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Constitution

Revised April 24, 2024

Preamble

We, the members of Central Baptist Church, in orderly manner, do hereby establish the following principles by which we mutually agree to be governed in the affairs of the church.

Article I: Name

This church shall be known as the Central Baptist Church of Henderson, North Carolina.

Article II: Purpose

This church shall have as its purpose the aim of making disciples who make disciples all to the glory of God along with such other purposes as are specified in the Holy Bible for a New Testament Church.

Article III: Statement of Faith

This church holds the following Statement of Faith as being a summary of Christian doctrine whose authority consists only in its agreement with the Word of God.

A. The Bible

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It is inerrant and infallible in its original manuscript which is to be taken as verbally inspired. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions would be tried. We deny that other books are inspired by God in the same way as the Bible. **(Ps. 19:7-10; Mt. 5:17-18; Acts 17:11; Rom. 16:25-26; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21)**

B. God: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit

We believe in the one true and living God, the sovereign creator and sustainer of all things. He is infinite, eternal, perfect in all of His attributes and unchangeable. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

The Father is the head of the Godhead, and into His hands the kingdom shall be delivered. The Son is the Promised Messiah of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, hence the God-Man. He lived a sinless life. He died on the cross to redeem man, physically rose again from the dead to justify the believer, ascended to the right hand of God where He intercedes for us, and in the Father's own time will return in visible, personal form to overthrow sin and judge the world. The Holy Spirit is the one sent from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment, to regenerate and cleanse from sin. He is the resident guide, teacher, and strengthener of the believer. **(Gen. 1:1-2; Ex. 3:14; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 19:1-3, 51:11; Mark 1:9-11; John 1:1-18, 29, 4:24, 14:6-13; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; Rev. 5:9-14)**

C. Satan and Sinful Man

We believe that man was created innocent, that he was tempted by Satan and sinned; because of this men have been born in sin since that time and are by nature the children of wrath. We believe that Satan is a personal devil who with his angels carries on the work of iniquity and the end of sin is eternal separation from God. **(Gen. 1:26-30, 3:1-24; Ps. 51:5; Job 1:6-7; Rom. 3:10-18, 23, 5:6-12; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 20:10, 15)**

D. Salvation

We believe that salvation is wholly of God, and by His grace. It is not based on human merit or works. It involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.
2. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.
3. Sanctification is 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 perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
4. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

We believe that true salvation can never be lost. It is complete at the moment of conversion, thus requiring no additional experience such as the blessing or a subsequent baptism with the Holy Spirit. The evidence of salvation is progressively revealed by the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit and in holiness of life and obedience to our Lord, for which a continual filling with the Holy Spirit is necessary. **(Gen. 3:15; Mt. 1:21, 4:17; John 3:3-21, 5:24, 10:28-29; Acts 2:21, 4:12; Rom. 1:16-18, 3:23-25, 5:8-10, 6:1-23, 8:1-18, 29-39, 10:9-13; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 1:9-22; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:14; Titus 2:11-14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11, 4:13)**

E. Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the final bodily resurrection of all men, just and unjust. Accordingly, we believe that the bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him, the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. We believe that those who commit their lives to Jesus

Christ during this life will be raised to everlasting life, but those who are not committed to Jesus Christ in this life will be raised to everlasting condemnation. **(Ps. 103:14; Ecc. 3:20; Mt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; John 5:25-29; Rom. 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 15:1-58; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 3:10-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)**

F. The Church and Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord commissions the church to give the Gospel to the world, and that Christ is supreme Head of the Church.

We believe that a New Testament church is a voluntary, autonomous association of baptized believers in Christ who covenant together to follow the teachings of Scripture in doctrine, worship, and practice.

We believe that a church is a congregational organization served by two offices, pastors and deacons, and that the Bible teaches that only men are to be ordained into these offices.

We believe the only two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. We likewise believe that only those who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord are Scriptural subjects for baptism and that immersion is the only proper mode of baptism. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial to the Lord's death. The bread symbolizes His body which was given for us. The fruit of the vine symbolizes His blood which was shed for us. **(Mt. 3:13-17, 16:15-19, 26:26-30, 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11, 14:2-26; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42, 47, 6:3-6, 13:1-3, 20:28; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)**

G. Stewardship

We believe that God is the source of all blessing, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

We believe that God's method of financing the purpose, mission, ministry, and activities of the church is by the tithes and offerings of His people. The tithe is to be given to the Lord through His church or storehouse to be distributed as directed by the leadership of the Spirit as the need arises.

We believe that tithing was instituted before the law was ever given and was practiced by the early church. **(Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Malachi 3:8-12; Mt. 6:1-4, 19-21; Luke 12:16-21; Acts 2:44-47, 17:24-25, 20:35; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:1-2, 6:19-20, 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15; Phil. 4:10-19)**

H. Baptist Distinctives and Cooperation

We are Baptists because we believe that Baptists stand for distinctive truths to which other denominations do not adhere. We believe that these truths are contained in the Southern Baptist Faith and Message of 2000. We believe that we cannot compromise these truths without being disloyal to our Lord and to His Word. We do seek to cooperate with all others who are

committed to Jesus Christ as Lord. **(1 Cor. 1:10-17, 3:5-15; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18; 2 Tim. 2:15)**

I. Civil Government

We believe that God established civil government. We likewise believe in the complete separation of church and state. **(Mt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-5)**

J. Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning: marriage is sanctioned by God and joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography and/or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all person employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this statement on marriage and sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are neither in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church. **(Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Mt. 19:4-6; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-20, 7:1-16; Eph.5:21-33)**

K. Conflict Resolution and Church Discipline

We believe that the Lord calls us to live peaceably with others, seeking to resolve conflict as soon as possible. We believe Scripture encourages discipline of believers involved in persistent, unrepentant sin for the purpose of restoring them to a right relationship with God and fellowship with the church. When discipline is enacted, it should be carried out with an attitude of love, humility, and commitment to biblical process as defined in Scripture. **(Matthew 5:22-24, 18:15-18; Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14; 1Timothy 5:19-21)**

Article IV: Membership Covenant

This church holds the following membership covenant as an expression and summary of our commitments to God and each other of how we should live because of what Jesus has done for us.

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to repentance and faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, and having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we enter into this covenant with one another, striving by God's grace, to pursue the following commitments and extending forgiveness to each other when we fail. With the help of the Savior, we make these commitments solemnly and joyfully because of what He has done for us:

We will endeavor to make disciples- sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and the nations and seeking to bring up those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord as they grow as disciples. **(Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:1-6; Deut. 6:4-7)**

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with one another refusing to gossip or grumble. **(Eph. 4:1-3, 29; Phil. 2:12-16; James 5:9)**

We will walk together in Christian love, exercising and growing in affectionate care for and watchfulness over one another; praying for one another; rejoicing with one another; carrying the burdens and sorrows of one another; faithfully encouraging, warning, rebuking, and admonishing one another as occasion may require; being slow to take offense; and being ready always for reconciliation, and mindful of the command of our Savior to seek it without delay. **(Mt. 18:15-20; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:15; Gal. 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 9-13; Heb. 3:12-14; James 2:14-17)**

We will seek to maintain personal and family Bible study and prayer, while not forsaking the corporate gathering together of ourselves for continued worship, spiritual growth, and building one another up. **(Joshua 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 10:23-25)**

We will seek, by God's grace, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly passions, and remembering that, as we have been buried with Him in baptism and raised again to newness of life, so we now have a special obligation to lead a new and holy life. **(Rom. 6:1-6; Eph. 5:15-21; 2 Cor. 5:17; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:14-16, 2:11-12)**

We will give regularly and cheerfully of our tithes and offerings to the support of the ministry of this church and the spread of the Gospel to our community and the nations and will in service give of our time and abilities. **(1 Cor. 14:12; 2 Cor. 9:7; Gal. 6:10)**

We will work and pray for our growth in obedience, knowledge, spirituality, and fruitfulness; will uphold the preaching and teaching of the Bible as our authority; will celebrate the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and affirm our statement of faith. **(1 Cor. 11:26, 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 4:2)**

We will, when moving from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out these principles of God's Word. **(Heb. 10:23-25)**

Now to Him who is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forevermore. Amen. **(Jude 24-25)**

Article V: Church Membership

We welcome anyone who genuinely seeks the knowledge of the Lord and who desires to worship Him and serve Him as they work in harmony and love with members of the church in fulfilling its purposes (see Article II). Accordingly, we desire to receive into our membership all persons regardless of nationality or race whom the Lord may lead to serve Him through Central Baptist Church.

The membership of this church shall, therefore, consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior and who have been baptized by immersion into this church, or a church of like faith and order. Since this is a congregational church under the Lordship of Christ, new members will be publicly presented and accepted by the vote of the membership after the completion of the following membership requirements:

1. Attend Discover Class (church membership and orientation class).
2. Share their salvation and baptism testimony and why they desire to join Central Baptist Church with one of the pastors in an informal interview.
3. Affirm the church membership covenant and statement of faith.

New members will be presented most often during the Sunday morning worship gathering and in unusual circumstances as a part of members' meeting.

Children of members, or those children within our care, will be counted as members upon their profession of faith through baptism by immersion. However, they will not be considered a voting member until they reach 16 years of age, at which time they would fulfill the aforementioned membership requirements not yet completed.

Membership will be maintained through a yearly reaffirmation of the church membership covenant in a public ceremony on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the constitution of the church. Those unable to attend that Sunday or wishing to reaffirm earlier will be expected to reaffirm on one of the prior Sundays of that month (May) either through a physical roster located in the church foyer, or through electronic means communicated by the church office.

Those unable to physically attend or affirm electronically due to special circumstances (shut-in, nursing home, health restricted, military, missionary, etc.) will be visited/contacted prior to the May celebration by their assigned deacon for reaffirmation.

If a member fails to reaffirm the membership covenant, they will be contacted by either a deacon or pastor to inquire as to their reason and provide appropriate care. Those contacted who wish to remain members are encouraged to reaffirm immediately and can do so with the deacon or pastor. Those who do not reaffirm will then be presented to the membership for removal at either the July or October members' meeting.

Membership can be terminated by:

1. Death
2. Transfer of letter/membership to a church of like faith and order
3. An act of Church Discipline
4. Failing to reaffirm the membership covenant.
5. The request of the member(s)

If a member appears to be in sin, or if there is conflict between members; biblical conflict resolution and/or church discipline should be followed. The first step of the biblical process is a private attempt at resolution by the person who has been sinned against. If unsuccessful, the second step involves another resolution attempt with the addition of one or two spiritually minded members (Galatians 6:1-2). If unsuccessful, the third step requires consultation with the Pastors (Titus 1:9, 3:10), which may lead to exposure of the sin before the whole church. The final step is removal of the individual from church fellowship and termination of membership (1 Corinthians 5). It should be the sincere desire of the local church that all members be lovingly brought to repentance and restoration. Central Baptist will not grant letters of transfer for members under church discipline, nor will a person be received as a member who is currently under the process of church discipline at another church.

Article VI: Church Officers

A. Pastor

The Lead Pastor is the under shepherd of Jesus Christ, the leader of the church, and is primarily responsible to Christ for the work of the church. He is leader of the church in spiritual and physical matters. The pastor must meet the qualifications as given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The pastor is to be called to the church to serve indefinitely.

When the church becomes without a Lead Pastor, the deacons will ask for and receive nominations from the congregation for the transition team. Upon vetting these nominations, the deacons will place before the congregation these nominees for a vote to fill the positions for the transition team at the next regular business meeting. The transition team will be responsible for pulpit supply. The transition team shall prayerfully search until agreed on one candidate to recommend to the church. The church will be given the opportunity to vote by secret ballot on Sunday morning one week after the pastor's sermon in view of a call. A 75% majority vote of those present and voting is required to call a Lead Pastor.

The Lead Pastor shall be in regular communication with the active Deacons, Ministerial Staff, and the Strategy Team regarding the affairs of the church, and he shall request counsel regarding particular matters as they arise. In the event a particular matter or decision faces negative counsel from a majority of the active Deacons, the Lead Pastor shall reconsider the matter in the interest of preservation of the welfare of the church and the unity of the body of Christ.

If there is a matter of conflict or church discipline concerning the Pastor or Pastoral Staff, members should follow the aforementioned steps of biblical conflict resolution. After following these steps, two or more members may bring their concerns to the Deacons at their next regular Deacon's Meeting. If a matter is deemed urgent, two or more deacons can call an emergency meeting. After prayerful investigation and deliberation, the Deacons then determine if the situation should go before the church. The findings of the Deacon body will be reported back to the presenting members as final resolution to the present concerns.

The pastor may be removed from office at a special members' meeting of the congregation called by the deacons where reasons for his removal would be presented. He would be allowed to answer the accusations, and a vote taken. The pastor should be notified of the meeting and of the charges to be brought against him before notice of the meeting is given to the congregation. A two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting by secret ballot on Sunday

morning would be required to remove the pastor. This step should be taken very carefully and prayerfully.

B. Ministerial Staff.

With advisement from the personnel committee, the Lead Pastor may bring in such staff as he feels necessary to assist him in providing for the church. Each ministerial staff member will be presented to the church for approval and affirmation and they will be employed at a salary approved by the church. They will work under direct supervision of the pastor, or indirectly under him and directly under the supervision of a staff member appointed by the pastor.

C. Deacons

Deacons are to advise and assist the pastor in the spiritual interests of the church; seek out, visit, and minister to the physical, moral, and spiritual needs of the sick, aged, and necessities among the membership; serve at the Lord's Supper table; and be zealous to guard and to promote the spirit of unity and peace within the church. They will act as a sounding board from the congregation to the pastor and shall discuss matters of importance to the church. Deacons are to meet the spiritual qualifications given in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6.

The deacons shall recommend to the church names of those to be added as deacons. The church shall vote on each name presented. The number of active deacons desired is one for every 10 families. The term for a deacon shall be three years from the start of the church year following his installation or ordination. Elections will be held as needed to fill new terms, plus any vacant unexpired term caused by the death or moving of active deacons. Each active deacon will be ineligible for re-election for a period of one year following the expiration of his last term of service.

D. Trustees

The trustees are the directors of the nonprofit corporation that is Central Baptist Church of Henderson, North Carolina Incorporated. They shall sign legal papers as needed and directed by the church. Trustees have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action. There shall be no less than five, nor more than eight trustees serving at a time. Trustees are to be appointed by the Lead Pastor subject to approval by the church.

E. Treasurer

The treasurer, as a trustee and officer of the corporation, shall see that accurate records are maintained of all receipts, disbursements, and the giving of individual contributions. The Treasurer will serve as an ex-officio member of the Finance committee of the church. The treasurer will be one of the co-signers on all checks. All disbursements are to be made according to the budget as approved by the church. The treasurer is to provide a monthly financial report to the church. The treasurer is to be appointed by the Lead Pastor subject to approval by the church.

F. Others

Other officers/staff of the church and/or its related ministries may be elected or appointed as they are needed. These may include Sunday School Director, Church Clerk, Financial Secretary, Church Secretary, etc. Any paid, non-ministerial staff shall be reviewed and approved by the personnel committee prior to offer extension.

G. Standards for Leaders

All elected or appointed leaders, including committee chairpersons, of this church and/or any of its related ministries shall be saved, active members of the church, in agreement with the doctrinal position of the church, tithers, soul winners, and living a committed Christian life. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, any elected or appointed leader not supporting this Constitution may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the active deacons. Upon removal, the deacons will appoint someone to minister to this person in a Christ-like manner.

Article VII: Church Meetings

A. For Worship and Study

The church shall have regular services on Sundays and a midweek meeting, plus such meetings of organizations as they are needed. Special meetings as revivals, conferences, music programs, and such will also be held from time to time as the Lead Pastor sees need.

B. For Business

The church shall meet for an annual members' meeting in October. This meeting shall report to the church the activities of the previous year and include the election of officers and any other business to be presented to the church. The deacons shall receive nominations for the standing committees from the congregation, respective committees, and the deacons; allowing the deacons sufficient time for vetting of these nominees and preparation for a vote on the nominees at the October members' meeting. Committee chairs are elected by respective committees. The names of the elected Chairman are reported to the church at the January meeting. The fiscal calendar runs from January 1st to December 31st. In addition to the annual members' meeting, the church shall meet for quarterly members' meetings in January, April and July.

Special meetings may be called by the Lead Pastor and/or deacons with seven day's notice to the church. The purpose of the special meetings must be announced. A majority of those present and qualified to vote may conduct any church business, except as where otherwise qualified by this constitution.

Article VIII: Church Government

Each member of the church will have an equal voice in its government, exercised through a vote at regular or called members' meetings. The Lead Pastor shall serve as moderator of all members' meetings. If the church is without a Lead Pastor, the chairman of the deacons will serve as moderator until he and the transition team select either a staff pastor or interim pastor for that purpose. The church shall vote on the pastor(s), deacons, ministerial staff and trustees, establishment or modification of major policies, the buying, selling or mortgaging of church properties; and the annual church budget. Meetings are to be conducted in accordance with

Roberts Rules of Order. Matters of lesser importance will be handled by the Lead Pastor and staff, deacons, and trustees within their prescribed responsibilities.

Article IX: Committees

The church reserves the right at any time and in such a manner as it may determine to appoint any committee, which shall be considered a church committee, which the church may deem necessary or advisable. Each such committee shall be elected by the church and shall have the duties and responsibilities imposed upon it by the church. The membership of each such committee and the term of office of the committee members shall be determined by the church. The standing committees are as follows:

- A. The Personnel Committee shall assist the pastor and church in matters relating to personnel administration and management. These may include, but are not limited to; working with the Lead Pastor to fill staff vacancies and survey the needs for additional staff positions, establish personnel policies and procedures, maintain and update job descriptions for staff, and review and recommend salary and benefits for all staff. This committee will be made up of five members.
- B. The Finance Committee shall oversee the financial affairs and policies of the church and carry out the directions of the church in the financial area. It has oversight and responsibility for evaluating the on-going financial status of the church, providing guidance to the church's staff and elected financial officers, and proposing and assuring compliance with financial policy. The committee is responsible for proposing an annual comprehensive budget that covers the ministries of the church as well as the administrative and practical needs of the church. This committee will be made up of five members.
- C. The Missions Committee shall keep the salvation of the lost in our community, state, country, and world before the body of Christ at Central Baptist Church; promoting the Great Commission and seeking GOD's will with the funds He provides to support our missionaries. This committee will be made up of ten members.
- D. The Strategy Team is made up of the pastoral staff, ministry directors, chairman of the Deacons, and the standing committee's (Personnel, Finance, Missions) chairpersons. This team shall meet on a monthly basis for strategic planning, clear communication, and providing non-binding feedback to the Lead Pastor.

All committee members are elected by the church to serve for a three-year term at the October members' meeting (see Article VII. B.). Each committee member of the above standing committees, (Personnel, Finance, and Missions) will be ineligible for re-election after their term for a period of one year. If an individual is not able to complete their term, the committee would recommend a replacement to the deacons for vetting, who would then recommend the candidate to the church for approval at the next scheduled members' meeting. Once approved, that candidate would begin their three-year term according to that calendar year. Candidates for committee service should have attended Central for a minimum of one year and must have formally become a member prior to being considered. No member may serve on more than one committee at the same time, nor should members of the same immediate family serve on the same committee. While input is expected from the church staff, church staff is not to serve on standing committees.

Article X: Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such activities and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner.

Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Cooperation is desirable when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament, and as expressed in the Statement of Faith of this church. In so far as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Association and State Convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article XI: Church Finances

The Fiscal year shall be from January 1st through December 31st. The members shall be expected to give their tithes and offerings through this church. The treasurer shall oversee proper record keeping including a record of individual contributions. A budget shall be prepared by the Lead Pastor and Finance Committee and approved by the church. Special offerings may be taken up with the approval of the Lead Pastor and/or standing committees.

Article XII: Dissolution

No part of the property or other buildings of this church shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, officer of the church, or any individual. If for any reason the church is dissolved, the church shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church, distribute its assets to such organization or organizations as shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations or corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any successor section, a corporation that is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in section 501(c)(3) of the Code or any successor section or to federal, state, or local governments to be used exclusively for public purposes. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be distributed by the Superior Court of the county in which the church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, such as the court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, or to such governments for such purposes.

Article XIII: Amendments to Constitution

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a called members' meeting announced for that purpose.