



Our Constitution

As approved on February 22, 2026

Article I: Name and Incorporation:

The name of this organization shall be CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH. This church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, and its stated purpose is to provide a place of worship for its members, to receive and disburse gifts and bequests, and to do all things necessary or incidental to carrying on such purposes.

Article II: Purpose of Constitution:

1. To provide a legal framework for the existence and governance of Cornerstone Bible Church.
2. To provide a procedure for adding and removing members of the church
3. To provide a procedure for selection of Pastors/Elders.

Article III: Authority:

This church shall be subject to the direction of Jesus Christ as His will is expressed in the Bible. The Elders shall be the governing body of the church in seeking and interpreting the desire of the Lord for the congregation. The Elders shall be diligent in serving and communicating with the membership and shall be sensitive to the needs and desires of the church body as they align with the clear instruction of Scripture.

Article IV: Doctrinal Statement:

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in essence and having the same attributes, while distinct in personality and function. (Deuteronomy 6:4,5; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3)
2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments (66 books) to be the inspired Word of God, inerrant, infallible and complete in the original writings, and the supreme and final authority for faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

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3. We believe in Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (John 1:1,14; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Hebrews 1:2,3)
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. By His gracious working the believer is born again into God's Kingdom, indwelt, and empowered for holy living and fruitful service. He distributes gifts to build-up and equip the Church for ministry. (John 3:5; 16:8; Romans 8:9; Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-12; 5:18).
5. We believe that all human beings are created in God's image and designed to walk in fellowship with Him. Yet every person is a sinner by nature and by choice thereby incurring both physical and spiritual death. (Genesis 1:26,27; 3:1-6; Romans 5:12,19; 3:23; 6:23)
6. We believe that Jesus Christ died on the Cross as the perfect sacrifice for sins, taking our penalty upon Himself. Christ rose from the dead bodily and ascended into heaven where He now reigns as Lord and intercedes for His people. (Isaiah 53:4-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; Hebrews 10:10,25; Philippians 2:6-11; Romans 8:1)
7. We believe that a Christian is one who acknowledges and turns away from his/her sin, trusts Christ for forgiveness, and by faith receives Jesus as personal Savior and Lord. To know Christ in this way is to become God's child and have the assurance of eternal life. (Mark 1:14,15; John 1:12; 3:16; 1 John 1:9; 5:11,12)
8. We believe in the "blessed hope," which is the personal, visible, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:13; John 14:1-3; Matthew 24:30,44; Acts 1:11)
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the Christian and the non-Christian, the eternal conscious suffering of the lost in hell, and the eternal blessed fellowship of the saved in heaven. (I Corinthians 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Hebrews 9:27)
10. We believe that Satan is the primary enemy of God, His work, and His people. Nevertheless, the devil is a defeated foe destined for eternal destruction in the lake of fire. (Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, 1 Peter 5:8,9; James 4:7; Revelation 20:10)
11. We believe in the Church, the Body of Christ, whose mission is to make disciples of all nations, faithfully preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order that believers may have life in His name. Through the ministry of the local church God intends that every believer be strengthened in



the faith and equipped for works of service. (Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:11,12,16; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:47)

12. We believe that Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

13. We believe that God instituted marriage and ordained it to be between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:18–25; Ephesians 5:22–33).

Article V: Membership:

Section 1: Eligibility

Candidates who have (1) Made a credible confession of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have been baptized; (2) Accepted the Doctrinal Statement; (3) Agreed to abide by the Statement of Commitment; and (4) Agreed to abide by the constitution of this church, shall be nominated for membership by the elders. After completing the membership application and having attended the membership class, each person shall meet with at least two elders for the purpose of hearing their commitment to Christ. Upon approval of the elders, their candidacy for membership shall be communicated to the church two weeks before they are brought forward for membership. These two weeks are for congregational feedback concerning their acceptance into membership. Upon elder approval, based on the feedback, they shall be received into membership at any normal worship service.

Section 2: Responsibilities

Church members who are 18 years and older have voting privileges. Additional responsibilities of church members are summarized in the following Statement of Commitment:

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I do now in the presence of God and this church joyfully commit myself to one another in the Body of Christ. By the aid of the Holy Spirit, it is my desire . . .

- A. To seek the unity of the Spirit in all things by avoiding gossip and other sins of the tongue (Eph. 4:3);*
- B. To resolve conflict biblically according to Matthew 18:15–17;*
- C. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness (Eph. 4:32);*
- D. To encourage and pray with and for one another, sharing my burdens, sorrows, and joys; and bearing others burdens, sorrows, and joys (Rom. 12:15; Jas. 5:16);*
- E. To honor and pray for the church leadership God has established, and to share my praises and concerns with them (1 Thess. 5:12–13; Heb. 13:17);*

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- F. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer (1 Pet. 2:1–2; Matt. 6:9–15);*
- G. To use my spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (1 Pet. 4:10–11);*
- H. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church (2 Cor. 9:6–15);*
- I. To bring up my children, as may be entrusted in my care, in the way of the Lord (Eph. 6:2–4);*
- J. To not forsake the assembly of myself together with other believers at Cornerstone Bible Church (Heb. 10:24–25);*
- K. To endeavor by example and by prayer, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the unsaved (Acts 1:8);*
- L. To purpose that when I remove myself from this place, I will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where I can carry out the spirit of this Statement of Commitment and the principles of God's Word.*

Section 3: Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is to restore a member who errs to a Biblical standard of conduct and doctrine (Galatians 6:1); to maintain purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6); and to deter sin (1 Timothy 5:20). Any member of Cornerstone Bible Church who teaches or insists on holding false doctrine, and/or who persists in disturbing the unity or peace of the church shall be disciplined by the church accordingly. Scriptural guidelines establish sequential steps, which should be followed progressively until repentance and restoration occur (Matthew 18:15–18).

1. It is the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or sin to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his/her repentance and restoration (Matthew 18:15; Luke 17:3) and if he/she appropriately responds, forgiveness should be granted. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then . . .
2. The warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his/her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent (Matthew 18:16). If he/she appropriately responds, forgiveness should be granted. But if the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then . . .
3. It shall be brought to the attention of the Elders. If the Elders determines after thorough and prayerful investigation confirming the heresy or sin with the individual and the lack of appropriate repentance after confronted, the Elders shall inform the congregation of the church thereof at a regularly



scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance (Matthew 18:17). If he/she appropriately responds, forgiveness should be granted. But if the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then . . .

4. The Elders shall inform the congregation of the church at a regularly scheduled worship service that the erring member shall be dismissed from the church membership pursuant to the Scriptures and treated as an unbeliever (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:11–13).

The members of this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any court (1 Corinthians 6:1–8) because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third and fourth stages of church discipline. It is clearly understood that the discipline process will continue to conclusion even if the erring member leaves the church or otherwise seeks to withdraw from membership.

If the erring individual, after any such warnings or dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Elders, then he/she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership (2 Corinthians 2:5–11).

Section 4: Termination

Membership shall be terminated for any of the following reasons:

1. *By physical death.*
2. *By Request.* Based on a written request, the elders may remove a member in good standing from the membership of the church. Termination of their membership will be effective upon the formal written response by the elders. This method of termination shall not be used as a way to avoid corrective discipline of the church, which is outlined in Article V, Section 3.
3. *By Inactivity.* Termination by inactivity will be effective upon the completion of one year of non-attendance at the public meetings of the congregation. After six months of non-attendance, the individual may be placed on an inactive, non-voting membership list and will be notified of that action.
4. *By Dismissal.* As part of the final step of church discipline, the elders may remove a person from membership at any regular business meeting.



Article VI: Elders/Pastors:

The government of the church, the conduct of its business, the supervision of its general work, its organizations, and its spiritual life, shall, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, be vested in a plurality of elders.

The Bible uses three Greek words to describe the office of pastor/elder: *Poimen* (shepherd), *Presbuteros* (elder), and *Episkopos* (overseer/bishop). To maintain fidelity to the biblical text, we affirm that all elders are pastors and all pastors are elders. These terms are interchangeable biblically, and we will use “pastor” and “elder” to refer to the same office and role. The difference is not authority or importance, but vocation: some serve as staff pastors, devoted to full-time shepherding and supported financially (1 Timothy 5:17), while others serve as lay pastors, carrying the same shepherding responsibility while also working in a separate vocation. Together, they share the same accountability before the Lord for the souls entrusted to their care.

Section 1: Qualification

Elders shall be nominated from the church membership on the basis of calling, gifting, and spiritual qualifications as described in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9. They are to be godly men who adhere to the doctrinal statement of Cornerstone Bible Church and whose faith and ability to serve have been examined and approved by the church body, as further described in section 3.

Section 2: Official Duties

The duties of the elders shall be . . .

1. To teach and exhort in sound doctrine as well as to refute those who contradict the truth of God (Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28–31)
2. To be devoted to prayer (Acts 6:4)
3. To lead by Christ-like example (1 Timothy 4:6–16; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 5:3;
4. To shepherd the body of Christ at Cornerstone Bible Church (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1–3)

Section 3: Nominations, Elections, & Terms

Nominations for new elders may be submitted by church members to the elders at any time, or will be sought out by the current elders directly. All elder candidates will undergo a period of testing and training prior to being presented to the congregation. Unanimously approved nominations for elders will be submitted to the congregation two weeks before the business meeting at which the election is to be made. They will be elected to eldership by a two-thirds vote of the members at Cornerstone Bible Church present at any business meeting having a quorum. There will be no term stipulations for elders.



The pastor/elder:

1. Will be considered active as long as he feels he can fulfill the duties as described under Section 2.
2. Will be considered inactive if, at his own discretion or the advice of the other elders, he feels he cannot fulfill the duties described under section 2. The details of this in-active status will be worked out between the man and the rest of the elders.
3. Will not be subject to reaffirmation, and will continue to serve as an elder as he is able to do so.

A chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, and secretary of the Elders shall be elected by the elders at their first meeting after the annual meeting. The Elders shall consist of as many as are gifted and called by the Holy Spirit at Cornerstone Bible Church. Every effort should be made to have no less than three elders at any given point in time.

Section 4: Staff Pastors

We recognize that within the one biblical office of Elder (also called Pastor), some elders may be called to serve vocationally as Staff Pastors, being compensated in order to devote themselves to full-time shepherding and teaching (1 Timothy 5:17). Staff Pastors may serve full-time vocationally or bivocationally (part-time). From among the Staff Pastors, the Elders shall appoint one to serve as the Lead Pastor, who functions as the primary preaching and teaching pastor and provides day-to-day pastoral leadership, remaining accountable to the Elders.

The Lead Pastor shall have the responsibility and prerogative to lead the identification and recommendation of additional Staff Pastor needs. This includes proposing when an additional Staff Pastor position should be added, modified, or concluded, and presenting to the Elders a role proposal addressing ministry scope, priorities, expected time commitment, and resourcing. The Lead Pastor, or his delegate, shall ordinarily lead initial candidate identification and evaluation and bring a recommendation to the Elders. All Staff Pastor positions, role definitions, and compensation, and any recommendation to the congregation, remain subject to approval by the Elders in accordance with this Constitution.

When the Lead Pastor position is vacant, the Elders shall direct the process to pursue a suitable candidate and may serve as, or appoint, a search committee. A candidate must receive unanimous approval of the Elders before being recommended to the congregation. The Lead Pastor shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a duly called business meeting having a quorum.

Section 5: Other Pastoral Staff

We recognize within the elders, there will be those who serve as lay pastors. Lay pastors are elders/pastors who meet the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, but who are not compensated by the church for their pastoral service and remain supported through their outside employment. The difference between staff pastors and lay pastors is not authority or importance, but vocation, gifting, and time availability.



Lay pastors share the same accountability before the Lord and the same responsibility for the shepherding and care of the souls entrusted to the elders.

Lay pastors shall be nominated, examined, and approved in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 (Qualification) and Article VI, Section 3 (Nominations, Elections, & Terms). They shall be elected to eldership by a two-thirds vote of the members of Cornerstone Bible Church present at any business meeting having a quorum.

Section 6: Dismissal of Elders

Any elder may be removed from their position for any of the following reasons:

1. Resignation of their position as the Lord moves them to do so.
2. Disqualification because of sin. Any elder may be removed from office, based upon the decision by the other remaining elders, at any time, based upon moral, doctrinal, or other biblical disqualification (1 Timothy 3:1–6; Titus 1:7–9). The elders are subject to the same process of church discipline as described in Article 5, Section 3:
3. Failure to fulfill the biblical responsibilities of being an elder. After much prayer and discernment, an elder may be removed from office by the other remaining elders if they feel he is not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of being an elder.

Article VII: Deacons:

In agreement with the meaning of the word “deacon” (Greek: *diakonos*) and the enactment of the office in the New Testament churches, deacons are ordained servants of Christ, providing assistance to the Elders (Acts 6:1-6). The deacons discharge various responsibilities and contribute to ministries designed to provide care and bring unity among the body of believers, which allows the elders to focus on prayer, ministering of God’s Word, and governing the congregation.

Section 1: Qualifications

Deacons shall be selected from church members who: are godly men, agree with the doctrinal statement of Cornerstone Bible Church, have been members for a minimum of one year, and meet the criteria outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8–12.



Section 2: Official Duties

The duties of the deacons shall be any responsibilities delegated to them by the elders, that allow the elders to focus on their God-given calling of shepherding, teaching, and praying for the congregation of Cornerstone Bible Church (Acts 6:1-6). These duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Care for the widows, sick, elderly, or needy.
2. Care and distribution of benevolence funds.
3. Care for the church building and grounds.
4. Assist the elders with tasks as assigned.

Section 3: Nominations, Elections, & Terms

Nominations for new deacons may be submitted by church members to the elders no later than four weeks prior to the election of new deacons. The list of elder-approved nominations will be submitted to the congregation two weeks before the business meeting at which the election is to be held. They will be elected to the Deacons by a two-thirds vote of the members at Cornerstone Bible Church present at any business meeting having a quorum. There will be no term stipulations for deacons.

The deacon:

1. Will be considered active as long as he feels he can fulfill the duties as described under Section 2.
2. Will be considered inactive if, at his own discretion or the advice of the other deacons and elders, he feels he cannot fulfill the duties described under section 2. The details of this in-active status will be worked out between the man and the rest of the deacons, with oversight by the elders.
3. Will be reaffirmed every 4 years in his role as deacon by a two-thirds vote of the members of Cornerstone Bible Church present at any business meeting having a quorum.

A chairman of the Deacons shall be elected by the Deacons at their first meeting after the annual meeting.

Section 4: Dismissal of Deacons

Any deacon may be removed from their position for any of the following reasons:

1. Resignation of their position as the Lord moves them to do so.
2. Disqualification because of sin. Any deacon may be removed from office upon the decision by the elders (or recommendation of the remaining deacons, with approval by the elders) at any time, based



upon moral, doctrinal, or other biblical disqualification (1 Timothy 3:8-12). The deacons are subject to the same process of church discipline as described in Article 5, Section 3.

3. Failure to fulfill the biblical responsibilities of being a deacon. After much prayer and discernment, any Deacon may be removed from office by the elders (or recommendation of the remaining deacons, with approval by the elders) if they feel he is not capable of fulfilling the official duties of being a deacon.

Article VIII: Business Meetings:

Section 1: Types of Meetings

An annual business meeting must be called by the Elders in the first quarter of the fiscal year (January, February, or March). A notice of this meeting and agenda must be distributed by the Elders to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The chairman of the elders or his designee shall chair all business meetings.

Other meetings may be called at any time by the Elders at its own volition or at the written request of 25% of the membership. If elders are being elected, two weeks notice is required.

Section 2: Quorum

At any business meeting, a majority of elders must be present as well as 50% of the voting membership.

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution:

This Constitution, with the exception of the Doctrinal Statement, may be amended at a business meeting by a 2/3 vote of the total active membership. The Doctrinal Statement may be amended by an 80% vote of the total membership. Notice of the proposed amendment must be distributed by the Elders to all members at least 30 days prior to the business meeting.

Article X: Settlement of Disputes:

In any dispute arising between church members or leadership pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching, the shepherding of the church, and/or practices or policies related to its government, this dispute shall be resolved by the Elders or an independent Third Party committee selected solely for the purpose of resolving the dispute. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration of the concerns of the parties and issues involved, in a spirit of humility, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (I Corinthians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3).

In case of division of the church caused by conflict (from which we pray God by His mercy to preserve us), all property and assets of the church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution.



Article XI: Miscellaneous:

All matters not covered by this Constitution shall be the responsibility of the Elders.

Article XII: Dissolution:

The elders may upon prayerful consideration and a unanimous decision, dissolve the work of the ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church at any time deemed appropriate, sensible, and/or necessary.

Upon dissolution of this church organization, the elders shall cause the property and all assets herein to be sold, either through private or public sale. From the proceeds, firstly all current and long-term obligations of the church shall be paid. Secondly, all remaining funds shall be directed to such one or more Christian organizations, the benefit of the church's supported missionaries, and/or such other Christian endeavors as the elders shall determine.