



CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION



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CALVARY HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION – 11/19/2018

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Article I. Preamble

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His followers in 1960, to plant a church under the name of Martinsville Baptist Chapel for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and He has sustained and prospered this work to the present day; and

We, the members of Calvary Heights Baptist Church, declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of this church and the freedom of the actions of its body in relation to other churches. This constitution will ensure a thorough understanding and appreciation on the parts of each of us as to the doctrines, polity, structure, and purpose of our fellowship of faith in Jesus Christ.

Article II. Name

This body shall be known as the Calvary Heights Baptist Church of Martinsville, Indiana. This body will be further referred to as the "church" in these bylaws and may also be referred to (in these bylaws and when conducting business) as Calvary Heights, Calvary Heights Martinsville, CHBC, and such other names as the body of members shall determine from time to time.

Article III. Purpose of Faith and Fellowship

Calvary Heights Baptist Church is a not-for-profit organization in accordance with Indiana State Law and United States Federal Law.

We believe the rule of God through Christ in men's lives can be more speedily advanced and the spiritual needs of this community can best be served by the uniting of ourselves as the followers of Christ in our fellowship, worship, and service.

The purpose of the church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This is accomplished through the following:

- 1) Worship – to participate together in public worship services and to maintain personal devotions (John 4:24).
- 2) Fellowship – to encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together (1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5,7; John 13:34-35).
- 3) Maturity – to help members develop toward full Christian maturity and to train them for effective reproducing ministries. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 18:20; 2 Timothy 2:2).
- 4) Ministry – to serve unselfishly, in Jesus name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our church, our community, and the world (1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-50; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13).
- 5) Evangelism – to share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9).
- 6) Stewardship – to invest money, time, and other resources, using biblical principles (Matthew 25:14-30; Proverbs 3:9-10).

To this end, the members of Calvary Heights Baptist Church strive to do the following:

- 1) To be a kingdom-focused church that passionately pursues planting churches, partnering with like-minded churches, and praying for the Church universal.
- 7) To be a gospel-saturated community that is marked by authentic relationships, virtual companionships, and mutual edification that is brought together to partner for missions as well as the equipping of families.
- 8) To practice worship-fueled discipleship, wherein we fight together in the battle to uphold that God is the source of all delight, rather than the fleeting pleasures of sin (idolatry).
- 9) To be a hospitable people that offers a refuge for the broken with the hopes of Christ-centered transformation.
- 10) To be a missional people, living as though sent to our local community and our global community with the intention of spreading Christ for the joy of all peoples.
- 11) To be a community of believers that is radically centered upon the glory of God.

Article IV. Affiliations

The church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in the fulfillment of its purposes, the church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in its national, state, and local expressions, which include the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (SCBI), the White River Baptist Association, and sister churches.

Article V. Statement of Faith

The church accepts the Bible as its authority in all matters of faith and practice as well as its understanding of the body of Christian truth contained therein. This church holds to the guidelines of the "Baptist Faith and Message," a statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention and most recently revised in 2000, attached as Appendix A, and the "Nashville Statement," attached as Appendix B.

Article VI. Covenant

Section 6.01 Elders/Leaders to The Calvary Heights Baptist Church Body

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, elders/leaders are entrusted with protecting, leading, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is a rather extensive overview of the requirements for elders as spelled out within the Scriptures.

(a) The elders/leaders covenant...

- (i) *to appoint elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).*
- (ii) *to prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4).*
- (iii) *to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth, and love (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4).*
- (iv) *to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).*
- (v) *to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16).*
- (vi) *to be on guard against false teachers and teachings (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).*
- (vii) *to lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).*
- (viii) *to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated below (Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:3).*

Section 6.02 Members to The Calvary Heights Baptist Church Body

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as “living by the Spirit” (Romans 8). The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible yet non-exhaustive explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

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- (a) The members covenant...
- (i) *to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).*
 - (ii) *to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).*
 - (iii) *to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:*
 - 1) *by being baptized after my conversion.*
 - 2) *by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.*
 - (iv) *to regularly participate in the life of Calvary Heights Baptist Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community, and serving those within and outside of this church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).*
 - (v) *to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11).*
 - (vi) *by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16; 4:1-3). Believers should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.*

Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures:

 - 1) *I will practice complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, premarital sex, and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).*
 - 2) *I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation at Calvary Heights Baptist Church before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; for the role of the church in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church in 1 Corinthians 6).*
 - 3) *I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, gossip and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates (Romans 1:28-32; 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).*
 - (vii) *to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).*
 - (viii) *to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).*
 - (ix) *to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:*

- 1) following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - 2) receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (*Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11*).
- (x) *to do the following when I sin:*
- 1) confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - 2) repent and seek help to put my sin to death (*Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10*).
- (xi) *to submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).*
- (xii) *to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:*
- 1) to notify the appropriate church leadership.
 - 2) to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

Article VII. Changes to the Constitution

This constitution may be amended during a Family Business Meeting. Any amendments to the Constitution must be presented to the church one month prior to the Family Business Meeting. The suggested amendments will be discussed at the Family Business Meeting and require a 3/4 vote (75%) of the members present to be accepted. The Constitution cannot be amended at a Special Business Meeting. For the vote to proceed, a quorum of thirty percent (30%) of membership must be present.