

COVINGTON BIBLE CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

Covington Bible Church
2140 S. Carpenter Drive
Covington VA 24426
540 965 4256

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CHURCH COVENANT

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, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, 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, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, promote its ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance to the kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, 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.

ARTICLE VII ORDINATION

This church reserves the right to arrange for ordination councils, composed of ordained ministers who are in accord with our doctrinal statement, for the purpose of ordaining men who are called of God to the Gospel Ministry.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCES

The Finances necessary to conduct the affairs of the church shall be provided by voluntary gifts of the members and departments or organizations within the congregation. Raising of money by bazaars, sales suppers, entertainments or programs by any member, groups of members, departments or organizations is strictly prohibited. Tithing and freewill offerings of members and friends will be encouraged. (Matt. 3:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8)

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

This constitution, apart from the fundamental truths of unalterable scripture, may be amended at any annual meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose by the quorum vote at such meeting, provided that no amendment shall be presented for adoption at any meeting unless it shall have been read from the pulpit in regular public worship service at least two successive Sundays immediately prior to such meeting and clearly designated as a purposed amendment to the Constitution.

ARTICLE X

Article IX may not in any way be altered, changed, or amended.

ARTICLE XI DISSOLUTION

No part of the net earnings of Covington Bible Church, or it's ministries, shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the church, or any private individual; and no donor, member, director, officer of the church, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the church must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes.

Note this constitution has been revised incorporating the various amendments since it's last printing and is being published January 24, 1995.

called.

(c) Vacancy: A vacancy shall be filled by election in regular course at the next regular meeting following the vacancy.

7. Financial Secretary: (to be added when needed) The Financial Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting by a quorum vote of the members present for a term of one year.

(a) Duties: It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to supervise the collection of all monies given the church, all special offerings and gifts and when necessary keep a detailed record of persons from whom the money is received.

(b) Removal: The Financial Secretary may be removed from office for cause by quorum vote of the church in any special or regularly called business meeting.

(c) Vacancy: The church shall fill a vacancy by election in regular manner at the next business meeting following the occurrence of such vacancy.

8. Sunday School Secretary: The Sunday School Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting by quorum vote of the members present for a term of one year.

(a) Duties: The Sunday School Secretary shall perform all the secretarial duties of the Sunday School.

(b) Removal: The Sunday School Secretary may be removed from office for cause by quorum vote of the church in any meeting regularly called.

(c) Vacancy: The church shall fill a vacancy by election in regular manner at the next business meeting following the occurrence of such vacancy.

SECTION 5.

Official Board: Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Sunday School Superintendent and Treasurer shall make up the official board.

A. The Official Board shall make recommendations to the membership in any area it deems necessary but shall have no authority to enforce its recommendation. The Official Board will fulfill those responsibilities delegated to it by the congregation.

B. The Official Board shall organize itself so that they can carry out their assigned duties.

SECTION 6.

All organizations shall be controlled by members of this church.

ARTICLE I **NAME AND DESIGNATION**

SECTION 1.

This congregation shall be known as the Covington Bible Church of Covington, Virginia.

SECTION 2.

It shall not be affiliated governmentally with any religious denomination or association, but will cooperate in promoting the work of Christ.

ARTICLE II **PURPOSE**

As we understand the New Testament to direct, the purpose of this church shall be:

SECTION 1.

The maintenance in this community of the public worship of the true and living God, regularly.

SECTION 2.

The feeding of the flock for the building up of the body of Christ by the teaching of God's Word and the practice of righteousness in daily living, according to New Testament scripture.

SECTION 3.

The promotion of evangelism throughout the world in obedience to Christ's Great Commission, according to Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:19, 20.

ARTICLE III **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13).

The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons-- Father, Son and Holy Spirit--co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature,

co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14).

The Person and Work of Christ

A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35)

B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).

C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1,2).

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them until the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 2 Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Eph. 1:13,14).

B. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20,27; Eph. 5:18).

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:22,23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3,12).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sin (Eph. 2:8-10; John

cause by quorum vote at any special called meeting where the accused shall be given full opportunity to plead his defense.

(d) Vacancies: Any vacancy shall be filled by election at the next regular business meeting or at a special business meeting if necessary.

3. Trustees: The Trustees shall be five in number and shall be elected from among the membership at the annual meeting by quorum vote.

(a) Duties: It shall be the duty of the Trustees to hold, manage, control, maintain, and faithfully care for and preserve all of the property of the church, both real and personal, and to carry out the above at the direction of the church.

(b) Removal: Any trustee may be removed from office for cause after hearing before the church in meeting regularly called by the vote of the majority of the members present.

(c) Vacancies: A vacancy in the office of a Trustee shall be filled by the church election in regular manner at the next regular meeting following the occurrence of such vacancy.

4. Church Treasurer: The church Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting by vote of quorum for a term of one year.

(a) Duties: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect, receive and safely guard and keep all monies, funds and credits due the church, or which may come into its possession; to manage the finances of the church; make disbursements of all funds upon the order and direction of the church; to render and make quarterly and annual reports and accounting of receipts and disbursements and of his administration of his office; and to otherwise do and perform all acts necessary and proper to the efficient, orderly and business-like administration and management of the finances and assets of the church.

(b) Removal: The church Treasurer may be removed from office for cause by quorum vote of the church in any meeting regularly called.

(c) Vacancy: The church shall fill a vacancy by election in regular manner, at a special meeting following the occurrence of such vacancy.

6. Sunday School Superintendent: The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year by quorum vote.

(a) Duties: The Sunday School Superintendent shall, with the advice, consent of the Pastor and Deacons have charge of, promote, direct, maintain, manage and govern the Sunday School, subject to the direction of the church.

(b) Removal: The Sunday School Superintendent may be removed from office for cause by quorum vote at any meeting regularly or specially

C. Election and Duties:

1. Pastor: When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Pastor, the church shall elect a pulpit committee consisting of five (5) members by ballot. The five (5) receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep the pulpit supplied and as soon as possible make recommendations to the church for a Pastor. A quorum vote shall be necessary for the election of the Pastor, and no election of the pastor shall take place except at a meeting called for that purpose, public notice of which shall be given one week before.

(a) Qualifications: The Pastor must meet the scriptural qualifications for the office. (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9)

(b) Duties: It shall be his duty under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to conduct the worship services of the church; actively direct and coordinate the church program in all departments; promote, develop, and actively lead in the spiritual matters; regularly call on the members of the congregation; promote the growth of the church and its general welfare; and otherwise increase its capacity for service in the spreading, teaching, and preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, particularly acknowledging (Christ) as Lord and Master in all these things. (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1: 6-9)

(c) The length of the pastorate shall be by mutual agreement between the members of the church and the Pastor himself. The relations between the members of the church and the Pastor can be dissolved by the mutual consent of the parties themselves, and one month's notice shall be given by either the church or pastor whenever either party wishes to dissolve the relation.

2. Deacons: There shall be deacons elected from among the membership for a term of three years.

(a) Qualifications: Deacons shall meet these scriptural qualifications for office. (1Tim. 3:8-13).

(b) Duties: It shall be the duty of the Deacons to guard, promote, maintain, and nurture the spiritual welfare and life of the church; to safeguard and preserve the teaching, preaching, and practical application of the doctrines as set forth in this constitution; to watch over, nurture, and promote the spiritual development and edification of every member of the congregation, and in the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior, correct and safely guide an erring member that he or she may be restored to an intimate and understanding fellowship in the Lord; to care for the sick, the poor, the widows and the needy; to attend at the ordinances of Baptism and Communion, and to prepare the Communion table; and otherwise faithfully perform all duties ascribed by the Scriptures to Deacons. (Acts 6:3; Tim. 3:8-13)

(c) Removal: A Deacon may be removed from office for Scriptural

1:12; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18,19).

The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

A. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38,39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5).

B. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13,14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the New Nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit: and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13; Romans 8:12,13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9)

Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1&2; 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John vs. 9-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1).

Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19,20).

The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12).

B. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of

faith in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14, 15).

The Church

A. We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph. 1:22,23; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2).

B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

C. We recognize the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper as a scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41,46,47; 16:33, 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

Dispensationalism

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper-dispensationalism," such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or Water Baptism as a scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job. 1:6,7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "Blessed Hope" the personal, imminent pre-tribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones: and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom. (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14: 4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10)

The Eternal State

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment

4C1) will be made in advance to Pastor and Deacons who will then present a slate of candidates to the congregation for voting. No nominee who meets the constitutional requirements for office and consents to run may be kept off the slate. Nominations will be made from the floor only upon motion to do so approved by 3/4 vote.

SECTION 4.

Officers and Helpers: Designation: The officers of this church shall be Pastor and Deacons. Elected helpers shall be Trustees, a church Treasurer, a church clerk, a Sunday School Superintendent, and Sunday School Secretary-Treasurer. Appointed helpers shall be Sunday School Teachers, and other persons appointed to help in the various ministries of the church.

B. Qualifications: The qualifications for all the officers and helpers of this church shall be as follows:

1. All officers and helpers shall be members in good standing of this church, who are enthusiastically supporting the church and its programs.

2. They shall be living a surrendered, prayerful Christian life, loyally obeying the moral precepts taught in the Word of God for believers, including:

(a) Regular involvement in prayer, the study of the Bible, sharing of our faith and performance of deeds of kindness. (James 1:27, Titus 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15 & 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

(b) Separation from activities in the world which tend to compromise one's ability to be a clear witness to the world, exhibiting a willingness to accept the counsel of the other leaders of the church in this regard, and setting an example of purity and good stewardship of time and resources in his/her activities. (1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Corinthians 10:23-24)

(c) Showing good character in matters related to work and business. (Psalm 15, Proverbs 16:11)

(d) Living a home life in keeping with the teaching of the scripture. (1 Timothy 3:4,5,11,12)

(e) Freedom from carnal indulgences which are inconsistent with the dedicated life. (Romans 8:12, 13, 12:1, 2; 13:14; 14:21; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9)

3. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Covington Bible Church (Ephesians 1:22 & 4:15). All who serve here must serve in submission to Him. At every level of the process of choosing officers and helpers, those involved are charged to keep this in mind.

ARTICLE VI
GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1.

The government of this church assembly is invested in Christ, "The head of the Church," and (in submission to Him) in the leadership of the Pastor and or Deacons or governing body in lieu of deacons with approval of the membership. (Acts 6; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1)

SECTION 2.

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

SECTION 3.

The business meetings of the church shall be as follows:

A. Quarterly Business Meetings: Business meetings of the church shall be four (4) in number and shall be held the second Sunday evening service in January, April, July, and October of each year, unless delayed as in Section 3B. All matters of business pertaining to the affairs of the congregation, its general welfare and promotion, shall be considered and acted upon at such meetings. The January meeting shall be considered the Annual meeting.

B. Special Business Meetings: Special business meetings of the church may be held at any time upon the request of the Pastor, or upon the request of the members of the church, with the approval of the Deacon Board. Notice thereof shall be read from the pulpit five consecutive times immediately preceding the date set thereof. Any business of importance to the congregation may be transacted at a special business meeting the same as at any quarterly business meeting.

C. Emergency business meetings: To be called when deemed necessary to protect or to promote general welfare of the church. Business to be handled must be announced before meeting and no other business to be considered.

D. Quorum: 25% or more active voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business meeting of the church. If 25% are not present at any business meeting the meeting will be adjourned. The rules for calling special business meetings will be used hereafter. At this time a quorum is not present, any two or more members present shall constitute a quorum.

E. Vote: 75% of quorum shall determine any question, excluding the election of officers, which shall require a majority vote (over 50%) of quorum. Voting privileges shall be extended to members who before the Lord consider themselves to be walking in the precepts and demands of the covenant when they have reached the age of 16.

F. Nominations for church office (except as specified for Pastor Sec.

(Matt. 25:46; John 5:28,29; Rev. 20:5,6,12,13).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16,17).

c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude vs. 6,7; Mark 9: 43-48; Rev. 20:11-15).

ARTICLE IV**MEMBERSHIP**

This church is a listing of conscientious believers who wish to consider this their spiritual home during their earthly pilgrimage. It is voluntary and has nothing to do with the procuring of salvation, but rather with the recognition of the importance of frequent and regular fellowshiping with others, stability in the Word, activity in practical service, and responsibility to Scriptural discipline.

SECTION 1.

A. The requirements for church membership are:

1. Believers baptism by immersion.
2. Acceptance of this Covenant and Statement of faith.
3. Agreement to be governed by this constitution.

B. Any person who is born again by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord who desires membership in this church shall come under the watch care of this church upon congregational approval. After the Pastor or Deacons have determined that the applicant has met the above requirements for membership his name shall be entered in the church roll and he will become a member of this church.

SECTION 2

All members are subject to the Scriptural method of discipline of its membership. (Matt. 18: 15-17; 1 Cor. 5; 2 Thess. 3-6; Gal. 6:1)

SECTION 3

Four times each year, the Deacons will review the membership roll and make a list of those who have not attended the church during the past quarter. These persons shall be visited by the Deacons. Should there be no legitimate reason for their absence, their name will be placed on an inactive members list. The member shall be informed of this by a letter from the church clerk. The inactive membership shall be reviewed at the same time as the church roll. Those who have not attended the church for a period of one year shall be visited. Unless some reason for delay is discovered at that visit, the person's name will be dropped from the membership roll and he will be informed of such by a letter from the church clerk. Those who have maintained some contact with the church, yet have not become regular in their attendance will remain on the inactive list. Those who have, over the past quarter, become regular in attendance shall be reinstated to the active members roll, and they shall be informed of such by a letter from the church clerk.

(Note 1) The administration of this policy will be the responsibility of the

deacons.

(Note 2) The church clerk shall keep on file copies of all correspondence relating to church membership.

(Note 3) Inactive members cannot vote or hold office.

SECTION 4.

Legitimate reasons for prolonged absence: (Reasons not covered will be considered by membership)

A. (1) Prolonged sickness (A member or person dependant upon that member for survival). (2) going away for schooling, (3) the armed forces, (4) business, (5) occupational trips, or (6) extended vacations (2-6 being temporary).

B. When a member permanently moves away he shall notify the church by letter as soon as possible.

He shall be given a period of one year to transfer his membership to a local church near him. Said member shall then automatically be dropped from membership.

SECTION 5.

Associate Membership:

Associate membership shall be offered to those who have legitimate reasons for prolonged absence.

ARTICLE V
REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday School, Morning and Evening services shall be held each Lord's Day. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a month. Prayer meeting (Bible Study) shall be held each week; and such additional meetings shall be provided for the membership as will foster and promote their spiritual growth and well-being.