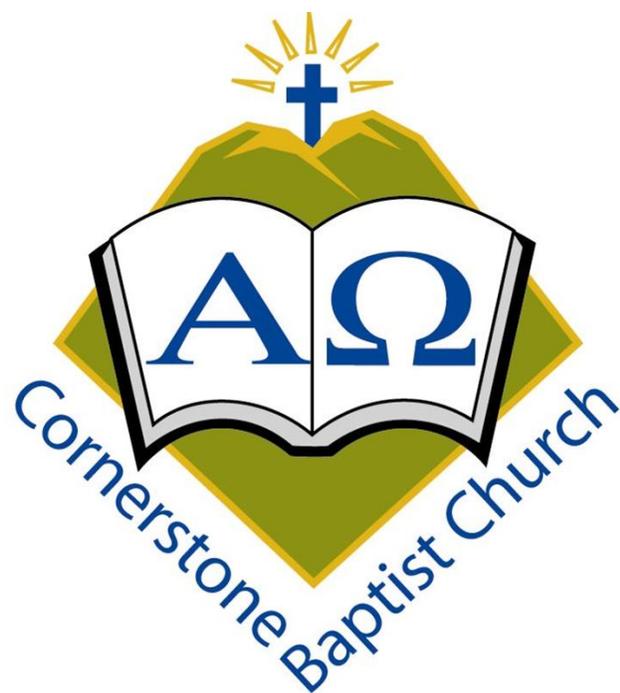


Statement of Beliefs and By-Laws



Article I- Membership Covenant

Section 1. Preamble: Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

Section 2. Purpose: This covenant describes the promise each member makes to God and their fellow believers that they will continue to grow spiritually and will use their gifts and abilities for evangelism and nurture.

Section 3. Promise: We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the commandments of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that if we remove from this Body by Sovereign direction, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Covenant Signature

_____/_____/_____
Covenant Date

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Article II- Statement of Beliefs

We offer the following affirmations as a means to guide prospective members in their covenanting decision.

Section 1. Our Mission

We see the definite need for a church in North-central Contra Costa County where people strongly emphasize evangelism and edification; who respond with dedication to Bible preaching, including Biblical separation.

Section 2. Our Beliefs

A. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a triune nature of equally divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and Sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

B. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is eternal God come in the flesh, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate. (Isaiah 53; John 3:16, 14:6; Romans 5:9-11; I Tim. 3:16)

C. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its sin through the Bible. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also seals, indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. (John 3:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12)

D. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired and preserved Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12)

E. Creation

The Genesis account of creation is to be literally and not allegorically or figuratively interpreted. Humanity was created directly in the image of God. This creation is composed of six literal twenty-four hour days, the Lord resting on the seventh. Creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change or kind of development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms. All animal and plant life was made directly, and that God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." (Gen. 1:1; Jn.1:3)

F. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In Adam's representative headship, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed. (Romans 3:23-24, 5:15-16, 6:23; II Cor.5:17)

G. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our new representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. We believe repentance and faith resulting in regeneration are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces worked in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We believe salvation is offered freely to all mankind, but only applied to those who believe. (John 1:12; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-9)

H. The Believer's Standing

We believe faith and repentance result in a position of imputed righteousness called justification. Every genuine believer is being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ in a growth process called progressive sanctification. The Bible lists a great chain of events in Romans 8:28-30 which result in the believer's ultimate glorification and eternal security. (Titus 3:5-8; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:25-27)

I. The Church

Our church verse: I Peter 2:6 "Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief CORNERSTONE, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.""

1. We believe that the true church began at Pentecost and comprises all who have ever been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest throughout the world in local churches, whose membership must be composed only of saved, baptized believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances

confirm and nourish the believer. God has also ordained and provided two offices for the local church: pastors (pastors/elders/bishops) and deacons.

2. We believe loving fellowship between Churches and among believers is commanded, but that it is the result of a common faith and practice. As a matter of holiness and Gospel preservation we will advance the fundamentals of The Faith and a separatist position toward those who do not hold to the fundamentals. We believe that there are three aspects of this Biblical separation:
 - a. Personal separation is the separation of the believer from the world and unto God in order to glorify Him. (Joshua 24:15; Ephesians 5:15-18; I John 2:15-17)
 - b. Ecclesiastical separation is the separation of the church from doctrinal error.
 1. We believe the local church should have no cooperation with or be in fellowship with churches, religious leaders, or religious institutions, which do not adhere to the fundamentals of the faith. (II Corinthians 6:14-17; Titus 3:10; II John 10-11; I John 4:1; Jude 3-4)
 2. We believe loyalty to Christ demands separation from gospel believing individuals, groups, or churches, who after admonishment are content to walk with churches, religious leaders, or religious institutions that practice gospel perversion and confusion. (Galatians 2:5,11-16; II Timothy 4:2-4; Jude; Rev. 2:14-16, 20)
 - c. Brotherly separation is the separation of the believer from a sinning brother. We believe that we must separate from those who continue in disobedience to the Word of God. This includes the trouble maker, the disorderly, and the immoral brother. (Matthew 18:15-20; II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:11)

J. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. "The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (worldliness), we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor, and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all peoples, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed. (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:10; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Matthew 5:13-16)

K. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily, pre-tribulational, and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, a time known only to God the Father, demands constant

expectancy and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission. (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 19:11-16)

L. Individual Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving by faith the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. (Matthew 24:1-31; Acts 20:21; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:22)

M. Marriage

Since Biblical marriage is under attack in our generation we have enlarged this section for clarification. We believe marriage has been instituted by God and continues today as instituted by God. This church, therefore, affirms marriage is to be the exclusive lifetime covenantal union of one man and one woman as portrayed in the Genesis 2 account, and reaffirmed by our Lord in Matthew's Gospel (19:4-6). Marriage is defined by God as between a person born male and a person born female (the only gender identities God created.) Since Marriage was created by God before the institution of human government, a civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with this Biblical definition.

We encourage reconciliation as the goal in the middle of marital difficulty for all our members. Therefore we require exemplary family living of our pastor(s) and deacons, and furthermore will only consider a man for these positions who has never divorced.
(Genesis 2:22-25; Matthew 19:4; Ephesians 5:31; Hebrews 13:4; I Timothy 3:1-8)

1. Human Sexuality

a. Sexual relations do not alone constitute a genuine marriage (John 4:17-18) due to the fact that sexual activity and relations outside the marriage bond are always considered to be sinful. (Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:9)

b. All other forms of sexual activity outside of monogamous, heterosexual marriage are forbidden in Scripture, including fornication ("any sexual activity outside of marriage" 1 Cor. 7:2; 1 Thess. 4:3), adultery ("with someone other than one's own spouse" Exod. 20:14; Matt. 5:28), homosexuality ("any same-sex sexual activity" Gen. 19:5-7; Lev. 18:22; Rom. 1:27; 1 Cor. 6:9; 1 Tim. 1:10; Jude 7), incest ("sexual activity with family members or relatives" Lev. 20:11-21; 1 Cor. 5:1), obscenity (Eph. 5:3-4), pornography (Matt. 5:28; Mark 7:21-22; 1 Thess. 4:5; Rev. 18:9), prostitution (Prov. 5:1-23; 7:4-27; 1 Cor. 6:15-18), transvestitism (Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 11:4-15), criminal sexual behavior (rape, molestation, pedophilia, bestiality, necrophilia, pederasty, etc., Rom 13:1-6; Lev 18-22), and impurity ("moral filth in one's heart and thoughts." (James 1:21; Rev 22:11; Rom 1:24; 2 Pet 2:10)

2. God's Will for Sinners:

a. It is the clear will of God for all human beings made in the image of God to abstain from immorality. This is especially true for professing believers in Christ (1 Thess. 4:1-8). His image-bearers must abstain from immorality and refrain from approving immoral behavior (Rom. 1:31-32). The practice or approval of these sins is inconsistent with a sincere and genuine profession of faith. (Eph. 5:3-5; cf. Gal. 5:19-21 and 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

b. Thankfully, God in His grace offers His gospel to all sinners. All human beings are sinners (Rom. 3:23). Though sexual sin carries severe consequences in this life and eternal judgment in the life to come, all sin, including sexual sin, can be forgiven via the grace of God available on account of Christ's infinite atonement for sin applied to those who repent and trust in Jesus Christ alone for their eternal salvation. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Acts 17:30; 1 John 1:9; Rom. 6:1-7)

c. Because of human depravity, it is possible for anyone to commit any sin at any time. Therefore, we should humbly take every opportunity to help others by introducing them to Jesus Christ. In addition, we must help any professing Christian who is battling with sexual sin. We do so by accurately calling sin what it is and by encouraging genuine repentance in order to restore fellowship with Christ and the joy of salvation. (Ps. 51)

N. Abortion

We believe human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Therefore we believe eugenic (elective) abortion to be murder. We also believe that God graciously forgives sin, and that believers are to not to judge the one whom God has forgiven.

We believe the individual Christian, our church, and all Bible-believing churches should be a voice of justice, and an agent of compassion for the unborn in our society.

(Ex. 21:22-25; Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5, 139:14-16; Pr.31:8-9; Is. 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44; Eph. 5:25-32)

O. Civil Government

We believe civil government is bestowed authority by God for the protection of human life, and for the welfare of society. Individual believers are to be subject to, to pray for, remit taxes, and honor authority as the ministers of God. We encourage responsible stewardship of political freedoms to glorify Christ and influence society. The believer and the Church may disobey civil governing authorities only when government is directly opposed to the stated will of God in Scripture (i.e. restricting Gospel proclamation, teaching on marriage, or human sexuality). We are willing to suffer the civil consequences for such disobedience.

We believe that the separation of Church and State means that each renders service to God in different spheres, and for different purposes. Neither is to dictate to the other, nor are they to

form a union. We do not believe that separation of Church and State forbids their mutual interaction and/ or recognition.

We believe members of Cornerstone Baptist are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against one another or the Church in order to resolve disputes. This church will cooperate with governing authorities in mandatory reporting issues that are criminal in nature.

(Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:18-20; I Corinthians 6:1-8)

Article III- Extent of these Statements

This Statement of Faith is neither a substitute for, nor a supplement to, the Word of God. It is simply a review of doctrines applied to practical matters concerning the Cornerstone Baptist Church. We offer these professions as contemporary communication and accurate representations of our teachings which aid in church life, unity, and polity. The Word of God shall be the first and final authority on all fellowship matters, and any issue wherein this Statement of Faith is silent shall be governed, just as this document is, by the Bible.

Governing By-Laws

We present the following By-Laws to covenanting members as a means of being fervent in business, and providing all things honest in the sight of men.

Article One: Designation.

Section One: Independent Association.

This association shall be a free and independent body corporate known as a church, which is supreme in the control of its own affairs, doctrines, property, associations, and action without supervision or direction by any other association, group, or body. It shall never be a part of any convention or group where the church surrenders its autonomy. It shall be organized, associated, and formed in accordance with the incorporations code of the State of California.

Section Two: Name.

The legal name of this church shall be "*The Cornerstone Baptist Church of Concord/ Walnut Creek.*" The common name is Cornerstone Baptist Church. The word "Baptist" is unamendable in the title.

Section Three: Powers.

The church as a corporate body shall have full power of and in itself under the law to own property, real and personal, corporeal, and incorporeal, for its own use and benefit in the accomplishment of the uses and purposes as declared and set forth in these Governing By-Laws and Statement of Faith.

Section Four: Purposes.

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes as the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, buildings, churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries.

The church may also ordain, and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of The Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday school of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and in any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

Article Two: Government.

The government of the church shall be rested solely in the voting members.

Article Three: The Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the church shall be from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December.

Article Four: Meetings.**Section One: Annual Meeting.**

The annual meeting shall be held within the first three months of the calendar year to set the agenda for the coming year. Notice of the annual meeting will be given two weeks preceding the date of such meeting. A quorum for business meetings shall consist of the members present.

Section Two: Quarterly Meeting.

A quarterly meeting may be held for the purpose of conducting any necessary business. A quorum for the quarterly business meeting shall consist of the members present. Notice of the quarterly meeting will be given two weeks preceding the date of such meeting.

Section Three: Special Business Meetings.

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor, or jointly by the deacons or by written request by fifty-one percent of the voting members. Notice of such meeting must be given two weeks preceding the day appointed, and the nature of the meeting stated in the notice. Only business for which the meeting was called may be in order at that meeting.

Section Four: Moderator.

The Pastor of the church shall be the moderator of all church meetings, or appoint a Moderator, excepting a matter of discipline concerning him. In the case where the Pastor cannot be present, he will appoint an associate pastor, or a deacon to act as moderator, or appoint a moderator from the membership if no associate or deacon is available. The deacons shall appoint a Moderator from the associate pastors first, or the body deacons if the church is without pastoral leadership.

Section Five: Voting.

The vote of the church may be by a show of hands, secret ballot, or by a simple voice vote. Voting members shall be at least eighteen years of age. The vote of fifty-one percent of members present (unless otherwise stated herein) determines outcome. A voice vote that is unclear will be changed to a showing of hands or a ballot vote. A member who is eligible to vote on matters of the church shall be in good standing (not under discipline).

Section Six: Elections.

Elections shall be held each church year at the annual meeting.

Article Five: Worship Services.

Meetings for spiritual worship shall be maintained on Sunday, and at such other times as the church, under the direction of the Holy Spirit deems best.

Article Six: Covenanting Membership.

Section One: Requirements.

- (A.)** Belief in Jesus Christ as personal Savior through grace alone, and faith alone.
- (B.)** Believer's baptism by immersion. Immediately following baptism individuals shall be presented to the church as a covenanting member.
- (C.)** Agreement with Statement of Faith and By-Laws.
- (D.)** Restoration and reinstatement when necessary.
- (E.)** Letter of recommendation and Transfer, subject to previous requirements.

Section Two: Reception.

Admission to the covenanting body will be to those who:

- (A.)** Meet the requirements above.
- (B.)** The Pastor or a deacon shall meet with each believer interested in covenanting to explain the purpose of the church, receive a testimony of personal faith and baptism by immersion, and confirm agreement with the Statement of Faith and By-Laws.
- (C.)** Based upon Pastoral or deacon recommendation, a simple voice vote of covenanting members will be required for acceptance. For the purpose of receiving members the church is considered in business session each time the Church meets.

Section Three: Expectations.

- (A.)** Actively contribute to the growth of the church by fulfilling the purpose statement. Every member is expected to be a minister.
- (B.)** Support the church in prayer, finances, talents and witness.
- (C.)** Lead a holy, separated life based upon principles of grace in the New Testament.

Section Four: Termination.

(A.) Voluntary.

- (1.) By written request.
- (2.) By written request of a local church of like faith for the purpose of uniting with that body.

(B.) Involuntary.

- (1.) This church practices the Biblical procedure of discipline whereby an erring believer can be removed from the covenant body. The church shall have the right to dismiss covenanting individuals for cause, any member who remains unrepentant of sin as defined in the Bible.
- (2.) By absenting himself from the services of the church for six months without reasonable cause.

Section Five: Discipline.

Discipline is carried forth with the goals of church purity and the restoration of the erring believer. Believers are to follow the four steps as given by our Lord in Matthew 18:15-20. The Pastor and deacons shall hear a matter of discipline at the third step, as the discipline committee, before any matter is brought before the church for a hearing.

Section Six: Blessings of Covenanting.

- (A.) Provides identification as a genuine believer.
- (B.) Provides a spiritual family of support and encouragement.
- (C.) Provides a place to discover and express spiritual gifts.
- (D.) Provides spiritual protection through godly leaders.
- (E.) Encourages accountability which is needed to grow.

Article Seven: Church Officers. We believe the Scripture teaches that there are two offices of the local church: pastor (also called "elder" and "bishop") and deacon. The pastors have the spiritual authority and responsibility of the church and shall establish the policies of the corporation. The deacons are ministering servants under the authority of the pastors.

Section One: Designation of Corporate Officers.

(A). Appointment: As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Pastor shall serve as President of the corporation. The Pastor shall appoint additional corporate officers from associate pastors, the body of deacons, or spiritually mature members. An associate pastor or deacon shall serve as the President in the vacancy of the pastorate; the Church Records Steward shall serve as Secretary of the corporation; the Church Business Steward shall serve as Treasurer of the corporation. The Corporate Officers shall constitute the

trustees of the corporation. At the present time the Church as a corporation files with the Secretary of State bi-annually. It shall be the duties of the corporate officers to keep our Corporation status current. Only these individuals may legally bind the corporation. No one individual may hold more than one position in the Corporation.

(B). Powers: Corporate officers shall exercise only the following specific powers, upon expressed approval by the Pastor and upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called business meeting:

1. To purchase, hold, lease or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church; to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.

Section Two: Pastors.

(A.) Their *qualifications* shall reflect the requirements as stated in I Tim. 3:1-6 and Titus 1:5-9. While the Bible does not command a plurality of elders for the local church, it is permissible and advisable for the leadership of a local church to be provided by more than one elder (pastor) as it grows. There shall be a senior pastor and, as necessary, other pastors.

(B.) Selection of the Senior Pastor:

In the vacancy of the senior pastorate, a pulpit committee consisting of any existing associate pastors, and deacons shall be formed. This committee may also appoint spiritual members they believe will help the committee. The committee shall secure the names of potential candidates. They shall interview and invite a candidate to meet with the church. Upon a final recommendation of the committee, a three-fourths majority vote of members present shall be necessary to extend a call. The church may only consider one candidate at a time. The deacons shall determine, with all due consideration for his private affairs, a reasonable rate of compensation and benefits for the senior pastor.

(C.) Duties of the Senior Pastor:

(1.) It will be the duty of the Pastor to equip the people to be able ministers of the Word of God (Eph. 4:11-12).

(2.) Upon assuming his duties as Pastor, the Pastor shall become an ex-officio member of the church and member of all boards and committees. In addition, he shall become the President of the Corporation upon assuming his duties.

(3.) It shall be the duty of the Pastor to devote himself and his time to the service of the Lord

through the study of God's Word, prayer, and the proclamation of the Gospel. He shall administer the ordinances, act as moderator of all church meetings, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership. He shall have complete and unrestricted liberty, under God, in presenting any matter he deems necessary to the church, which he believes is directly affecting the spiritual program of the church.

(4.) All pastoral assistants, corporate officers, and church staff whether paid or volunteer are hired or appointed by the Pastor and may be dismissed by the Pastor. Pastoral assistants (and their family members who meet membership requirements) upon assuming their duties as a pastor shall become an ex-officio member of the church.

The senior pastor shall have the authority to establish a schedule of compensation for all other pastors or employees.

(D.) Dismissal from Office:

The church retains the right to dismiss its pastor(s) at any time for cause. The deacons, or a petition presented to the deacons signed by fifty-one percent of the membership, must bring the matter of dismissal before the church at a special business meeting called two weeks in advance. The recommendation and statement of charges will be read to the church. In cases of verifiable immoral conduct, the deacons may suspend a pastor immediately according to their discretion, pending further action by the church. The vote to dismiss will be by secret ballot and requires only a simple majority of members present. The dismissal, if so voted, will be effective immediately, with due consideration to severance.

Section Three: Deacons.

(A.) Their qualifications are those given in Acts 6:1-6 and I Tim. 3:8-13.

(B.) Election of Deacons: Deacons will be elected at the annual business meeting and will serve a three year term. Terms will be arranged to end alternately, so that at no time will the office of deacon be retired.

(C.) Nomination of Deacons: Church members may submit nominations in writing to the nominating committee six weeks before the election.

(D.) Duties: Deacons are elected because they have exemplified servant leadership. The deacons shall assist and advise the Pastor in the spiritual and material ministries of the church, and are responsible to establish and evaluate the senior pastor's salary in line with practices of like-minded churches. The pastor and deacons shall meet regularly. They are to serve, witness, preach, and contend for the faith as demonstrated in Acts 4-8.

(E.) Incomplete Term of Office: Should a deacon vacate his office before the term is completed, the Pastor and deacons, at their discretion may appoint a qualified member to fill the office for the remainder of the term. Should the Pastor and deacons not appoint any member, the office shall remain vacant until the next election.

Section Four: Church Business Steward.

(A.) The Church Business Steward shall see that all monies are handled properly. The Business Steward may designate responsibilities to persons approved by the Pastor.

(B.) The Church Business Steward shall be appointed by the Pastor bi-annually from either associate pastors, the body of deacons, or spiritual members from the membership.

(C.) The Business Steward shall be appointed by the pastor as the Treasurer of the Corporation, and a member of the body of Trustees.

(D.) The Church Business Steward shall be responsible to present a yearly budget to the Pastor and the finance committee which the pastor appoints. The pastor and finance committee will approve a budget for adoption by the congregation at the annual business meeting.

Section Five: The Church Records Steward.

(A.) The Church Records Steward shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings, draw up all church documents and statistical reports, maintain all pertinent insurance records, keep an accurate record of the church membership, reporting annually on the same, and maintain an up-to-date directory.

(B.) The Church Records Steward shall be appointed by the Pastor bi-annually from either associate pastors, the body of deacons, or spiritual members of the membership.

(C.) The Church Records Steward shall be appointed by the pastor as the Secretary of the Corporation, and a member of the body of Trustees.

Section Six: Other Appointments.

Other officers may be appointed by the pastor for a defined and temporary task; when that task is complete, the office, committee or other such body is disbanded.

Article Eight: Committees.

Section One: Nominating Committee.

(A.) This committee shall consist of the Pastors and deacons. The purpose of this committee is to nominate qualified and willing men to the body of deacons.

(B.) The committee shall draft a list of nominees originating from the congregation for the office of deacon. Church members wishing to submit nominations shall give their suggestions in writing to the nominating committee six weeks before the election to enable the nominating committee to ascertain nominees Biblical qualifications. Before presenting the nominations, the committee shall approach each nominee and secure their consent to serve in harmony with the Pastor, deacons, and the beliefs and by-laws of this church. A list of prospective deacons shall be presented to the members of the church two weeks before the election for prayer and consideration. Nominations may not be made from the floor during a business meeting.

Section Two: Other Committees.

The Pastor may temporarily appoint other committees from time to time as he may find necessary.

Article Nine: Finances.**Section One: Source.**

This church recognizes two primary methods of raising money for church work, namely, tithes and offerings. Investment income may be earned from the tithes and offerings.

Section Two: Control.

The funds shall be maintained by the Church Business Steward according to a prescribed budget as mentioned below. Reports may be both posted and read at business meetings.

Section Three: Special Expenditure.

A two-thirds majority will be required on any item of business involving an expenditure amounting to over one-half of the annual income of the church, determined from the previous fiscal year.

Section Four: Budget Guidelines.

The senior pastor and deacons shall constitute the finance committee, and draft a budget and present it to the congregation for approval in total. Ministries requesting inclusion in the budget should submit suggestions concerning ministry needs six weeks before the annual business meeting; no new budget items for inclusion may be brought up on the floor. The budget shall serve as a general plan in the expenditure of funds.

Section Five: Designated Contributions.

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish designated categories in the budget to accomplish specific goals. Designated contributions are advisory and not mandatory in nature. No fiduciary obligation is created by designated contributions made to the Church.

Article Ten: Emergency Procedures.

In the event of natural disaster or political upheaval, this church shall continue to fulfill its Biblical responsibilities. If it is impossible to meet at stated times due to conditions, the Pastor shall call meetings at the most feasible times. Notice of such meetings shall be furnished to all members possible in the best manner possible. A quorum for business meetings shall consist of those members present. Multiple meetings may be held if necessary, each under the direction of the Pastor or a member appointed by the Pastor. Proof of a member betraying Christ or the Church (even if the civil penalty be severe) is adequate grounds for exclusion from the membership (Acts 5:29).

Article Eleven: Tax-Exempt Provisions.

Section one: Private Inurement.

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inured to the private benefit of, or be distributed to its members, ministers, directors, officers, or any private persons, except for authorized payments for services rendered.

Section Two: Political Involvement.

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be an attempt to influence legislation or campaign in behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section Three: Dissolution.

Upon dissolution of the church, the remaining leadership, or members shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all assets of the church into one or more organizations whose doctrinal position is in agreement with our Statement of Faith, and who is recognized as a not for profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

Article Twelve: Revision and Amendments.

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a three-fourths majority vote of the members present and voting, cast in regular session. **One month** prior to the vote, notice shall be posted in writing and publicly announced; written copies will be made available.

Adoption:

This Constitution and Bylaws was adopted by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the church. This Constitution and By-laws supersede any other Constitution and Bylaws of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Statement of Beliefs Adoption: 3/16/14

By-Laws Adoption: 4/19/15

Church Records Steward: Tony Perez