretion of the Senior Pastor. If a deacon leaves for any reason, it is not essential that he be replaced. Replacement can be completed in the next selection process or by special election.

4. **Duties**

Duties of deacons at *Central Baptist* are varied but always of a servant nature. They are not policy or rule makers though they can be counselors to the Pastor in that process. Consequently, at *Central Baptist* deacons are called on to be “ministry helpers” to the Pastor and the Church family. They may teach classes, assist the pastor in the administering of the ordinances, lead in discipleship ministries, make hospital calls and or home visits, help set up for activities, count offerings, assist on special workdays, comfort the bereaved, act as members of a discipline committee when needed, assist with a Helping Hands ministry (material or other assistance to needy persons or families based on guidelines to be drawn up), and serve in various other ministries. The scriptural attitude for a godly deacon at *Central Baptist* is “What can I do to help?”

C. Trustees and Treasurer and Clerk

1. Trustees

Trustees will be selected and confirmed in the same manner as deacons. Though there is no scriptural office of trustee, our laws require such offices with incorporation. Trustees can come from the team of deacons or those outside this group. They must be spiritual men, wise in business, willing to counsel and serve the Pastor and congregation in the legal affairs of the church such as buying or selling properties, etc.; selected through the nomination process, and confirmed by the people at the annual business meeting. Their term of office will be the same as that of deacons.

2. Treasurer

The treasurer is a position of great trust and integrity. This position will go through the selection process and confirmation of the membership. The Treasurer will be elected for a one year term and must be reapproved to serve consecutive terms.

The treasurer is to receive and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the Church.

Deposit all funds in the name of the Church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Pastor and administrative team.

Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Church as may be directed by the pastor and/or the administrative team. Keep accurate records of contributions and disbursements.

A yearly audit will be performed on the financial records of Central Baptist Church.

3. Secretary

The function of the secretary is to assist the pastor by maintaining appropriate and necessary records of the Church life and business. The responsibilities of the clerk shall there be:

Certify and keep (at the Church office), a copy of the original constitution and bylaws, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.

Keep a book of minutes of all meetings of members, committees, etc. and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the meetings and the proceedings thereof.

All officers and ministry leaders must be tithers as well as demonstrate a continued desire to walk by faith with an attitude of humility in their service to Christ.

4. General Leadership

“ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*” Eph. 4:4

In order to promote unity in this local body of believers, leadership at all levels of our church and in all ministries, have a biblical obligation to in compliance with Philippians 2:2-8. They must avoid gossip, murmuring, complaining, and sowing discord. Not only are they required to avoid these popular sins themselves, they are obligated to quench them in others. A Godly leader will gladly step down if he is found in contempt of these principles. In order to stay focused on the scriptural mandates, our leaders also must be examples to the church body by proactively exalting the Lord, encouraging the body, and evangelizing the world.

5. Leadership for Outside Purposes

“ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. “ Rom. 13:1

Whenever there are outside requests for official signatures representing *Central Baptist Church*, we have identified “corporate officers.” The President of the corporation is the

Senior Pastor, the Treasurer or Financial secretary is the business manager, and the corporate Secretary is the senior pastor's secretary (or selected person to fulfill that ministry). The trustees are those selected and confirmed to these positions.

V. MEMBERSHIP

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” I Cor. 12:12

1. Requirements

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:41

Membership in the church of Jesus Christ is accomplished by accepting as a free gift the payment that Jesus Christ made for your sin, and trusting only Him as your personal Savior. (Romans 10: 9-13.) That is how you become a member of God's family.

The Scripture implies that if Christ is your Master, then you would naturally be obedient to His command and be baptized to publicly identify with Him. (Acts 2:41) To be consistent with Scripture therefore, *Central Baptist* makes the same assumptions for membership. You must be saved and baptized by immersion. New member candidates (unless excluded by permission of the pastoral leadership) must also complete our New Members Class before membership takes place. Though the following are not requirements for membership we strongly encourage new members to be active in a Bible class, in serving in a ministry, and in tithing. These are all designed to enhance spiritual growth and maturity.

All members wishing to serve in ministry must go through a national background screening process. to assure confidence and protection for the church body. This process will be repeated every two years or as needed.

2. Expectations

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” 1 Cor. 12:27

1. Unity in the body

The church of Jesus Christ is a family more than anything else. Jesus told His disciples that the world would recognize his followers if they loved one another. Every member must strive to protect the unity of the church because that reflects upon the church's public testimony, as well as the Lord Himself.

There is no place in the body of Christ for murmuring, complaining, and sowing discord. (Eph 4:3, Proverbs 6:19, 1 Cor. 10:10)

2. Gifts of ministry

We have all been given gifts of the Spirit with which to minister in the body of Christ. Members of *Central Baptist* are strongly encouraged to find a ministry in which they can exercise the gifts the Lord has given them. (1 Cor. 12) Membership is not a “spectator sport” but a team effort. Our members should be exercising their gifts together to exalt the Lord, encourage believers, and evangelize the world.

Anyone wishing to become a member of Central Baptist Church will be expected to seek a place of ministry.

3. Giving

Every member is expected to be obedient in the area of stewardship. The Scriptural principle is that giving is a matter of the heart. We are admonished to give liberally from a cheerful heart. (2 Cor. 9) When both Old and New Testaments are taken as a whole, it appears that giving begins with the tithe, or 10% of our income, and then love offerings called gifts come after tithing. It might be said, "It's not equal gifts, its equal sacrifice." The sacrifice we make is essentially a measure of how much he or she values the Lord and His work. Our hearts invariably follow our treasures. (Matt. 6:21)

4. Calling a senior pastor and officers

Only active members have the privilege and responsibility to vote on officers and calling a senior pastor. Members must be 18 years of age or older, regular in attendance, and faithful in giving, for at least 6 months to vote.

5. Recommending officers

Members are expected to prayerfully participate in the selection of deacons and officers by offering names to the current selection team for consideration. The nominating team will then use the names recommended and qualify or disqualify each individual recommended. This is not a popularity contest...it is a servant ministry opportunity for individuals who humbly seek to honor and follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. Discipline

It is imperative that *Central Baptist Church* maintains a godly and moral reputation in the community. Therefore, if a member persists in obvious and public sin and remains unrepentant after counseling and admonition by church leadership then the leadership (pastors and / or deacons) must meet with him or her. The Bible gives instructions to the local church for such discipline (Matt 18:15-17, 1 Cor. 5:9-13, 2 Thes. 3:6, 10-15). The New Testament also calls for confrontation, rebuke, and restoration for causing division or teaching heresy (Titus 3:10, Gal. 1:6-9) Repentance and restoration are always the goal in such cases. However, if the person remains unrepentant, the leadership will announce to the church that the person is being put out of the membership of *Central Baptist*.

Although not a matter of discipline, another way a person can be removed from membership is by becoming inactive. "Inactive" means a person has not regularly attended services or supported the church financially for at least six months. From time to time, the leadership will ensure that such people are contacted and encourage them to become active. If they are unwilling, their names may be dropped.

3. Membership covenant

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3

When an individual joins *Central Baptist Church*, we expect him or her to agree with the membership covenant:

“As a member of *Central Baptist Church*, I commit myself to loving God, loving the church family, and loving those who need Christ. I commit to growing toward spiritual maturity, praying for and following church leadership, promoting unity, agreeing to the articles of faith, and bylaws, as well as being active in a ministry, in prayer and in giving.”

4. Arbitration

“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints?” I Cor. 6:1

Scripture gives many instructions on how to treat one another within the body of Christ. The overwhelming principle is to love one another above all else (Rom. 12:10, 1 Tim. 5:21). When disputes between church members arise that could become legal issues, they should be resolved in a biblical manner as described in 1 Cor. 6:1-8. The process for this body is for the parties to meet together with the pastor, officers, or their designated mediator for prayer, discussion, mediation and arbitration. The decision of the mediators will be binding.

VI. CONDUCTING BUSINESS

“Let everything be done decently and in order.” 1 Cor. 14:40

The processes in this section are designed with the following principles of conduct in mind: integrity, openness, and accountability.

1. **Finances “...be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 2 Pet. 3:14**

1. **Guiding financial principles**

1. Money given to this ministry is the Lord’s money and will always be treated as such. Funds will be spent wisely and conservatively.
2. Ministry needs will be related to the congregation in a sensitive and Christ-like manner.
3. We will never resort to disrespectful or dishonorable methods of fundraising.
4. We will always strive to be above reproach in handling money.

2. **Budget Process**

1. Our annual budget will be generated at the ministry level.
2. The senior pastor, or his designated executive pastor, or business manager will review, analyze, and summarize the requested funding by ministry.
3. The entire budget will be reviewed and approved by the budget team.
4. Upon approval, the budget will be published to the church body for review.
5. The membership is invited to review the budget and will be given the

opportunity to ask relevant questions at the approval meeting.

6. Any resulting changes will be incorporated into a final version, which will then be put into operation.

3. **Indebtedness**

The needs of the ministry will be met using existing funds whenever possible. The pastor and officers may occasionally need to borrow funds for emergency repairs, or to take advantage of an unusual opportunity. If the amount required exceeds \$5,000, they will make the church body aware of the situation, and ask for special giving to eliminate the debt as soon as possible.

4. **Meetings**

Church family meetings will occasionally be required to discuss a business matter. The senior pastor will announce such a meeting, if possible, at least two Sundays in advance of the meeting. He or his designee will moderate. All members are asked to attend.

2. **Property**

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish it? “ Luke 14:28

1. **Purchasing**

The need for purchasing additional land or buildings will be discussed and planned by the pastor and vision team. If at all possible, any such purchases will be paid for in cash as funds become available. If borrowing of over \$20,000 is required, the church body will be involved and will hear the recommendation of the pastor. They will then be given opportunity to ask questions, similar to the budget process. At a special family meeting, the body will then confirm or reject the proposal with a 75% vote needed for approval.

2. **Use**

The property of *Central Baptist* (all land and buildings) is established for the primary purpose of exalting the Lord, encouraging believers, evangelizing the lost and ministering in our community. Any other use must be approved by the pastor.

3. **Dissolution**

In the event that the church body deteriorates to such a small number of members that it is no longer financially feasible or otherwise desirable to function as a church in the eyes of the leadership or the congregation, the assets will be sold, bills will be paid, and any remaining funds or assets will be donated to a church or ministry of like faith. No individual should profit from the assets.