



Constitution

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CONSTITUTION OF CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Preamble

Having placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation and accepting the entire Scriptures as our only authority for faith and practice, we therefore band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ and adopt our government, plan for worship, and service according to the following Constitution, rescinding all previous contrary actions.

ARTICLE 1 Incorporation

This church shall be known as Cornerstone Community Church. Officially organized on Sunday, May 15, 1988, incorporated in Lake County, State of Illinois.

ARTICLE 2 Statement of Purpose

Cornerstone Community Church is committed to God-Centered Worship in Vibrant Community, by Biblical Discipleship, through Loving Service and Empowered Evangelism.

ARTICLE 3 Core Values

The Core Values of Cornerstone Community Church are what gives us direction and identity in our ministry of God to the world.

Objectives

1. Worship: Worship God in all aspects of life.
2. Community: Gather as a community of worshippers.
3. Discipleship: Disciple other believers to be worshippers.
4. Service: Serve all people as an expression of worship.
5. Evangelism: Spread the Gospel message to make more worshippers.

Defining Core Values

1. **WORSHIP** - *God-Centered Worship* is an intentional attitude of reverent love and gratitude toward the Triune God ascribing to Him the Highest Worth; worship is not exclusively about Sunday morning, nor is it synonymous with music. CCC wants to foster this exaltation of God as a lifestyle for all who attend, not just for the members or leadership. Worship means being in a state of continual spiritual communication with our God, a state where we are open to His blessings.
2. **COMMUNITY** - *Vibrant Community* refers to spending mutually edifying time together with other believers in an intentional manner such that the common connection of faith in the Father through the Son by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the priority. CCC wants to encourage all attendees to fellowship with the church universal, and not just the church local. Community is about fellowshiping with other believers, first in the congregation, then throughout the world.
3. **DISCIPLESHIP** - *Biblical Discipleship* means being trained in how to live and think according to God's standards, becoming more like Christ. CCC wants to biblically train every person such that there is movement from being a non-Christian to having a mature faith in Christ, through the Spirit, toward the Father. Discipleship is about spending time learning how to be more godly from others further along in the Christian walk, including all who have gone before us.
4. **SERVICE** - *Loving Service* is about the Body of Christ meeting all of the needs it encounters, including the physical needs of those in the surrounding world and stewardship of God's creation. CCC wants to fulfill Christ's message of love to the unbeliever and to the believer by using the varied spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit has conferred upon each, to the glory of the Father. Service means putting the other before oneself through intentional acts of love which confer God's love onto the person being served.
5. **EVANGELISM** – *Empowered Evangelism* is the verbal proclamation of God's Truth and the living example of its power to someone who does not currently have saving faith in Jesus Christ. CCC wants each and every Christian by the power of the Holy Spirit to share their faith with those who do not believe, until all the world is reached. Evangelism means God's words coming from one's mouth while His truth comes out in one's life.

ARTICLE 4

Evangelical Free Church Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.
7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.
8. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
9. That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. That Jesus Christ the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. In the personal and pre-millennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

ARTICLE 5

Statement of Government

In accordance with Acts 2:41-47 and 6:1-6, Cornerstone Community Church is committed to congregational government through the offices described in the New Testament. The Elders, which includes the pastors, are the leaders of the church, charged with the spiritual well-being of the church manifested in their ministry by preaching, teaching, and prayer. The Deacons are the leaders of the church who are charged with overseeing the material needs of the church body and the surrounding community. Elders and Deacons are set aside by the church members in order to serve the church body until such time as they are no longer able or willing to serve. Leadership within the church is a leadership of service. Cornerstone Community Church is in affiliation with the Great Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America.

ARTICLE 6

Statement of Amendment

This constitution of Cornerstone Community Church may be amended, but only at the request of the church board. The Elders, being led by the Holy Spirit, shall appoint an ad hoc committee to study the specific areas needed to change. The work of the committee shall then be presented back to the Elders. The Elders alone approve any revision to the church's Statement of Faith (Appendix) and may do so without a congregational vote. If the Elders deem any other revisions appropriate, they shall present those revisions to the congregation for a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of approval by the active members. The Elders shall appoint a committee to review the constitution and by-laws at least once every five years.

ARTICLE 7

Statement of Dissolution

In the future, should the Lord indicate that the ministry of Cornerstone Community Church should no longer continue that decision would require an affirmative vote from $\frac{3}{4}$ of the congregation. The assets of the church would then be calculated and converted to cash, if possible and necessary. The Elders would then present to the congregation names of several ministries (501 [C][3]) Corporations which meet the approval of the Elders and which meet any or all legal criterion) to which the congregation would then vote for and approve or disapprove the donation of specific percentages or specific portions of the assets. The Elders or the existing body of recognized spiritual leadership at that time would strive to honor the Lord Jesus Christ and the principles of the Word of God during the entire procedure, attempting always to protect the testimony of His Name. Upon dissolution of Cornerstone Community Church, the church shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all assets of the church in such a manner or to such an organization or organizations under Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law), as the Elders shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principle office of the church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.