

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF LOUISVILLE,
KENTUCKY, INC.

CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

LEGAL NAME

The name of the Corporation is Cornerstone Community Church. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Constitution and By-laws as the “Church” or “CCC”. The Church maintains its principal office at 10600 Lower River Road Louisville, Kentucky 40272. The Council of Elders and Church Leadership has full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

ARTICLE II

MISSION, & CORE VALUES

Section 1 Mission:

Cornerstone exists to make disciples who are surrendered, surrounded, serving, and sent to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and to bring Glory to God.

Section 2 Core Values:

Though we may have diverse backgrounds and perspectives, certain “core values” unite us as a community, giving focus and providing a clear standard to evaluate our efforts. These values are our filter for making decisions and establishing priorities. These core values are expressed in our documents, our doctrine, and continually communicated to our faith family. They help us maintain the critical balance between faithfulness to God and effectiveness in ministry.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY: Our desire is to submit everything we are and everything we do to the Word of God. We desire to study the Bible for the purpose of knowing God more and teaching others. We believe our biblical foundation allows us to live surrendered, surrounding, serving, and sent.

THE GOSPEL: We believe the gospel gives us hope, drives our worship, and motivates all that we do.

PRAYER: We know the world, our flesh, and Satan are against the saints and the work of God in the world; therefore, we cry out to God in dependent prayer.

FAMILY: We desire to live in authentic and accountable community while practicing the “one another’s” of Scripture because we have been adopted into the family of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

MISSION: We go, serving the least of these, doing everyday things with gospel intentionality, engaging culture, and preaching the gospel for the purpose of making disciples.

STEWARDSHIP: We give regularly and faithfully of our finances, time, and spiritual gifts, to the work of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This statement of faith binds us together theologically as followers of Christ.

God’s Word: Every word, in the original writings of Scripture, is inspired by God and is without error. Therefore, all Scripture is authoritative, infallible, and inerrant. The Scripture is accurate in all matters to which it speaks: spiritual, historical, and scientific. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the foundation of the faith and practice of Cornerstone Community Church (*2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21*).

God: We believe that there is only one true living God. God has revealed Himself to us in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. While each person of the Trinity performs different functions within the Godhead, each person is fully God. This belief is known in theological terms as the Doctrine of the Trinity. (*Deut. 6:4, 1 Tim. 2:5, Gen. 1:26, Matt. 28:19*)

God the Father: We believe God the Father is the first person of the Trinity. He is the Father of all men. He is only the spiritual Father to those in Christ. He is sovereign over creation, providence, and salvation. He has decreed, for His own glory, all things that come to pass, and providentially directs all creatures and events. He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ alone, and adopts them as His own; Thus, becoming their eternal Father (*Ps. 103:19; John 1:12; Rom. 8:15, 11:36; Eph. 1:11, 4:6; Gal. 3:26, 4:5*).

God the Son: We Believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He became a man by being born to a virgin named Mary. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and died physically on a cross for sinners. Jesus was bodily resurrected three days later, and currently sits at the right hand of God interceding for man. (*John 1:1-18, John 5:18, Heb. 1:1-9, Heb. 5:8, 1 John 5:20, 1 Tim. 2:5, 1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:21*)

God the Holy Spirit: God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. God the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws people to Christ, joins them to the Church, lives within them. He seals them, empowers them for evangelism, sanctifies them, and gives them spiritual gifts. (*John 16:8-11, Acts 1:8, Cor. 12:4-11, 1 Cor. 12:12, Eph 1:13*)

The Fall of Man: Man is made in the image and likeness of God. Due to the sin of Adam and Eve, sin has spread to all men. Therefore, all men are born sinful by nature and at constant war with God. Man is unable to solve the problem of his sinful nature or do any deeds that will make himself right with God. (*Rom. 3:10-19, 5:12*)

Salvation: Salvation is by the grace of God alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone apart from any works of mankind. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, repentance and faith, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Regeneration: The new birth is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures because of the finished work of Jesus Christ. Regeneration is a change of heart brought about by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds, in repentance, toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

Repentance and Faith: Repentance is a genuine turning away from sin and turning toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ with a genuine commitment of the sinner's personality to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Justification: Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal, through His righteousness, of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ.

Sanctification: The experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life as evidence of realness of their faith.

Glorification: Glorification is the culmination of salvation. It is the final blessed and abiding state of all believers. (*Acts 20:21, Rom. 5:1; 6-7, Eph. 2:8-10, Titus 3:5, 1 John 3:2*)

The Church: A New Testament church, is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers. Members share a covenant through faith and fellowship. They gather regularly, to observe the ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper. The Church is governed by God's Laws and entrusted to local Church Leaders. The Church exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges given by His Word. CCC seeks to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth, as we operate under the Lordship of Christ. Each member is accountable to Christ as Lord. We recognize that men and women are gifted for service. At CCC, the office of Pastor is limited to men, as qualified by Scripture. The New Testament speaks of the church as the body of Christ. All the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation make up the body of Christ.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Baptism symbolizes the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old

life, and the resurrection to walk in a new life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony of a person's belief in the final resurrection of the dead. It is prerequisite to the privileges and responsibilities of church membership and to taking the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. (*Matt. 26:26-29, Matt. 28:18-20, Rom. 6:1-5, 1 Cor. 11:17-34*)

The Family: God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Family is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church. Marriage provides for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of intimate expression according to Biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the children. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage and family. Parents are to teach their children the gospel, spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on Biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. (*Gen. 2:18-24, Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4, Col 3:18-21*)

The Christian and the Social Order: As Christians we are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our lives and in society. Our obedience to God's Word teaches us to oppose all things that diminish our relationship with God and His created order. (i.e., racism, every form of greed, selfishness, vice, and all forms of sexual immorality.) We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring our workplace, community, government, and society under the influence of Biblical teaching (i.e., principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love.) Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. (*Ps. 101:5, Jer. 29:7, Micah 6:8, Matt. 22:36-40, Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor 5:9-10, Gal. 3:26-28, Philemon, James 1:27*)

Last Things: God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. (*Matt 25:41, Rev. 20, Rev. 21:11*)

ARTICLE IV

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion, we do now, with God as our witness and the Holy Spirit as our aid, most solemnly and joyfully enter a covenant with one another as one body in Christ. With full understanding that this covenant is a sincere binding of the many members to one body, the commitment by which the Church exists, every member accepts as follows:

- a. We covenant to **surrender** ourselves to the Word of God as the final say in all matters. *(2 Tim. 3:16-17)*
- b. We covenant to uphold the statement of faith, mission, vision, core values, and church government of Cornerstone Community Church.
- c. We covenant to live lives of repentance and continual trust in the gospel by the Spirit's power.
- d. We covenant to pursue a growing relationship with the Lord through regular Bible reading and prayer. *(Luke 18:1; 2 Tim 2:15)*
- e. We covenant to gather regularly on Sundays for corporate worship and to **surround** ourselves with our church family. *(Heb. 10:23-25)*
- f. We covenant to live our lives with gospel intentionality for the purpose of making disciples who are **sent** to make other disciples. *(Matthew 28:16-20)*
- g. We covenant to give of our finances, time, spiritual gifts, regularly to CCC as first priority, and to other gospel-centered Christian causes as the Lord has prospered us. *(1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Ephesians 5:15-18)*
- h. We covenant to **serve** our brothers and sisters in the Lord unconditionally, disciple one another, to help one another when in need, and to settle any conflicts with one another in a way that honors God. *(Matthew 18:15-17; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:32; Galatians 6:10)*
- i. We covenant that, if ever necessary, we will practice and submit ourselves to biblical church discipline. If we resign our membership in the middle of a church discipline case against us we will allow church discipline to be completed. *(Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5)*
- j. We covenant to follow our CCC Leaders as we hold each other accountable to follow Christ and the Bible. *(Heb.13:17)*
- k. We covenant to participate in regular members meetings regarding church policy, and actively participating in the decisions of our leaders. *(Acts 6:1-7)*

We covenant to be a member of only one local church at a time. If we are called to leave this church, under God's direction, we will unite with some other like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V

CHARACTER/POLITY

Cornerstone Community Church is associated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and related SBC entities for the purpose of fellowship, ministry, church-planting, and evangelism locally, regionally, and globally. The Southern Baptist Convention and its related entities have no authority over CCC. CCC is a self-governing local church that is Jesus Christ ruled, Shepherding Elder led, and Congregationally affirmed.

Jesus Christ Ruled

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. *“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior” (Ephesians 5:23)*. Therefore, Jesus rules the church and what He commands is what we are called to do. We know the commands of Jesus through what is taught in the Bible. There is no greater authority in the church than Jesus Christ. Our desire is to be under Jesus Christ’s Lordship and follow his plan for His church which is found in His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Shepherding Elder Led

Under the rule of Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd, we believe that God appoints under-shepherds to give spiritual oversight to the church. These under-shepherds are responsible and entrusted with teaching, protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the members of CCC. The under-shepherds of our church are men selected and affirmed by CCC members. We identify them as Shepherding Elders. The qualifications for an elder are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The witness of their life is confirmed to be consistent with these Biblical qualifications. We believe that no local church should be led by a single elder, rather a plurality of Elders. These men are called to shepherd the congregation and each other. Within the body of Elders, we believe there should be a Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor is no higher than the other Elders. He is accountable to them, as they are accountable to each other. He leads primarily in teaching, preaching, vision-casting, and overall spiritual guidance. Elders are servants who provide spiritual guidance. After a time of testing, Elders are selected by current Shepherding Elders and affirmed by the congregation.

Congregation Affirmed

The body of members make up Cornerstone Community Church. Members are people who have been saved by faith in Christ, baptized in obedience, and have covenanted together to make up Cornerstone Community Church. They are able to go to God on their own and have no need of any intercession besides Christ. The Bible clearly teaches that all Christians should be accountable to a local church under the leadership of qualified Elders who watch over their souls. *“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)* This does not mean that one follows blindly, but that one follows holding Shepherding Elders accountable to what Scripture teaches. The ultimate authority of the church is Jesus. All believers are able to go to Christ on their own without an earthly priest (*Heb. 4*). In Scripture, we see the congregation having an active role in affirming decisions that affect the church (*Matt. 18; Acts 6; 1 Cor. 5*). We believe that the congregation is the final earthly authority in the affairs of the church.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I | Membership

Section 1: General Procedure

The New Testament presents a picture of definable groups of people who, once surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, identify, and commit themselves to a particular local body of believers. (*Acts 2:42-46; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 11 Corinthians 8:1; Philippians 1:1; Acts 11:26*).

Membership is required for leadership and involvement in certain ministries. Membership may not be a requirement for participation and involvement in ministry at CCC. Ministries that require membership will be at the discernment of the Shepherding Elders.

The membership at CCC shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll. All actions regarding membership, either new-member admission or release of members in good standing, shall be recommended by Shepherding Elders.

Section 1.1: Admission by Baptism

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a changed life, understanding the Gospel, and having affirmed the Church Covenant, may be received into membership by baptism (by immersion) upon recommendation of the Shepherding Elders.

Section 1.2: Admission by Transfer

A member from another church, that practices like faith and order, may be received as a member upon acceptance of the CCC's Statement of Faith and Church Covenant. Prior to receiving these individuals into membership, the Elders will seek to obtain information about the standing of the individual in their previous church. If they have not been baptized by immersion, this will be a requirement for membership at Cornerstone Community Church.

Section 1.3: Admission by Restoration or Christian Experience

All applicants for membership, other than by baptism or by transfer, that is by Christian experience if previously baptized by immersion, or by restoration, will be received into the church in the same way as those by baptism, except the ordinance of Baptism shall not be administered. In the event membership is sought through a previous baptism other than immersion, reluctance to recognize membership may exist, and would be evaluated case-by-case by the Shepherding Elders. Additional discussion may be necessary, and recommendation of membership remains solely in the charge of The Shepherding Elders.

Section 2: Instruction to New Members

All persons uniting with Cornerstone Community Church shall embrace Article III [Statement of Faith] and Article IV [Church Covenant]. They will participate in a new members class and may need an interview with an Elder(s). New members will covenant with Body when they make public profession of faith and join the church.

Section 3: Transfer of Membership

Members in good standing who have fulfilled their obligations to CCC, or satisfactorily arranged the same with the Shepherding Elders, and who desire to unite with a like-minded church, shall receive a letter of character and be removed from the membership of CCC.

Members who move from this city shall supply the Church with their new address and apply for a letter of character within one year provided there be a church of the same faith and order in the place to which they move. If necessary, it shall be the duty of the Council of Elders to remind such member of their duties in this respect. In case there is no such church in the place, or there are circumstances which make it inadvisable to change membership, the member shall report to the Church as often as once a year at least, in person, by letter, or by contribution. All non-resident members who do not so report shall be subject to dismissal by the Church after appropriate efforts have been made to contact the member and remind them of their duties.

ARTICLE II

Discipline

Any member consistently neglectful of their responsibilities of membership or conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored shall be subject to the admonition of the Shepherding Elders and possible discipline of the Church. This shall be carried out in accordance with Matthew 18: 15–17 and by the example of Scripture. Church discipline should be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed. Church discipline can include admonition by a member or Church Leadership. Discipline may include suspension from communion for a period, removal from leadership, and excommunication (*see Matthew 18: 15–17; 2 Thessalonians 3: 14–15; 1 Timothy 5: 19– 20; 1 Corinthians 5: 4–5*).

The purpose of discipline should be:

- For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (*see Proverbs 15: 5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4: 14; Ephesians 6: 4; I Timothy 3: 4–5; Hebrews 12: 1–11; Psalm 119: 115; 141: 5; Proverbs 17: 10; 25: 12; 27: 5; Ecclesiastes 7: 5; Matthew 7: 26–27; 18: 15–17; Luke 17: 3; Acts 2: 40; I Corinthians 5: 5; Galatians 6: 1–5; II Thessalonians 3: 6, 14–15; I Timothy 1: 20; Titus 1: 13–14; James 1: 22*);



- For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see *Proverbs 13: 20; Romans 15: 14; I Corinthians 5: 11; 15: 33; Colossians 3: 16; I Thessalonians 5: 14 [note this is written to the whole church, not just to leaders]; I Timothy 5: 20; Titus 1: 11; Hebrews 10: 24– 25*);
- For the purity of the church as a whole (see *I Corinthians 5: 6–7; II Corinthians 13: 10; Ephesians 5: 27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21: 2*);
- For the good of our corporate witness to non–Christians (see *Proverbs 28: 7; Matthew 5: 13–16; John 13: 35; Acts 5: 1–14; Ephesians 5: 11; I Timothy 3: 7; II Peter 2: 2; I John 3: 10*);
- Ultimately for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see *Deuteronomy 5: 11; I Kings 11: 2; II Chronicles 19: 2; Ezra 6: 21; Nehemiah 9: 2; Isaiah 52: 11; Ezekiel 36: 20; Matthew 5: 16; John 15: 8; 18: 17, 25; Romans 2: 24; 15: 5–6; II Corinthians 6: 14–7: 1; Ephesians 1: 4; 5: 27; I Peter 2: 12*).

ARTICLE III

Leadership and Organization

Section 1: Leadership Authority

Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, CCC is the final authority in matters of leadership and organization. Through the authority granted to Church leadership, decisions may be presented to the church family at a properly called meeting, as provided in these By-Laws. Decisions of magnitude that obligate the Church (i.e., incurring debt, vacating property, or calling a Lead Pastor) will require a vote of the church body.

The Officers of the Church shall be Council of Elders (including Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor). The officers are to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the body to do the work of the ministry. (*Ephesians 4:12*). As God gives direction to the Officers of Cornerstone Community Church, the goal is to advance in selecting Deacons and other appropriate leadership to guide CCC.

Section 2: Dismissal of the Lead Pastor

If dismissal of the Lead Pastor is to be considered, a specific arbitration process shall be followed (outlined below in Article III, Sections 3&4). This process is designed to ensure a fair and impartial evaluation of the situation, by a panel comprised of both Cornerstone Shepherding Elders, and impartial External Representatives who meet the biblical standard of Elder.

Section 3: Arbitration Panel Composition:

The Arbitration Panel will be comprised of:

- Cornerstone Shepherding Elders
- Selected External Representatives who meet the biblical standard of elder, selected based on their experience and impartiality.
 - Until revision is necessary, the two External Representatives shall be Joel Carwile, and John Holloway.
 - External Representatives will be named and revised on a need basis and done so according to the willingness and availability of the named individuals above.

Section 4: Arbitration Process:

If the possibility of Lead Pastor dismissal arises, the Arbitration Panel will be convened promptly.

The process will consist of:

- A thorough review of all relevant information, including concerns, documentation, and any input from congregation members, staff, or stakeholders.
- All members of the Arbitration Panel will engage in a prayerful and deliberate evaluation of the situation.
- Lead Pastor Testimony given to the Arbitration Panel to present their perspective, provide any relevant information or facts, and address the concerns raised.
- Following the presentations and discussions, the Arbitration Panel will engage in a comprehensive evaluation and deliberation to determine the appropriate course of action.
- The External Representatives will make a formal, written, recommendation to the Shepherding Elders to offer wisdom in the decision that ultimately resides with the Shepherding Elders.
- Greater than a 2/3 majority decision of the Shepherding Elders will be required to make a final determination regarding the dismissal of the Lead Pastor.

Upon reaching a decision, whether affirming dismissal or refuting, communication will be provided to the Lead Pastor in writing, specifying the reasons for dismissal. If the result is dismissal, the burden of transparent communication to the congregation rests with The Shepherding Elders regardless of affirmation or denial by the External Representatives. This shall include, but not be limited to, the communication of pertinent details, sharing of the recommendation from the selected External Representatives, and the Lead Pastor's testimony.

In the event of a dismissal decision, dismissal process will be executed in accordance with applicable legal and Cornerstone policies & procedures. A plan for the interim pastoral leadership and pastoral transition will be established as needed.

This arbitration process ensures transparency, impartiality, and adherence to biblical standards when addressing the dismissal of the Senior Pastor. It is our commitment to seek God's guidance and wisdom in these critical matters, with the goal of preserving the spiritual health, and unity of the body.

ARTICLE IV

Church Government

The Officers of the Church shall be Council of Elders (including Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor). Officers shall be called to office by the affirmation or vote of the members of the Church as provided in Article III. The Officers of the Church shall be members in good and regular standing. The Council of Elders shall be composed of men who meet the Biblical qualifications of their office.

The Council of Elders has the authority to create committees and positions to which it may delegate specific responsibilities. They have authority to dissolve committees or positions as it deems appropriate for the mission of the church. The Council of Elders has the authority to select elders, deacons, and other members of the Church to serve on committees or teams. The Council of Elders will report these decisions to the church family in a timely manner.

An appropriate arrangement for appointment and rotation of members shall be provided to ensure membership representation, use of spiritual gifts, best function of ministry, and commitment to the mission and objectives of the church. The definition, responsibilities, and qualifications for vocational ministers will be outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual of the church or on specific job descriptions.

Section 1: Council of Elders

The Council of Elders is composed of men who have been affirmed by the church, whether active or inactive, as determined by the ministry needs of Cornerstone Community Church. Elders actively shepherding CCC shall be referred to as “Shepherding Elders”. The Council of Elders shall organize itself as it determines best to achieve the mission of the Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function. Meetings of the Elders may be held at any location and may be conducted by means of electronic communication. Unless the Council provides otherwise, meetings of the Council may be held immediately upon notice. A quorum for meetings of the Elders is defined as at least one-half of the Shepherding Elders.

Elders shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. (*1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4.*) The responsibility of an Elder is to devote themselves to prayer and the teaching of the Word. Elders are responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word tending the membership, and related spiritual matters. The responsibilities shall include:

- a. Examining prospective members and acquainting them with the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant;
- b. Overseeing the process of Church discipline,
- c. Examining prospective candidates for church officers,
- d. Providing a moderator for business meetings,
- e. Reporting and recording of Church business,
- f. Overseeing those serving as deacons and appointed church leaders;
- g. Overseeing worship and the ordinances of the church.



- h. Equipping the membership of the Church for the work of the ministry;
- i. Correcting error in doctrine and conduct;
- j. Guiding appropriate committees and members for mobilizing the Church for missions locally, regionally, globally.

Section 2: Deacons

At some future date, as God gives direction, it is the intent of Cornerstone Community Church Leadership to appoint Deacons to further serve and support the ministry needs of the church. The number of deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry. Deacons shall be appointed by the Council of Elders and affirmed by the church family. An appropriate arrangement for appointment and rotation of members shall be provided to ensure membership representation, use of spiritual gifts, best function of ministry, and commitment to the mission and objectives of the church.

Deacons shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. (*1 Timothy 3:8-12*). The deacon shall assist the Elders in any service that supports and promotes the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the church family. The Deacons will work alongside the Council of Elders to organize themselves in ways to best achieve their assigned mission of the church. Their responsibilities may include leading teams or committees that:

- a. Administer a fund to assist the poor and needy and otherwise providing aid in times of crisis or distress;
- b. Greet, welcome, protect the ministries of the church;
- c. Assist in administering the ordinances of the church.
- d. Assist at fellowship gatherings of the church.
- e. Care and maintain the Church properties;

Section 3: Clerk

At some future date, a Clerk may be appointed to record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render reports as requested by the Elders, Deacons, or Church Leadership. In the absence of the Clerk, the Elders may appoint a member to perform the duties of the Clerk.

Section 4: Future Positions

As other vocational staff and lay leadership positions are deemed appropriate, these will be appointed by the Shepherding Elders and the church family will be informed in a timely manner.

ARTICLE V

General Policies

Section 1: IN GENERAL

No method of raising funds shall be entertained conflicting with the scriptural guidelines. All funds donated for missions shall pass through the Church in order that due record may be made.

It is understood that members of Cornerstone Community Church participate in the support of financial obligations to support the Church's mission. Each member shall be encouraged in scriptural giving, with tithing as the ideal minimum. Special offerings may be sought by the Church only with the approval of the Council of Elders.

The financials of the Church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for carrying out of the various programs of its work. Annual budgets shall be affirmed by the Church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders.

The Council of Elders are the only officers who have authority to execute legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances. The Council of Elders will inform the church family when decisions such as this are made.

ARTICLE VI

The Church Property

In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy protect us, the property of this Church shall belong to the group of division representing the largest portion of the Church provided said group is loyal to CCC's Constitution, By-Laws, Statement of Faith, and Church Covenant. Otherwise, it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to these documents (though it may not be the largest group in said division.)

Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted for arbitration (i.e., Board of Missions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, or other like-minded SBC entity). Their decision shall be final.

Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason, the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to a like-minded organization (i.e., Kentucky Baptist Convention or its successor).

Should conditions arise where consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Council of Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation so far as the property of this Church is concerned. The church members will be informed and fully included in these decisions as determined appropriate by the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Corporate worship shall be held on the Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated at such times as the Shepherding Elders may determine. Other religious services may be scheduled as the ministries of the Church may require.

At minimum, an annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of calling and reaffirming the Officers, reviewing budgets, and other appropriate items of business. Officers called at this meeting shall assume their duties as affirmed by the church family.

A special meeting may be called by the Shepherding Elders. Notice of the meeting shall be given during a scheduled church meeting. The particular reason for such a meeting will be defined by The Shepherding Elders and will be clearly stated in the announcement. The business during the specially called meeting shall be limited to the subject at hand. Notice shall be given at least one week in advance for such meeting. Any number of members shall constitute a quorum at the specially called meeting. Reasonable efforts to promote and inform of such a meeting may be utilized.

The intent for church business meetings will be to follow the spirit of Robert's Rules of Order. This will give members appropriate information to make an informed decision. Appropriate questions may be received from the church family at all meetings. Seeking the Lord's wisdom and blessing through thankful prayer shall be a part of every meeting. Leadership shall have the authority to seek consultation from trusted outside sources for information and guidance.

Church members may submit any new business items to the Council of Elders for consideration at a properly called meeting. Items may be postponed or tabled by the Elders with due cause.

ARTICLE VIII

Organization of Members for Ministry

Members of this church shall have the liberty to participate in, and organize themselves for ministry, provided that such ministry does not conflict with principles outlined in this document supported by scriptural example. Such organization may seek church sanction from the Council of Elders as an official ministry of Cornerstone Community Church. Such sanction may be granted provided that:

- a. The object, purpose, belief, and conduct of the organization and its members is consistent with Article II of the Constitution, the church covenant, and statement of faith;
- b. The primary officers of the organization are members of the church, who have been approved under guidelines established by the Council of Elders. Sanction by the Council of Elders does not necessarily imply support of the organization by the church with personnel, finances, or facilities.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Amendments to these By-Laws, may be submitted to the Shepherding Elders in writing by any member in good standing for consideration. The Shepherding Elders will prayerfully consider the recommendations and determine what, if anything, is to be brought before the congregation for an affirmational vote. Amendments up for affirmational vote will be reserved for the annual business meeting, unless the Shepherding Elders determine a need to convene a special meeting (outlined in Article VII). Recommendation of amendment will be communicated to the church 30-days prior to the affirmational vote. Upon voting, a majority (51%) of present members in good standing is required for ratification.