

COMMUNITY CHAPEL & BIBLE TRAINING CENTER

ORIGINAL

ARTICLES OF FAITH & BYLAWS

Oct. 18, 1967



PREAMBLE

We, members of the Spiritual Body of Christ, desiring to unite in fellowship as a visible church, do hereby adopt this constitution and agree to be governed by its precepts.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

ARTICLE I: This congregation confesses Jesus Christ as Lord of the Church and of our lives. We hold that the Bible is to be our rule of faith and our rule of Christian living.

ARTICLE II: The pastor (and the associates and assistants, if any) and the Spiritual Overseers agree that the Bible, as originally penned, is the inspired Word of God and is our sole rule of Faith.

We, as overseers, unite in the belief that to keep the unity of the Faith and to maintain our purpose, that only those who hold to the following basic beliefs of God's Holy Word, are to be eligible to hold the office of Spiritual Overseer:

1. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.
2. All have sinned. Forgiveness of sins is only obtained by genuine repentance of sins to God, and accepting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord of our lives.
3. Water baptism is essential, and is only for those who have repented of their sins to God and have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, purposing to walk according to God's Word. Water baptism is to be administered by immersion in the Name of Jesus (the terms: Father, Son Holy Spirit, Lord, & Christ, may or may not also be expressed in the baptismal formula).

4. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all Christians and is evidenced by speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.
5. God is one Person, manifesting Himself as The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
6. Healing is part of the Atonement and is a promise by Jesus for the believer.
7. Communion (The Lord's Table; Sacrament) is a Biblical injunction for Christians to observe.
8. Jesus will out-translate His Bride before the Great Tribulation.
9. Heaven and hell are real, although we may not know the exact nature of these abodes. Eternal Life awaits the Christian; judgment and eternal separation from God awaits those who do not accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.
10. Godly living, according to the tenor of Scripture, should characterize the life of every child of God (the traditions and laws of man are not to be interpreted as the rule of holiness).
11. God's Word teaches us to support the work of God with our finances and time.
12. Whosoever will may accept Jesus. Apostasy, if maintained, results in the loss of Eternal Life with Christ.

BYLAWS

SECTION I: Name and Purpose

ARTICLE I: The name of this establishment (hereinafter known as "the church", but including all educational facilities and ministries) shall be **COMMUNITY CHAPEL & BIBLE TRAINING CENTER.**

ARTICLE II: The purpose of the church is:

1. To establish and maintain a place of worship.
2. To edify the saints, building them up in the Faith of God's Holy Word.
3. To aid souls in being saved, filled with the Spirit, living victorious Christian lives, and in looking and preparing for our hope from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. To give spiritual counseling to those in need.
5. To help, train, exhort, and advise God's people in witnessing of Jesus Christ, and of living for Him.
6. To propagate the Word of God.

SECTION II: The Pastor

ARTICLE I: The First Pastor. The first pastor of this church shall be Donald Lee Barnett.

ARTICLE II: Authority.

1. The pastor is recognized as the Spiritual Overseer of the church, an office ordained of God to shepherd and feed God's flock.
2. The pastor shall have authority to appoint a steering committee to investigate and take charge of the legal and necessary duties and decisions in order to approve the original Articles of Faith and Bylaws, buy land, and erect buildings, until such a time as the first congregational business meeting is held (not later than 30 days after occupying the sanctuary). The pastor shall assume the chairmanship of this temporary committee, and shall appoint a moderator and vice-chairman of same. Their signatures

shall be affixed to this form to authorize its acceptance by the church.

3. The pastor shall appoint at least 3 original Elders (hereafter called "Spiritual Overseers"), as he sees need.
4. The pastor shall appoint associates or assistants, if and as he feels need, subject to the approval of the Spiritual Overseers.
5. The pastor shall have the prerogative to minister as he feels the Holy Spirit leads him, and shall be in official charge of all services of the church, even though he may not attend all such meetings.
6. The pastor shall have authority to appoint, instruct, oversee, and remove teachers in the Sunday or Weekday classes, although he may delegate this responsibility to the Spiritual Overseers.

ARTICLE III: Change of Pastors.

1. A pastor desiring to leave the church must give the Spiritual Overseers at least 60 days notice, and shall inform the congregation of his intentions. By mutual agreement, the time may be changed.
2. The Pastor, having established the original church, (along with the congregation and, we feel, by God) shall have oversight of same until the pastor agrees to change.
3. Future Pastors may only be removed by both a 2/3 vote of the Spiritual Overseers and of the congregation. In such an event, the Pastor shall be invited to the meeting and shall have an opportunity to address the congregation for at least 15 minutes, prior to the voting.

4. The Pastor(s) shall be included as ex officio Spiritual Overseer.
5. The Spiritual Overseers shall select a new pastor (to fill a pastoral vacancy) that satisfies 2/3 of the Spiritual Overseers and 2/3 of the voting congregation. No other conditions are imposed.

ARTICLE IV: Duties.

1. The pastor(s) shall preach, teach, admonish, encourage, and advise as God gives him (them) ability. The pastor(s) shall live a Godly life, and endeavor to shepherd the flock to their spiritual benefit.
2. Recognizing that the Bible teaches a "body ministry" and that the pastor does not have time, strength, or desire to run the entire church in its many avenues of service, he shall not be expected to do all (or more than he feels that he should or can handle) of the ministries of the church, including: visiting and praying for the sick and needy, witnessing, counseling, teaching, preaching, administering, and attending meetings.

SECTION III: SPIRITUAL OVERSEERS

ARTICLE I: Appointing other Spiritual Overseers.

1. Spiritual Overseers shall appoint others to this same office as follows:
 - a) One or more Spiritual Overseers shall bring to the others the names of those that they feel should be ordained to the Spiritual Oversight, as need arises.
 - b) The Spiritual Overseers shall discuss the need and qualifications of the office and nominees. If 3/4 of the Spiritual Overseers agree, the nominees shall be interviewed and acquainted with the requirements of office.

- (c) The Spiritual Overseers shall (when the nominees are not present) pray over the names nominated and make a final decision.
 - (d) If 3/4 of the Spiritual Overseers and the original Pastor (if still officiating) concur, the nominee shall be ordained to office in a Sunday service by the laying on of hands and prayer.
2. A Spiritual Overseer shall be appointed for life, unless removed by a 3/4 vote of the others of the same office.
 3. To be eligible for office, a Spiritual Overseer must be a male, 21 years old or older, a born-again, Spirit-filled, active Christian, dedicated to God's service, and a good example, agreeing to these Bylaws and Articles of Faith, being able to contribute to God's work by teaching, preaching, counseling, guiding, directing, or praying for the sick and ministering to those in need.

ARTICLE II: Duties

1. The Spiritual Overseers shall, in general, and as agreed upon, mutually, perform one or more of the following ministries, if available, and in addition to other ministries that shall be deemed advisable:
 - (a) Teach mid-week classes (b) Direct mid-week services (c) Preach (d) Lead visitation groups (e) Counsel and guide those who seek help (f) Pray for the sick and needy in church, hospitals, and homes (g) Act as advisors to the Pastor and Deacons (h) Make decisions in spiritual oversight (i) Lead prayer meetings.
2. The Spiritual Overseers do not act as Trustees and Board Members to determine financial and mundane practices, except to approve large expenditures of money relating to buildings, land, and equipment, in order to insure that the spiritual direction of the church, as determined by the Spiritual Overseers, are complied with. (See "Deacons, Financial Expenditures")

3. All decisions in spiritual matters shall be decided by a 2/3 vote of the Spiritual Overseers and approved by the original Pastor, (if still officiating).

SECTION IV: DEACONS

ARTICLE I: Chosen for Office

1. The Board of Deacons shall be chosen by a vote of the congregation for a period of one year, and hold office for as many terms as he is elected.
2. The Board of Deacons shall consist of a Secretary-Treasurer, a Moderator or Chairman, and/or other such offices over the mundane affairs of the church as shall be decided upon by the congregation in their business meetings. The Board of Deacons shall have a minimum of three (3) members. In the first meeting the Moderator of the Spiritual Overseers shall act as Moderator.

ARTICLE II: Duties

1. The Board shall act as OFFICIAL TRUSTEES of the church, and shall oversee the necessary legal agreements, bank loans and payments, insurance programs, maintenance of the buildings and grounds, janitorial work, future construction, purchasing of equipment, appointment of ushers, and other financial and mundane obligations and duties of the church. They shall insure prompt payment of all obligations, keep neat and accurate books of all expenditures and business, and keep the church advised on all major decisions.
2. In the event that the Pastor feels, suspects, or wishes confirmation, he shall have the power to appoint the Spiritual Overseers to investigate the actions of the Board to see if the spiritual direction established by the

Spiritual Overseers are being complied with. The Spiritual Overseers may ask for an audit of the books, and if misdirection, mismanagement, or dishonesty is found, they shall have the power to reverse the Board's decisions, and, if necessary, remove any Board members and ask the congregation to elect replacements.

3. Any member of the congregation shall have the right to see the ledger of expenditures when requested in writing.

4. (a) Any decision involving over \$200.00, except for regular payments, shall be made only after notifying the Pastor so that he may be aware of the situation and exercise his prerogative of advisement.

(b) Any decision involving over \$500.00 shall be made by the Deacons, who shall notify the Spiritual Overseers, in advance, of the transaction.

(c) Any decision involving over \$2,000.00 shall be approved by over one-half of the Spiritual Overseers, and a majority of the voting congregation.

5. All payments over \$10.00 must be made by check.

6. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.

7. A Deacon may only be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the congregation, the Deacons, or Spiritual Overseers.

8. All records must be kept within one week of being up to date, in permanent books that are not removed from the church. The initial rough drafts may be taken home.

SECTION V: OFFICERS

ARTICLE I: The Sunday Morning Bible School Coordinator

1. The Sunday Morning Bible School Coordinator shall be appointed by the Pastor for a period of one year.

2. The S.M.B.S. Coordinator shall handle the arrangements for class substitute teachers and class materials and other necessary duties. The Pastor shall oversee the Sunday Bible School.

ARTICLE II: The Young People's Leader

The Young People's Leader and other spiritual officers shall be appointed by the Pastor as the need arises (although he may delegate this responsibility to the Spiritual Overseers).

SECTION VI: CO-RESPONSIBILITIES

ARTICLE III: Spiritual Overseers and Deacons may hold other offices, or the same office, concurrently--as other officers may also do. For example, a person may hold the office of Spiritual Overseer, Deacon, and Sunday Bible School Coordinator.

SECTION VII: VOTING

ARTICLE I: In order to be eligible to vote in congregational business meetings, one must be: (a) A born-again Christian (b) In regular attendance in the Sunday Services for at least 3 months (except during the first four months of operation); (c) At least 18 years old; (d) Contributing at least 5% of his income to the church through the church treasury records. (This is to insure that those who are contributing financially have the say as to where their money is being spent.); (e) Unaffiliated with another church (actively). Any question as to voting membership shall be resolved by the Spiritual Overseers, whose decision is final.

ARTICLE II: Unless otherwise stated a majority of voting members at a meeting shall be necessary to decide any question before the congregation. In case of a tie the Pastor shall cast the deciding vote.

SECTION VIII: BUSINESS MEETINGS

ARTICLE I: Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Deacons or Spiritual Overseers, or the Pastor. Pastor shall select the date of meeting within 30 days of request by Deacons or Spiritual Overseers.

ARTICLE II: Congregational business meetings must be held at least yearly, and shall be announced publically at both of the previous Sunday Services.

ARTICLE III: Spiritual Overseers may sit in on meetings of the Deacon Board as advisors, but without vote.

SECTION IX: MISCELLANEOUS RULINGS AND ADJUSTMENTS

ARTICLE I: A 3/4 affirmative vote of the Spiritual Overseers and the original Pastor's concurrence, if still presiding, is necessary to change any established Bylaw stated herein (after signatures of the Steering Committee and Pastor).

ARTICLE II: In case of any disagreement of interpretation of these rules (in the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the decision of the Spiritual Overseers takes precedence over the Deacon Board.) If the disagreement cannot be reconciled by 2/3 of the Spiritual Overseers, the Pastor shall decide the issue.

(signatures on next page)

E. Scott Shuttles Jr
Steering Committee Member

Keith E. Shuman
Steering Committee Member

Paul L. Bullinger
Steering Committee Member

Donald Lee Barnett
Pastor