

**CONSTITUTION**  
*of*  
***The Gibson City Bible Church***

*Article I*

**NAME:**

The name of this church shall be the "GIBSON CITY BIBLE CHURCH".

*Article II*

**STATUS**

This church shall be an independent, nondenominational evangelical church.

*Article III*

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; the Old and New Testaments as inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings; the creation of man by the direct act of God; the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; His identification as the Son of God; His vicarious atonement for the sins of mankind by shedding His blood on the cross; the resurrection of His body from the tomb; His ascension into heaven; His personal, bodily, imminent premillennial return; His power to save men from sin; the new birth through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life by the grace of God. We believe in a literal heaven, the final abode of the saved and a literal hell, the final abode of the unsaved.

*Article IV*

**CHURCH COVENANT**

Since I have been led, as I believe, by the Spirit of the Heavenly Father to join this local church in its work, fellowship, and privileges, I do solemnly agree before God, that I will endeavor to conduct myself everywhere and at all times as becomes a true Christian, and that I will endeavor to manifest a spirit of brotherly love towards all of God's people endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, and that, although all amusements and recreation are not harmful to Christians, I will endeavor to avoid all those things that are ungodly and worldly, seeking to be blameless and harmless amid an evil generation and thus bring no reproach on the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I will strive to be free from any sinful or offensive habit of life through the power of the Holy Spirit. I will attend Sunday School and public worship in my church as regularly as possible, and contribute, as God prospers me, to the various needs of the church including missionary support. I will seek to invest my spiritual gifts, time, and energies in serving the Lord and others in and out of the church. In the event I leave this community and wish to retain membership in the Gibson City Bible Church; I shall keep the church informed of my whereabouts through correspondence with the Pastor or Secretary. I profess that I am truly born again by the Word and Spirit of God.

Article V  
**ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH**

- A. **BAPTISM:**  
We believe that baptism is for those who have accepted Christ as Savior. The method of baptism to be administered by this church is to be immersion. Elders may substitute an alternate mode of baptism for individuals who cannot be immersed due to physical infirmity.
- B. **COMMUNION:**  
The Lord's Table shall be observed at least four times a year. It shall be open to all born-again Christians.
- C. **MARRIAGE:**  
We believe in the sanctity of marriage. We further believe in marriage being between a man and a woman.

Article VI  
**MEMBERS**

- A. **ADMISSION:**  
Each candidate for church membership must confess Christ as Savior, relate his or her Christian experience to a panel of two or more Elders, subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Gibson City Bible Church, accept the church constitution, and the covenant contained herein. Believer's baptism shall be required for membership in the Gibson City Bible Church, however persons desiring membership already having believer's baptism by a mode other than immersion may also be accepted. Candidates will be accepted for church membership upon approval of the Elders.
- B. **VOTING MEMBERS:**  
  
Members of the church who attend our public worship services as regularly as possible, and are at least 16 years of age, are voting members.
- C. **NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**  
  
  1. Non-voting members lose their privilege to vote, hold office, or participate in business meetings of the church.
  2. Non-resident members may be retained as non-voting members of the church.
- D. **REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP ROLLS:**  
The Elders shall periodically, but at least every three years, review the membership roll to identify members who are possible candidates for non-voting status or removal from the membership rolls of the Church. The Elders shall place any member who has not attended our public worship services as regularly as possible (as determined by the Elders) on non-voting status.
- E. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERS:**

Membership may be terminated upon request of the member, upon removal by the church of a member according to Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 5 and the Reconciliation Policy, or upon failure of the member to attend our public worship services as regularly as possible (as determined by the Elders).

F. RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE

Elders, Deacons, Christian Education Directors, and Vacation Bible School Directors shall be recommended to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Recommendation Committee shall consist of an Elder, Deacon, and two congregational members appointed by the Elders.

G. ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

There shall be an annual congregational meeting in the month following the end of the fiscal year, called by the Elders for the purpose of reports as to the ministries and state of the church, for the appointment of Elders, Deacons, and such other ministry leaders as the Elders may place on the ballot, for the approval of the ministries budget of the church for the coming year, and for such other business as the Elders shall determine.

Except as provided in Article H, the Annual Meeting of Members shall be held upon two weeks notice given to the congregation in the bulletin of the church.

H. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS:

Special meetings of the Members may be called by the Elders upon two weeks notice to the congregation, which notice shall indicate the special purpose for the meeting. In the event of an emergency, the Elders shall have authority to call a special meeting without giving two weeks notice.

I. VOTING:

Except as the vote of a supermajority may otherwise be required by this Constitution, actions of the members shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting at the meeting duly called.

Article VII  
**ELDERS**

A. OVERSIGHT

The ministry of the Gibson City Bible Church shall be carried out under the oversight and leading of a plurality of Elders seeking humbly to be submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of the Scriptures, and the direction of the Holy Spirit. In addition to the general oversight of church, the Elders shall be responsible to see that Biblical truth is taught (Titus 1:9), to maintain doctrinal purity (2 Timothy 2:23-26) to admonish the disobedient (Gal 6:1-2), and to pray for the sick (James 5:13-16). The Elders shall at any time receive comments, advice, or suggestions from any member of the congregation concerning the ministries of the church. Action taken by the Elders shall be reported back to the member.

B. CONGREGATIONAL ELDERS

The Elders shall consist of the Senior Pastor, Congregational Elders and may include other pastoral staff at the discretion of the Elders as determined at the time of their calling. Congregational Elders shall be selected by a vote of no less than eighty percent (80%) approval by the members present and voting at the annual meeting. The number of congregational Elders shall exceed the number of paid staff Elders. The recommended minimum number of congregational Elders shall be six. The Elders shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary from their number. The Elders shall appoint a Church Treasurer from the voting membership. The chairman of the Elders shall be a congregational Elder.

C. **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Each individual recommended to serve as a Congregational Elder shall have been a member of Gibson City Bible Church for at least one year; meet the scriptural qualifications for an Elder as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9; and (except as an inactive Elder may have been appointed to fill a vacancy as provided at paragraph D.3. below) shall not have served as an active Elder during the year prior to commencement of the term for which he is to be recommended.

D. **TENURE, RESIGNATION, DISMISSAL:**

1. The normal term of an active Elder shall be three years. Exceptions to the normal term may be allowed: I) as necessary to maintain a staggering of terms among the Elders; and II) to insure the minimum number of Elders.
2. Elders may submit their resignations in writing to the Elders at any time.
3. In the event of a resignation or death, the Elders may appoint an inactive Elder to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.
4. Accusation of behavior unbecoming an Elder will be received in accordance to 1 Timothy 5:19-20 and in a manner consistent with the Policy on Reconciliation. Any Elder under review cannot vote. If dismissed, duties of the dismissed Elder cease immediately.
5. An active Elder, who is unable to fulfill his duties, may be designated an inactive Elder by a two-thirds vote of the other active Elders.

E. **MEETINGS AND QUORUM:**

The Elders shall meet no less than monthly and shall keep a record of all such meetings. The presence of sixty [60] percent of the congregational Elders shall constitute a quorum of the Elders. They shall meet jointly with the Deacons as shall be deemed desirable.

F. **MINISTRY LEADERS:**

The Elders shall determine the qualifications of and approve ministry leaders.

Article VIII  
**PASTORS**

A. QUALIFICATIONS:

1. The Elders may recommend a candidate for calling to a pastoral position (whether full-time or part-time) only after careful examination of previous training and experience. The candidate shall be presented to the congregation for election. Only one candidate may be recommended at a time.
2. In order to qualify as a Senior Pastor or other pastoral position, a candidate must have sound Biblical training, subscribe to the constitution of the Gibson City Bible Church, in particular be in agreement with the Gibson City Bible Church Statement of Faith, and meet the Scriptural requirements for an Elder as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9. He also shall be most cautious that secondary issues are not exalted to the dividing of the brethren. 2 Timothy 2:14-24

B. APPOINTMENT AND TENURE:

Pastoral staff shall be called by a vote of no less than eighty percent (80%) approval by the members of the congregation present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose. Pastoral staff shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders, and may be dismissed by two-thirds vote of the Elders. It is desirable for pastoral staff to give at least 30 days notice of their intent to resign, unless the resignation is for cause. The Elders shall determine the date for salary termination of pastoral staff.

C. DUTIES:

1. The Senior Pastor and other pastoral staff shall fulfill the responsibilities of an Elder as listed in Article VII.
2. Under the overall direction of the Elders, the senior pastor shall have primary responsibility for the shepherding and spiritual growth of the congregation.
3. The Senior Pastor's responsibilities shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the faithful preaching of the Word, overseeing other pastoral staff, ministry to the congregation, serving with the Elders and Deacons, and such other tasks as are necessary to fulfill his duties.
4. Other pastoral staff and the support staff (if any) shall fulfill the responsibilities as shall be assigned by the Elders and Senior Pastor. The pastoral and support staff of the church shall report administratively to the Senior Pastor.

D. MEMBERSHIP:

Upon their calling, the pastoral staff of the church shall automatically become members of the church.

E. ANNUAL REVIEW:

1. The Elders shall review the Senior Pastor's ministry annually.
2. The Senior Pastor shall consult with the Congregational Elders prior to his annual review of the ministry of all other pastoral staff.

*Article IX*  
**DEACONS**

A. MEMBERSHIP:

The minimum shall be nine Deacons, one-third of whom shall be selected annually for a term of three years by a vote of no less than 80% approval by the members present and voting at the annual meeting. The Deacons shall elect from their number a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

B. QUALIFICATIONS:

A Deacon shall have been a member of the Gibson City Bible Church for at least one year and shall meet the Scriptural qualifications for a Deacon as stated in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-10.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Deacons shall fulfill the responsibilities described in Mark 10:43, Acts 4:34 & 35, Acts 6:1-6, and Ephesians 4:12. In Mark 10:45 Christ identifies himself as a servant. With Christ as their example Deacons are to strive for this high calling through ministries to include, but not limited to:

1. The Helps Ministry, administration of the Benevolence Fund, and facilitating the ministries approved by the Elders.
2. The administration of matters pertaining to the custodial staff, church facilities, church property, and such financial responsibilities as delegated by the Elders.

D. TENURE, RESIGNATION, AND DISMISSAL:

1. The tenure of an active Deacon shall be three years. After serving a three-year term, a Deacon must remain inactive for one year before being eligible for return to active status.
2. Deacons may submit their resignations in writing to the Chairman of the Deacons who will, in consultation with the Elder Chair, decide whether or not to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year. Accusations of behavior unbecoming a Deacon will be received by the Elders in accordance to 1 Timothy 5:19-20 and in a manner consistent with the Policy on Reconciliation. If dismissed, duties of the dismissed Deacon cease immediately
3. In the event of a resignation or death, the Elders may appoint an otherwise eligible individual to fill the vacancy until the next annual business meeting.

E. MEETINGS: AND QUORUM

The Deacons shall meet monthly and shall keep a record of all business transacted. The presence of sixty (60) percent of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum. They shall meet jointly with the Elders as shall be deemed desirable.

## **ARTICLE X TRUSTEES**

The Elder Chair, Deacon Chair, and Church Treasurer shall be designated as Trustees of the Church.

## **Article XI AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION**

This constitution or any article thereof (except Article III) may be amended at any business meeting by a vote of two-thirds voting members present. This constitution shall be reviewed as often as the Elders deem necessary, but shall be reviewed at least on a bi-annual basis. If upon review by the Elders an amendment and/or amendments are deemed to be desirable and are then approved by the Elders, such amendment(s) shall be brought to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting. Notice of said meeting to consider the proposed amendment(s) shall be given no less than four weeks in advance. Said notice shall include a copy of the proposed amendment(s).