



Cornerstone
Baptist Kountze

Constitution

&

By-Laws

Table of Contents

Constitution	Page
Preamble	3
Article 1: Name	3
Article 2: Purpose	3-4
Article 3: Basic Beliefs	4-5
Article 4: Church Membership and Relationship Agreement	5-6
Article 5: Polity and Relationships	6
Article 6: Amendments	6
Bylaws	
Article 1: Church Membership	7
Section 1 - General Procedure	7
Section 2 - Qualifications of Membership	7
Section 3 - Removal from Membership	7
Section 4 - Rights of Members	7-8
Section 5 - Church Discipline	8
Article 2: Church Government	9
Section 1 - General Statement	9
Section 2 - Elders	9
Qualifications	9
Roles	9-10
Board of Elders	10
Accountability	11
Tenure of Service	11
Organization	11
Section 3 - Vocational Pastors and Ministers	11
Definition	11-12
Duties	12
Senior Pastor	12
Vocational Call by the Church	12
Termination of Vocational Call	12-13
Section 4 - Deacons	13
Composition, Tenure, Calling	13
Qualifications	13
Responsibilities	13-14

Accountability	14
Organization	14
Nomination and Screening	14-15
Section 5 - Joint Board	15
Composition	15
Responsibilities	15
Meetings	15
Section 6 - Support Staff	16
Article 3: Church Finances	16
Section 1 - General	16
Section 2 - Contributions	16
Section 3 - Financial Planning	16
Section 4 - Accounts	16
Section 5 - Indebtedness	17
Section 6 - Authority to Bind the Church	17
Section 7 - Trustees	17
Article 4: Church Ordinances	17
Section 1 - Baptism	17
Section 2 - Lord's Supper	17
Article 5: Church Meetings	18
Section 1 - Worship Services	18
Section 2 - Church Meetings	18
Article 6: Church Ministries	18
Article 7: Amendments	18

Appendix

Appendix I: Elder Biblical Support

Appendix II: Essential Beliefs

Appendix III: Baptist Faith an Message 2000

Constitution

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

ARTICLE 1 : NAME

The name of this church shall be known as "Cornerstone Baptist Church Kountze" located at 1600 S. Pine St. , Kountze, TX 77625.

ARTICLE 2 : PURPOSES

The purpose for which Cornerstone Baptist Church is assembled is to glorify God in all things by:

1. Corporate, public, and private worship of God.

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

2. Holy living which adorns the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:4 Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

3. Unity and fellowship within the body of Christ.

Eph 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

I Cor 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

4. The edification of one another in knowledge and sanctification.

Rom 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

I Thess 4:3-4 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor

5. The proclamation of the gospel both locally and worldwide through outreach and missions.

Rom 10:13-14 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

6. Contending earnestly for the faith in this generation.

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

7. Practicing pure and undefiled religion by ministering to the needs of others.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Matt 25:34-40 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

8. Making disciples and creating disciple makers within our church body.

Matt 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

9. Purposing to work together in the ministry of reconciliation, both to Christ and to one another.

2 Cor 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Matt 5:23-24 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

10. Serving together according to each individual's gifts and passions.

Rom 12: 6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation/ he who gives, with liberality/ he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

ARTICLE 3 : BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statements from the Cornerstone Essential Beliefs. (See Appendix II). We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus

Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation with all nations. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statements of THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE of 2000. (See Appendix III).

We are fallible, and error in our understanding or expression of truth is possible, but truth itself is absolute and final. Truth, as it regards God and eternity, is a matter of eternal life or death. We are convinced that the essential doctrines of belief at Cornerstone Baptist Church, as far as they accurately reflect biblical teaching, express not just our view, but real truth.

ARTICLE 4 : CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, joyfully enter into relationship, as members of this local church, with one another as one body in Christ as evidenced by our profession of faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. Each of us makes public this commitment by consenting to the Cornerstone Church Member Covenant.

Cornerstone Church Member Covenant

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

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 and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, toward it's expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of our church elders to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotion; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort, and stir up each other unto every good word and work/ to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in

each other's joys, and with tender sympathy, bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Saviour in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

I understand the seriousness of this relationship and what it means to be a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church Kountze. I ask Cornerstone to help me be accountable to God in fulfilling my covenants.

ARTICLE 5 : POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of Cornerstone shall be entrusted to its elders, staff, deacons and membership. Cornerstone is not subject to the control of any ecclesiastical body. It is autonomous. Insofar as it is practical and right, this church will cooperate with others of like faith and support the local association, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Cornerstone shall follow the example of the Holy Bible by maintaining elders to humbly shepherd the membership in order to effectively carry out the commissions of the church.

ARTICLE 6 : AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be presented to the church by the Board of Elders after review with the Joint Board. (By Laws Article 2 Section 5)

Amendment proposals from the membership must be first presented to the Joint Board for review. Once the proposal is accepted by the Joint Board by a minimum 90% vote, it will be presented by the Board of Elders to the membership for vote. The constitution may be amended by a minimum 90% vote of the members present at any regular or special called congregational meeting.

Bylaws

ARTICLE 1 : CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - General Procedure

All members must meet all qualifications for membership. Membership shall also consist of existing members as of the adoption of this Constitution and Bylaws. Cornerstone shall regularly maintain a membership role of the members.

Section 2 - Qualifications of Membership

1. A personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3. Agreement to uphold Cornerstone covenant.
4. Follow and support the leadership of the church elders and deacons and to adhere to the mission and beliefs of this church as based in Scripture.

Section 3 - Removal from Church Membership

Persons may be removed from Cornerstone membership in the following ways:

1. Death
2. Self-request by member.
3. Evidence of membership in another church unless permitted by church elders such as cases of temporary relocation due to work or college.
4. Disciplinary removal. (Section 5)

Section 4 - Rights of Members

1. Every member of the church at least 18 years old is entitled to vote provided the member is present. No voting shall be done by proxy or absentee.
2. Every member of the church is expected to participate in the ministries of this church according to their callings, interests and giftedness.

3. All members are free to express concerns or ideas; however, in order to preserve the integrity of the church, as pertains to orderliness and unity, all concerns or ideas must be brought in person or by a written and signed letter before the Joint Board for consideration. The Joint Board will review and if accepted, the Board of Elders, with a minimum 90% vote from the Joint Board members present, will present back to the church for a vote should a vote be deemed necessary. (See Art. 2 Sec. 5 for Joint Board responsibilities.)
4. Items that come before the church for vote, shall require a minimum 75% of the voting members present to pass unless otherwise stated in this document.

Section 5 - Church Discipline

It is the responsibility of the elders, as described in Acts 20:28, to "keep watch over themselves and all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers to shepherd the church of God which He bought with His own blood." Overseeing includes both care and correction. As a consequence, the elders may separate a person from membership, after all scriptural attempts of reconciliation have failed, for:

1. Departure from member's previously expressed agreement with the Cornerstone Covenant and church beliefs.
2. Conduct that mars the testimony of the church and/or evidences a continued unrepentant departure from biblical morality.
3. Other reasons as set forth in the Scriptures.

The separation process shall follow that which is laid out in the book of Matthew, ch. 18. By accepting membership in this church, all members submit themselves to the care and correction of the elders. Even if a member resigns as an attempt to avoid such care and correction, the elders will seek to lovingly care and correct the member.

The goal of such discipline is for the resolution of conflicts and restoration of relationships in the body of believers of this local church. If it shall become necessary to take action to terminate the membership of an unrepentant member, membership shall be terminated by the Board of Elders. Upon evidence of repentance and reformation, membership may be restored by the Board of Elders.

The goal of church discipline is not to throw people out, embarrass them, be self-righteous, play God, or exercise authority and power in some unbiblical manner. The purpose of discipline is to bring people back into a pure relationship with God and with others in the assembly.

ARTICLE 2 : CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1 - General Statement

This church, under the leadership of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, voluntarily submits themselves to a form of government that we believe is in accordance with God's written Word, the Bible. The official offices of this church, through which all of its powers are administered, are covered in subsequent sections of this document. These offices shall be occupied by those who are raised up by the Holy Spirit, called by the personal conviction of God and appointed by the Board of Elders. The responsibilities of these offices are also defined and described in subsequent sections of this document.

Section 2 - Elders

In its operation in ministry, the church will be governed by a group of godly men called elders. These shall be men in whose lives the working of the Holy Spirit is evident, who have given a worthy witness of the authority of Christ in their lives, are actively involved in the functions of the church, and who have met the qualifications given in the Scriptures. Elders must be in unanimity in their decisions. (I Cor 1:10; Eph 4:3 Phil 1:27)

The Qualifications of the Elders. Qualifications are as listed in the text of Scripture in I Tim 3 and Titus 1.

1. Above reproach. 2. The husband of one wife. 3. Sober-minded. 4. Self-controlled.
5. Respectable. 6. Hospitable. 7. Able to teach. 8. Not a drunkard. 9. Not violent.
10. Gentle. 11. Not quarrelsome. 12. Not a lover of money. 13. Not greedy for gain.
14. Manages his own household well. 15. Not a recent convert. 16. Well thought of by outsiders. 17. Not arrogant. 18. Not quick-tempered. 19. A lover of good. 20. Upright. 21. Holy. 22. Self-Disciplined.

The Roles of the Elders. The elders are responsible for keeping the church in accordance with the purposes of the church as listed in Article 2 of the constitution through spiritual leadership and guidance as directed by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. They are responsible for shepherding and overseeing the congregation and all its ministries, officers, staff and ministry teams. Specific duties of the elders would include, but are not limited to:

1. Exercising a shepherd's watch over the church, the flock of God. (Acts 20:28; John 21:15-17)
2. Showing a consistent study and teaching of the Word of God. (I Tim 5:17; I Thess 5:12)

3. Encouraging others by sound doctrine and refuting in love, through biblical church discipline, those who oppose and contradict the Word of God. (James 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1; Titus 1:9; Matthew 18:1-35)
4. Giving diligent labor, caring leadership, exhortation, and guided counsel in the Word. (I Thess 5:12-22; 2 Tim 2:24-26)
5. Praying for the sick. (James 5:14)
6. Overseeing the operations and ministries of the church. (Titus 1:5; Acts 15:22; I Tim 5:17)
7. Bringing the concerns of members before the Joint Board.

Board of Elders. The totality of elders shall constitute the Board of Elders, which is commissioned to lead the church under the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. (I Peter 5:4)

1. The Senior Pastor acts as the Chairman of the Board of Elders. A Vice-Chairman will be appointed in case of the Chairman's inability to attend a meeting or to execute his duty.
2. The number of elders shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church.
3. If a deacon is appointed as an elder, he will no longer be considered a deacon. He will not be required to fulfill the responsibilities of a deacon but of an elder.
4. In the case of a need for new elders or for the substitution of existing elders, the elders shall serve as the Elder Nominations Council which consist of no less than 4 members. In case of shortage of elders, the Chairman of the Deacons will serve on the council. In case there is still a shortage, the council will select another member from the deacon body.
 - a. This Council shall select names of nominees from among church members with no less than 1 year membership at Cornerstone.
 - b. This Council is responsible for guiding all nominees through the review process.
 - c. This Council shall inform the congregation of such nominations and allow the congregation a period of two weeks to respond in writing if there is any biblical basis for a nominee not to be ordained as an elder. Any response that is not signed will not be considered.
 - d. In the event of such response from a member of the congregation, the Council shall review the response with the writer of the response and if necessary with the nominee in order to determine proper disposition of the issues raised by the writer.
 - e. After the review process completion and the resolution of any and all issues, the Elder Nominations Council shall proceed with the ordination of the nominees approved as elders.

Accountability. The Board of Elders is a self-disciplining body with members accountable to one another. (Matt 18:15-20; I Tim 5:19-20) Elders are subject to both formative and corrective discipline as are all members of the church.

Tenure of Service. No limit is placed upon the time that an Elder may serve. The emphasis is that each one serve and not just attend meeting. Each must be active in ministry to remain an elder. Elders that can no longer participate due to health reasons will be removed as active members of the Board of Elders but will be referred to as honorary members.

Removal From Service.

1. Voluntary removal - An elder may of his own initiative, disqualify himself from the role of elder if he feels he is no longer spiritually qualified or is unable to serve.
2. Involuntary Removal - (I Tim 5:19-20) Any member of the church may either submit written and signed scriptural reasons for removal of an elder or come before the Joint Board in person. If reasons are substantiated by two or more witnesses, elders may be removed with a minimum 90% vote by the Joint Board after review of allegations. Removal shall be based upon being spiritually unqualified or the inability to serve.
3. Leave of Absence - An elder may request a temporary leave of absence due to circumstances that hinder his ability to fulfill his role. The duration of the leave of absence shall be agreed upon by the Council.

Organization - The elders shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the church. The Board of Elders shall meet on a regular basis.

Section 3 - Vocational Pastors and Ministers

Definition - A Vocational position is a paid position

Vocational Pastors are ordained elders of the church, who in response to God's call, have devoted their vocational lives to the ministry of the Word and prayer in the service of the church of Christ.

Vocational Ministers are the non-elder ministers of the church who, in response to God's call, serve the church in ministry. Both Vocational Pastors and Vocational Ministers are supported financially by the church in return for their vocational labors.

- Example. A Youth Minister or Music Minister may not meet the qualifications of an elder but can still be a paid position in the church. However, if they were to be a Youth Pastor or Associate Pastor of Music, they would need to meet the qualifications of an elder because the title includes "Pastor".

Duties - Vocational Pastors and Ministers shall perform the duties determined by the Board of Elders. The duties shall be in writing at the time of the call to service.

Senior Pastor - The Senior Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. He will give spiritual leadership and guidance to the Board of Elders, the congregation, the ministries, the deacons, and the church staff to perform their tasks. Whenever a vacancy occurs, the elders shall seek out a suitable pastor with the assistance of a pastor search team appointed by the Joint Board. The elders recommendation will constitute a nomination. The election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one weeks public notice has been given to the church membership. The election of a Senior Pastor shall be by secret ballot, with a minimum affirmation vote of 90% of those members present and voting.

Vocational Call by the Church - The elders shall seek out suitable pastors and ministers for positions necessary for fulfilling the ministries of the church. The elders will appoint a pastor/minister search team as necessary to assist in the process of seeking out suitable pastors and ministers. Candidates determined by the search team to be qualified and willing to serve will be recommended to the Board of Elders. The elders recommendation will constitute a nomination. The election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one weeks public notice has been given to the church membership. The election of a pastor/minister shall be by secret ballot, with a minimum affirmation vote of 90% of those voting members present and voting.

Termination of Vocational Call by the Church -

1. By resignation - The question of terminating the vocational call of a Vocational Pastor or Minister shall be considered by the Board of Elders upon receipt of the Pastor's/Minister's resignation.
2. Grievance - Where a grievance exists against a pastor/minister, either due to his preaching or teaching contrary to the beliefs of the church or to alleged conduct on his part unfitting a pastor/minister, such grievance may be brought before the Board of Elders by any two witnesses (I Tim 5:19). If the Board of Elders, with at least a 90% vote of the Joint Board, after thorough investigation and

consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantiated, then the vocational call of the pastor/minister may be terminated. If termination is determined to be necessary, the Joint Board shall call a special meeting in order to give a prepared statement to church members for reason of the termination.

Section 4 - Deacons

Composition, Tenure of Service, and Calling - The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church. No limit is placed upon the time that a deacon may serve. A deacon who is unable to fulfill his duties may be placed on inactive status upon his request and approval of the Joint Board.

Qualifications - Deacons shall be qualified for the office as specified in the Bible. (1 Tim 3:8-12)

1. Men of Dignity. 2. Not Double-tongued. 3. Not given to much wine. 4. Not Greedy for money. 5. Sound in Faith and Life. 6. Tested. 7. Blameless. 8. Husband of one wife. 9. Rulers of their household. 10. Wife must be godly.

Responsibilities - The deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the church, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care for the members of the congregation. The deacons are to provide leadership for the service oriented functions of the church and will seek out members of the church with like-giftedness to assist in promoting and carrying out the ministries of the church. The deacons shall serve under the care and direction of the Board of Elders. The deacons shall serve in these areas concentrating on the ones that coincide with each deacons spiritual gifts and talents. Deacons shall not be required to serve outside of their giftedness. Their responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Facilities - The deacons are responsible for the basic management of the church property.
2. Benevolence - The deacons shall be actively involved concerning the needs of the flock.
3. Finances - The deacons shall be actively involved in the day to day matters of the finances of the church. This would include collection and counting of tithes and offerings, involvement in the church budget, etc.
4. Ushers - The deacons shall oversee the functions of the ushers.
5. Church Ordinances - The deacons shall assist in carrying out the ordinances of the Gospel.
6. Logistics - The deacons shall be available to serve in a variety of ways that enable the elders to concentrate on teaching and shepherding the church.

7. Deacons will facilitate ministry teams that are formed by the Joint Board. Ministry Team plans and recommendations will be reviewed and implemented as approved by the Joint Board.
8. Deacons will bring the concerns of members before the Joint Board.

Accountability - Each deacon is under the oversight of the Board of Elders and subject to both formative and corrective discipline as are all members of the church.

Organization - The deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to be best to achieve the mission of the church. The deacons shall have a Chairman to be selected from within the deacon body by the deacon body. The Chairman of the Deacons will be voted annually. The elders or the deacons may designate any specific deacon or group of deacons to specialize in some particular function. Meetings of the deacons, or subcommittees thereof shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the deacons.

Nomination and Screening - A Deacon Screening Team shall consist of the Joint Board. The team shall give the church membership an opportunity to nominate prospective deacons. Any man previously ordained as a deacon in another fellowship who desires to continue his service as a deacon must participate in the screening process. The Joint Board shall screen the nominees using the Deacon Candidate Questionnaire to determine their apparent meeting of the stated qualifications. Those who meet the qualifications and are selected by the Joint Board will be interviewed with their spouses by the Board of Elders and the Chairman of the Deacons. The interview will contain the following:

1. An explanation of the Deacon selection process.
2. Discussion concerning Scriptures relating to qualifications of deacons.
3. Discussion related to the Deacon Candidate Questionnaire.
4. A request for the man and his wife to pray and seek God's will concerning deacon service.

Candidates determined by the Team to be qualified and willing to serve will be recommended to the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall inform the congregation of such candidates and allow the congregation a period of two weeks to respond in writing if there is any biblical basis for a nominee not to be ordained as a deacon. In the event of such response from a member of the congregation, the elders and the Chairman of the Deacons shall review the response with the writer of the response and if necessary with the candidate in order to determine proper disposition of the issues raised by the writer. After the review process completion and the resolution of any and all issues, the Board of Elders shall proceed with the ordination of the candidates approved as deacons. A unanimous vote for the nominee by the

elders will constitute his appointment to the position of deacon. The Board of Elders will present all men approved for the office of Deacon to the church in a public ordination.

Section 5 - Joint Board

Composition - The Joint Board shall consist of all members of the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons.

Responsibilities -

1. To review and evaluate proposals for acquisition, improvement or disposal of all real or personal property.
2. To authorize and implement unforeseen or emergency expenditures.
3. To plan, as needed, for long-range property improvement programs.
4. To review the monthly Financial report and to advise regarding stewardship of church financial accounts.
5. To hear and consider all petitions presented to it.
6. To provide for a yearly performance appraisal of any non-pastoral staff.
7. To review and evaluate proposed amendments to this constitution and make recommendation to the congregation regarding passage or rejection.
8. To consider any matter of business referred to it by the Board of Elders or Board of Deacons.
9. To oversee the preparation of an annual budget to be voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting.
10. To determine which items require to be brought before the church for votes.

Meetings - The Joint Board shall endeavor to meet monthly in conjunction with the meetings of the Board of Deacons to fulfill its responsibilities. No meeting of the Joint Board shall be convened with less than 51% of the Joint Board members present. The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve as Chairman of the Joint Board. A decision shall be made by a minimum 90% vote of the Joint Board members present. All non-regular Joint Board meetings shall be approved by the Board of Elders unless already addressed in this document.

Ministry Team plans and recommendations will be reviewed and implemented as approved by the Joint Board. Every Ministry Team shall report to and receive direction from the Joint Board.

Section 6 - Support Staff

Additional staff members shall be employed as the Joint Board determines the need for their services with a unanimous agreement from the Board of Elders. Joint Board shall advise congregation regarding support staff positions and needs.

ARTICLE 3 : CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1 - General

No method of raising funds shall be entertained which is in conflict with the scriptural ideals of the church. All reportable funds donated shall pass through the Church Secretary in order that due records may be made. The church finances will be audited annually.

Section 2 - Contributions

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligations to support the church and its causes with regular and proportionate giving. Each member shall be encouraged in scriptural giving, with tithing as the ideal minimum. Special offerings may be sought by the church, or by any of its organizations, with the approval of the Board of Elders. This shall not preclude individuals from making special offerings or designated gifts at any time as the Spirit of God may move them. The secretary will assist the Joint Board in accounting for all funds donated and to ensure process of financial accountability. All collections will be done with no less than 2 people with at least 1 deacon to account for the funds collected. All donations will be in accordance with all applicable non-profit organization laws.

Section 3 - Financial Planning

The financial planning of the church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for carrying out of the various programs of its work. The church, upon recommendation of the Joint Board, shall affirm annual budgets. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the non-vocational members of the Joint Board.

Section 4 - Accounts

The secretary, according to the purposes for which contributions are designated, shall account for financial receipts from all sources. No staff personnel will be permitted to sign checks.

Section 5 - Indebtedness

The church shall not make a practice of incurring debt. Notes or contracts whereby the credit of the church is pledged shall be made only by recommendation of the Board of Elders after at least a 90% vote from the members present of the Joint Board and approval of the church.

Section 6 - Authority to Bind the Church

The trustees are the only officers who have authority, in accordance with these Bylaws, the church Constitution and any applicable laws, to sign legal documents relating to real estate, church property, and church finances. A minimum of two trustees is required to execute any legal documents. Any such action will be directed by the unanimous decision of the Board of Elders with at least 90% vote from the Joint Board and if necessary, with at least 75% vote from the church.

Section 7 - Trustees

Trustees will sign checks and legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to church-approved matters. All such matters will be the result of a unanimous decision of the Board of Elders with at least 90% vote of the Joint Board members present. Trustees will have an in depth knowledge of the financial business of the church. The Joint Board will select a minimum of 3 trustees from the Deacons unless there is not a sufficient number of Deacons to fill the positions. Then, the Joint Board will fill any shortage from the congregation until a Deacon is available to fill the position.

ARTICLE 4 : CHURCH ORDINANCES

Section 1 - Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism by immersion any person who has believed upon Jesus Christ as Savior and who indicates a surrender to follow Christ as Lord. The elders shall counsel a person who professes Christ and is not baptized after a reasonable length of time.

Section 2 - Lord's Supper

This church shall observe the Lord's Supper each 1st Sunday of January, April, July, and October. The elders and deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper, the deacons being responsible for the physical preparation. Anyone who professes Jesus Christ as Savior in like faith may participate in this ordinance with the members of this church.

ARTICLE 5 : CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 - Worship Services

Public services for worship shall be held on the Lord's Day as corresponds with the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Sunday. Other services may be appointed as the advancement of the work of the church may require. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services.

Section 2 - Church Update Meetings and Other Business

This church shall conduct update meetings to inform the church of the ministries and business of the church at large each 3rd Sunday of January, April, July, and October. The church will also conduct other called meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance, as the elders or Joint Board deem necessary. These called meetings require one-week notice that includes the subject, date, time and place; and it must be given in such a manner that all members have a reasonable opportunity to know of the meeting.

ARTICLE 6 : CHURCH MINISTRIES

Cornerstone affirms the "Priesthood of Believers." We believe each and every believer stands equal before God and each is equipped and called to serve in some form of ministry. We equate membership with a commitment to ministry and service. We believe every member is a servant in ministry. Cornerstone, therefore, will create an environment that encourages, enables, empowers and authorizes believers to minister according to their God-given talents, passions, abilities and gifts. The creation of new ministries shall occur under the direction and leadership of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE 7 : AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be presented to the church by the Board of Elders after review with the Joint Board.

Amendment proposals from the membership must be first presented to the Joint Board for review. Once the proposal is accepted by a minimum 90% vote of the Joint Board members present, it will be presented by the Board of Elders to the membership for vote. The bylaws may be amended by a minimum 75% vote of the members present at any regular or special called congregational meeting.