

# THE CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, INC., COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

We declare and establish this constitution:

- For the preservation and security of the principles of our faith
- In order that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Convention
- For preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church
- For preserving the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith

## CORPORATION

**NAME:** This congregation shall be known as the Central Baptist Church of Columbus, Inc.

## PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND BELIEFS

### **Purpose of Central Baptist Church:**

To bring people to Jesus Christ by *Reaching* them through evangelism, *Teaching* them to grow in Christian maturity, having *Fellowship* amongst the body of believers, and equipping them to *Serve* in the Columbus community and the world, all the while magnifying God's name in *Worship*.

### **Objectives:**

- **Reaching** We communicate God's Word through evangelism, being a faithful witness of salvation through Jesus Christ both in our community and the world.
- **Teaching** We educate God's people through discipleship: to proclaim, teach, and adhere fully to the Word of God in faith and practice.
- **Serving** We demonstrate God's love through service, ministering unselfishly to the need of members of the church, community, and the world.  
We undergird all our ministries in prayer.  
We faithfully support missions through prayer, education, financial giving, and service.
- **Worship** We are to be a fellowship in which we celebrate God's presence in worship
- **Fellowship** We are united in Christian love and fellowship through the Holy Spirit.  
We faithfully support the work of the church through stewardship of our time, talents, and possessions.  
We cooperate with other churches of like faith in accomplishing God's task.

## **Statement of Faith**

Central Baptist Church believes the Bible has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. The church affirms the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 as the doctrinal guideline.

## **Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) 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 (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Central Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Central Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Central Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Central Baptist Church.

## **Statement on Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139)

## **Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Central Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor, Church Admin Team, and Deacon Ministry Team is Central Baptist Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

## **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 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, in holiness, and in comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, 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 throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing; faithful in our engagements; and exemplary in our department; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, abuse of mind altering drugs, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy 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 sister church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The constitution and by-laws may be amended only at a regular church conference of the church. The proposed amendments shall be made in writing to the Church Administration Team at least one month before proposed action. The proposed action, if approved by the Admin Team, shall be read from the pulpit during the Sunday morning worship service preceding the conference. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present, shall be necessary to ratify an amendment.

These Constitution and By-laws will become effective immediately upon adoption and supersede all previous Constitution and By-laws.