



**BIBLE CENTER | CHURCH<sup>®</sup>**

*Making disciples of Jesus*

**Constitution  
Distinctive Beliefs & Practices  
Membership Covenant**

*“Then Jesus came to them and said,  
‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given  
to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey  
everything I have commanded you. And surely I am  
with you always, to the very end of the age.’”*

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**M A T T H E W 2 8 : 1 8 - 2 0**

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# CHURCH HISTORY

In the late 1930s, God moved upon the hearts of a small group of Christians in Charleston, WV to meet in homes for Bible study and encouragement. In 1943, this intrepid group of believers became formally organized as The City Bible Center and began worshipping in a store-front location in downtown Charleston.



As God continued to bless us, we moved into a refurbished home on Broad Street. Then in 1956, we constructed the first designated church structure on Kanawha Blvd. Bible Center's third relocation took place in 1976, when the congregation began meeting in what is now Bible Center School on Corridor G.



As growth continued, and after introducing two Sunday morning services, church leadership recognized the need for additional expansion, and in 2008 we celebrated with the opening of our new worship facilities on a

96-acre campus in Charleston's Southridge area. The chronicle of Bible Center Church is a story of God's faithfulness. In all things, we seek to give Him glory!



## HISTORY OF THE CONSTITUTION

The original constitution was presented and accepted by the congregation at the annual meeting in 1950. An extensive revision was confirmed in March 1958, with additional revisions confirmed in November 1993, February 2005, July 2014, and March 2019. This present revision went into effect on April 1, 2021.

# OUR MISSION & STRATEGY

## Mission

Making disciples of Jesus

## Vision

To create a network of spiritually healthy, leader multiplying churches in WV. *#forcountryroads*

## Discipleship Strategy

Connect • Grow • Multiply



# MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Confessing Jesus Christ as our Savior, and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves, in the presence of God and each other, to share the responsibilities of our church by praying for its growth, supporting our leaders, and giving regularly and generously.

We will honor our Lord by discovering and using our gifts and talents, being equipped to serve, and developing a servant's heart.

With God's help, we will support the testimony of Christ by regular prayer and Bible reading, attending faithfully, living a godly life, and developing relationships with unbelievers and sharing Jesus with them.

We will protect the church's unity by acting in love toward others, refusing to gossip, and warmly welcoming those who visit.



# CONSTITUTION

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## ARTICLE I. NAME

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All true believers in Christ make up the body of Christ on earth. One local manifestation of His body is The Bible Center Church in Charleston, West Virginia. The Bible Center Church is nondenominational, independent, and evangelical.

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## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

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As set forth in the New Testament, the purpose of Bible Center Church is:



1. The maintenance of the public worship of the True and Living God ([John 4:23](#)) and the practice of church ordinances.
2. The building up of the body of Christ by teaching God's Word and the practice of righteousness in daily living. [2 Tim. 2:16](#), [Rom. 12:1-2](#)
3. The promotion of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world in obedience to Christ's Great Commission. [Acts 1:8](#)

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## ARTICLE III. MEMBER STATEMENT OF FAITH

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### A. GOD'S WORD

1. We believe the whole Bible—all 66 books—to be the inspired Word of God. [Zech. 7:12](#); [Matt. 5:17-18](#); [John 10:35](#); [Acts 4:24-26](#); [1 Cor. 14:37](#); [2 Tim. 3:14-17](#); [2 Pet. 1:20-21](#); [3:15-16](#)
2. We believe the Bible to be inerrant, accurate, and true in the original manuscripts, infallible, and trustworthy in everything. The Bible doesn't affirm anything that is contrary to fact. [Num. 23:19](#); [Psa. 12:6](#); [Prov. 30:5](#); [John 17:17](#); [Rom. 1:2](#); [Titus 1:2](#); [Heb. 6:18](#)
3. The Bible alone is our final source of authority and is sufficient in matters of faith and practice; therefore, it guides our discussions of purpose, doctrine, morals, church membership, church governance, and ministry. [Deu. 30:15-20](#); [1 Thess. 4:2](#); [2 Thess. 3:14](#); [2 Pet. 3:15-16](#)
4. God's Word is essential for showing and knowing the way of salvation, for maturing in the faith, and for discerning God's will.

It is necessary for the equipping, growth, and transformation of every gospel-believer. Therefore, it is the centerpiece of our preaching, teaching, singing, and counseling. [\*Psa. 19:7-11; Matt. 4:4; Rom. 10:13-17; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:3\*](#)

5. The good news of God's redemptive plan through Christ is the central and dominant theme of the Bible—in both the Old and New Testaments—and in human history. God's Word unveils God's plan through creation, the fall, salvation, transformation, and restoration—impacting the individual, the Church, and the world. [\*Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; Luke 24:13-45; Gal. 3:16; Heb. 9:15; Rev. 21:3-6\*](#)
6. Though not exhaustively, God has revealed Himself truly, clearly, and progressively through His Word so that, with God's help, its teachings can be understood and applied. [\*Deu. 30:11-14; 31:9-13; John 14:26; Rom. 15:4; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:1-2\*](#)

## **B. THE TRIUNE GOD**

1. There is one God, creator, sustainer, and ruler of all. [\*Deu. 6:4; Jas. 2:19\*](#)
2. God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. [\*Gen. 1:26; Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 1:2\*](#)
3. Each person is fully God—co-eternal, co-equal, and co-existent. [\*Gen. 1:1; John 1; Acts 5:3-4\*](#)
4. The three persons of the Trinity are one in essence, yet distinct in person, dwelling in perfect harmony as three in one, mutually glorifying and loving one another. [\*Gen. 1:26; Matt. 3:16-17; John 14-17; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 John 4:7-8\*](#)
5. Our Triune God has created all things, and by nature, He transcends His creation and dwells eternally outside of time, space, and matter. He is infinite in His holiness, perfection, and glory. [\*1 Kings 8:27; Psa. 102:25-27; Isa. 48:11; John 17:5; Acts 17:24-25; 2 Pet. 3:8; Rev. 21:22-27\*](#)
6. By choice, God is fully present within His creation, displaying His goodness, love, wisdom, justice, mercy, and grace. [\*Ex. 34:6-7; John 3:16; Phil. 4:5; Col. 1:17\*](#)



7. God created all things for His glory, and He providentially rules over all He has made. The skies proclaim His glory, His people are redeemed for His glory, and forever we will praise His glory. [Ex. 20:4-6](#); [Isa. 43:7, 21, 25; 48:11](#); [Psa. 19:1-2](#); [Matt. 10:29](#); [John 17:1-5](#); [Acts 4:27-28](#); [Heb. 1:1-3](#); [Rev. 5:9-10](#)

## C. GOD THE FATHER

### 1. The Person of the Father

- God the Father is sovereign over all things. He is immortal, unseen, living in unapproachable light, a consuming fire, the only wise God. [1 Chron. 29:11-12](#); [Psa. 103:19](#); [Rom. 11:33-36](#); [1 Tim. 1:17; 6:15-16](#), [Heb. 12:29](#)
- He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. [Luke 10:21-22](#); [John 14:9-13](#); [2 Cor. 1:3-4](#); [1 Pet. 1:3](#)

### 2. The Work of the Father

- In love, God sent His only begotten and beloved Son, and together with the Son, He gave the Holy Spirit. [John 3:16; 14:16; 17:5, 24](#); [20:21](#)
- While holy and just, God also displays His grace and mercy by saving and adopting all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. [John 1:12-14; 16:23-28](#); [Rom. 8:14-15](#); [Gal. 3:26](#); [Eph. 1:3-10](#); [1 Pet. 1:3-5](#)

## D. GOD THE SON

### 1. The Person of Christ

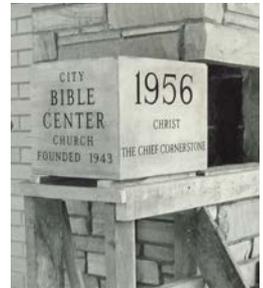
- Jesus is God's eternal Son, uncreated and co-equal with the Father and the Spirit. He shares the same nature, attributes, and perfections as God the Father and God the Spirit. Jesus and the Father are one. Jesus is the radiance and revelation of the Father's glory, an exact representation of Him, and it is Jesus who has made the Father known. [Isa. 9:6; 40:3](#); [Matt. 3:3; 22:41-46](#); [John 1; 6:38; 8:56-59; 10:30-33; 20:25-31](#); [Rom. 9:5](#); [Col. 1:15-20](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Heb. 1](#); [2 Pet. 1:1](#); [Rev. 19:16](#)
- Through the power and work of the Holy Spirit—in the incarnation through the virgin birth—Jesus fully took on human

nature, including a human body and a human experience while living a sinless life. [Isa. 7:14](#); [Matt. 4:1-11](#); [Luke 1:26-35](#); [2:52](#); [John 11:35](#); [12:27](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#); [Heb. 2:14-18](#); [4:15-16](#); [7:26](#); [1 Pet. 1:19](#); [2:22](#)

- Jesus is fully God and fully man. Both natures are unified in Christ without confusion or the minimization of either nature. [Mic. 5:2](#); [Luke 24:36-42](#); [Gal. 4:4](#); [Phil. 2:5-11](#); [Col. 2:9](#); [Heb. 4:15](#); [1 John 1:1](#)

## 2. The Work of Christ

- Jesus actively lived a perfect life and died on the cross, standing in our place, to bear the full weight of God's wrath against our sin and to satisfy the Father's holy justice and righteous standard. Jesus offers forgiveness, righteousness, and adoption to all who—by grace through faith—receive Him as Savior and Lord. [Isa. 53:4-6](#); [John 1:12](#); [Rom. 5:6-8](#); [8:1](#); [10:9-13](#); [1 Cor. 15:3](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#); [Eph. 1:5-6](#); [2:8-9](#); [1 Pet. 2:24](#)
- He gave Himself to redeem us and purify for Himself a chosen people for His own possession, a royal priesthood, zealous for good works, who declare the worth of their Savior through obedience, selflessness, praise, and worship. [Eph. 1:3-14](#); [Titus 2:1-14](#); [1 Pet. 1:13-22](#); [2:9-10](#)
- Christ's death made reconciliation possible between God and sinful people. Through the blood He shed on the cross, all believers have peace with God, and all creation will one day be restored and renewed. [Rom. 5:1](#); [8:18-21](#); [Col. 1:20](#); [1 Tim. 2:5](#); [Rev. 21:1-5](#)
- Jesus bodily rose from the dead, was publicly seen by many, and dealt a death-blow to God's enemies—achieving ultimate and cosmic victory over sin, death, Satan, and demons. Jesus ascended to the Father in heaven, lives to mediate for all believers, and will one day return in glory. [Gen. 3:15](#); [Psa. 16:10](#); [110](#); [Matt. 16:21](#); [28](#); [Mark 16:1-8](#); [Luke 24](#); [John 20-21](#); [Acts 1:1-11](#); [Rom. 6:1-10](#); [8:1-2](#); [1 Cor. 15](#); [Eph. 4:7-16](#); [Col. 2:15](#); [1 Tim. 3:16](#); [Heb. 1:3-4](#); [2:14-15](#); [1 Pet. 1:3](#); [1 John 3:8](#)
- Jesus, under the New Covenant, functions as prophet, priest, and king to accomplish our salvation. As a prophet, He reveals God and His ways. As a priest, He mediates between God and His people. As a king, He rules over all creation.



[Deu. 18:15-18; Psa. 89:26-37; 110; Jer. 31:31-34; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 3:22-24; 13:22-23, 32-53; Eph. 1:19-23; Heb. 7-10](#)

- Jesus was sent by the Father to seek and save the lost. In the same way, under His authority and with His active presence, Jesus sends out His followers to continue His mission of making disciples who make disciples. [Matt. 28:18-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 2:2](#)

## **E. GOD THE SPIRIT**

### **1. The Person of the Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit is a divine person—not a power, force, or influence. As a member of the Trinity, He fully shares in all divine perfections, attributes, and nature. He is to be worshipped, obeyed, trusted, and served along with God the Father and God the Son. [Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:1-9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2](#)
- Though one in essence with the Father (“Spirit of God”) and the Son (“Spirit of Christ”), the Spirit is distinct in person, relation, and role. [Rom. 8:9-10](#)
- The Spirit proceeds from both the Father and Son. [Psa. 104:30; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7](#)

### **2. The Work of the Holy Spirit**

- The work of the Spirit is to manifest the presence of God in the world and especially in the Church. He works in, with, and through the preaching, teaching, and sharing of God’s Word to convict the world of sin, to call the lost to salvation, to discipline wandering hearts back to Jesus, to mature believers in grace and truth, and to unify the Church. [Gen. 1:2; John 3:1-8; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; 2 Cor. 3:18; 13:14; Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 2:1-2](#)
- The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, and seals believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation until Jesus’ return. [Jer. 31:31-34; John 1:33; 7:37-39; 14:16-17; Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:1-4, 33; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 12:13; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 3:1-3; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Titus 3:5](#)
- As our Counselor and Helper, the Spirit enlightens and guides believers in our understanding and application of God’s Word. He continually renews, leads, fills, assures, and empowers us to love and obey. [John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7, 13-15; Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:22-24; 5:18-21; Col. 3:16](#)

- The Spirit testifies to our adoption, strengthens us in our weaknesses, and intercedes for us in prayer. He joins with Christ to justify, wash, and sanctify every believer. [Rom. 8:14-16, 26-27](#); [1 Cor. 6:11](#); [Gal. 4:4-7](#); [5:16-26](#); [Eph. 6:18](#); [Jude 20](#)
- The Spirit unifies gospel-believers, gives us gifts for ministry, and produces fruit in our lives for the maturing and building up of His Church. [Rom. 12:4-8](#); [1 Cor. 12-14](#); [Gal. 5:22-26](#); [Eph. 4:1-16](#); [1 Pet. 4:8-11](#)

## F. GOD'S CREATION

1. The Triune God—distinct from His creation and out of nothing—created everything visible and invisible by the power of His spoken word. By Him, through Him, and to Him are all things. [Gen. 1-2](#); [Neh. 9:5-6](#); [Psa. 33:4-9](#); [90:1-4](#); [102:25-27](#); [Isa. 45:5-18](#); [John 1:1-14](#); [8:58](#); [Acts 4:24](#); [14:15](#); [17:24-28](#); [Rom. 4:17](#); [Col. 1:15-20](#); [Heb. 11:3](#); [Rev. 10:6](#)
2. God created out of the superabundance of His love and holiness. His creation, and everything in it, exists to proclaim His greatness, goodness, and glory. [Gen. 1-2](#); [Ex. 20:11](#); [Job 38:1-42:6](#); [Psa. 19:1-6](#); [33:6-9](#); [96:11-13](#); [136:5-9](#); [148](#); [Isa. 6:3](#); [43:7](#); [Rom. 1:20](#); [11:33-36](#); [Eph. 1](#); [1 Tim. 4:1-5](#); [6:17](#); [Rev. 4:11](#)
3. As described in the 6-day Genesis account, God delights to interact with and sustain His creation. [Gen. 1-2](#); [3:8-9](#); [2 Chron. 16:9](#); [Job 12:10](#); [33:4](#); [Psa. 103-104](#); [107](#); [136](#); [139](#); [Matt. 6:25-34](#); [Acts 17:24-28](#); [Col. 1:15-17](#); [Heb. 1:3](#)
4. Adam and Eve were personally created in the image of God. Jesus validated them as historical figures in a literal Garden of Eden. They stewarded God's holy creation and enjoyed pure and unhindered fellowship with God and one another. [Gen. 1:26-31](#); [Matt. 19:3-5](#); [Luke 3:38](#); [Acts 17:26](#); [2 Cor. 11:3](#)



## G. ANGELS & DEMONS

1. God created angels as moral, intelligent, and powerful spiritual beings without physical bodies. He assigned them to worship and serve Him and to minister to all believers. [Job 38:4-7](#); [Matt. 4:11](#); [Luke 2:8-15](#); [24:39](#); [John 20:11-13](#); [Acts 10:1-31](#); [Heb. 1:6-7, 14](#)
2. Satan and his demons (angels who sinned) actively fight

against the will and works of God, attempting to blind the minds of unbelievers. [Isa. 14:12-15](#); [Ezekiel 28:12-19](#); [Dan. 10; 12:1](#); [Matt. 12:22-32; 13:39](#); [Luke 10:17-20; 11:14-26](#); [2 Cor. 4:4](#); [Eph. 6:12](#); [1 Thess. 2:18](#); [1 John 3:8](#)

3. Satan and his demons seek to rob God of His glory through deceiving, accusing, lying, blinding, tormenting, and hurting the people Christ has redeemed. [Gen. 3:1-7](#); [Job 1-2](#); [John 8:44](#); [1 Pet. 5:8-9](#); [1 John 3:8](#); [Rev. 12:7-12](#)
4. Satan and his demons are defeated foes who live in subjection to the sovereignty of Christ and will spend eternity in torment. [Gen. 3:15](#); [Job 1-2](#); [Matt. 25:41](#); [Col. 2:15](#); [2 Pet. 2:4](#); [Jude 6](#); [Rev. 14:11](#); [20:1-10](#)

## H. HUMANITY

1. God intentionally created man and woman in His image, sharing in aspects of His spiritual, relational, rational, moral, emotional, and royal image, making us—of all creation—most like Him and most capable of glorifying Him, even in our physical bodies [Gen. 1:26-28](#); [2:15-18](#); [5:1-3](#); [9:6](#); [Psa. 8](#); [139:13-16](#); [Isa. 43:7](#); [Jas. 3:9](#); [1 Pet. 2:9](#)



2. As image-bearers of God, each person is loved, designed with beauty, created with a purpose, and is inherently and eternally valuable. All people reflect aspects of God's nature and are to be treated with dignity. [Gen. 1:26-28](#); [9:6](#); [Psa. 139:13-18](#); [Isa. 44:24](#); [Jer. 1:5](#); [Matt. 7:12](#); [Mark 12:31](#); [John 3:16](#); [Rom. 5:8](#); [1 Tim. 2:4](#); [1 Pet. 2:17](#); [2 Pet. 3:9](#)
3. Adam and Eve were created male and female with distinction, similarity, and interdependence for the sake of genuine union. [Gen. 1:27-28](#); [2:15-25](#); [Gal. 3:26-29](#); [Eph. 5:21-33](#)
4. Human beings consist of a material (body) and immaterial (soul/spirit) aspect. During this earthly existence, both are inseparably united. [Gen. 2:7](#); [Luke 10:27](#); [1 Thess. 5:23](#)
5. Adam and Eve are humanity's first parents. Adam, described as the head of the human race, represented all of humanity in the Garden of Eden. [Gen. 3:20](#); [Rom. 5:12-21](#); [1 Cor. 15:20-49](#)

## **I. THE FALL & EFFECTS OF SIN**

1. God created Adam and Eve in perfect holiness and gave them clear commandments. Eve was tempted and deceived by the serpent, and both Adam and Eve disobeyed and rebelled—willfully sinning against God. [Gen. 1:28-31; 2:15-17; 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12; 1 Tim. 2:14](#)
2. Spiritual death, physical death, and the sinful nature entered the world through Adam's Fall and are passed on to all humans. Every person is totally and morally depraved, spiritually dead, and separated from God. Each person is hopelessly and helplessly lost without God's intervention. [Gen. 3; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-23; 5:12-21; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 1:10](#)
3. God commissioned Adam and Eve to rule over creation; however, through their sin, all of creation is broken, cursed, and fallen. Humanity's relationship with God, with one another, and with creation itself is broken beyond human repair. Sin, suffering, and death have marred all of creation. [Gen. 1:28-30; 2:15; 3:7-24; John 16:33; Rom. 8:18-22](#)
4. Sin is any outward or inward failure to conform to the moral law of God, affecting our actions, attitudes, words, and motivations. As sovereign and holy, God establishes the moral law as a reflection of His righteous nature; therefore, we sin when we violate His law or anything consistent with His nature. [Ex. 20:1-17; Matt. 5-7; Mark 12:30; Gal. 5:13-26](#)

## **J. SALVATION**

1. Salvation is a divine and unmerited gift based entirely on the unconditional love and grace of God. [John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 6:23; 8:28-30; 2 Cor. 4:4-6; Eph. 1:3-14; 2:1-10; 3:14-17; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 4:9-10](#)
2. Through His work on the cross and resurrection from the dead, Jesus offers forgiveness, mercy, grace, and eternal life to all who believe—resulting in access to the very presence of God where believers can enjoy unhindered union, intimacy, and communion with God Himself forever. [John 1:12; 14:6; 15:1-5; 17:20-23; Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:18; Col. 2:12-15; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 1:4; 3:9; 1 John 2:2](#)
3. We are saved by the grace of God through faith in the person and work of Christ. Genuine conversion involves the human

response to the gospel, consisting of repentance from sin and faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel (and believing Gentiles) were saved by faith just as people in this age are saved by faith. [Gen. 15:1-6](#); [Matt. 3:2](#); [Mark 1:15](#); [Luke 24:47](#); [Acts 3:19](#); [17:30-31](#); [Rom. 1:16](#); [3:21-31](#); [4:1-25](#); [10:9-13](#); [2 Cor. 7:10](#); [Gal. 2:16](#), [Heb. 11](#)

4. Those who believe the gospel are born again. They are made alive in Christ as new creations complete with a new nature. [John 1:12](#); [3:3](#); [14:23](#); [2 Cor. 5:17](#); [Col. 2:13](#); [Jas. 1:18](#); [1 Pet. 1:23](#); [3:18](#); [1 John 2:29](#); [4:7](#); [5:1](#)
5. The saving work of Christ reconciles and justifies believers, declaring them holy, blameless, and not guilty in God's sight, giving them peace with and full access to God. [Gen. 15:1-6](#); [Rom. 3:8](#); [2 Cor. 5:18-21](#); [Gal. 2:15-3:29](#); [Col. 1:20-22](#); [1 Pet. 3:18](#)
6. Christians are "in Christ" and are given the very righteousness of Christ, resulting in a right-standing before God to be experienced and enjoyed forever. [Rom. 5:18-21](#); [6:17-18](#); [10:9-10](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#); [Eph. 1:4](#)
7. Though we were once His enemies, God the Father adopts gospel-believers into His family to enjoy a relationship as His beloved children. [John 1:12](#); [Rom. 5:10](#); [8:7](#), [15-17](#), [21](#), [23-25](#), [29](#); [Gal. 3:26-28](#); [4:4-7](#); [Eph. 1:5](#); [2:12-22](#); [Col. 3:12](#); [1 John 5:4-5](#)
8. God redeems us, breaks the chains that once bound us (to sin, selfishness, and Satan), and sets us free to live in response to Christ's love. [Rom. 3:24](#); [6:5-18](#); [8:1-2](#); [Eph. 1:7](#), [14](#); [Col. 1:14](#); [2:13-15](#); [Heb. 9:12](#); [1 Pet. 1:18-19](#)
9. The work of Christ secures the believer's salvation and begins the process of transformation into His likeness. Jesus works in individual believers and in entire churches to grow and change them over time. Out of love for Christ and while transforming into His image, we obey, do good works, love others, flee temptation, fight the flesh, endure hardship, and pursue holiness. [Matt. 4:19](#); [John 14:15](#); [17:17](#); [1 Cor. 10:13](#); [2 Cor. 3:18](#); [Gal. 2:20](#); [Eph. 4:22-24](#); [Phil. 1:6](#); [2:12-13](#); [1 Thess. 5:23](#); [Heb. 10:24-25](#); [1 Pet. 2:2](#); [1 John 3:9](#); [5:2-3](#)
10. We believe that all who are born again are kept eternally secure in the hands of our Father by the sealing of the Holy Spirit and intercession of Christ. God preserves gospel-believers with ongoing faith until their salvation is fully realized in His

presence. [John 6:37-40](#); [10:27-30](#); [Rom. 8:28-39](#); [Eph. 1:13-14](#); [Phil. 1:6](#); [Col. 1:21-23](#); [Heb. 3:14-15](#); [7:23-25](#); [10:35-39](#); [1 Pet. 1:3-9](#); [1 John 5:9-13](#)

11. The work of salvation produces a people who are unified in the Spirit and interdependent upon one another as family and friends. Individual members of the body of Christ are called to use their spiritual gifts and to display the fruit of the Spirit for the growth of the whole Church. [1 Cor. 12:4-13:13](#); [Gal. 5:22-26](#); [Eph. 4:1-7, 11-16](#); [1 Pet. 2:5](#)
12. Ultimately, Christ will redeem, renew, and restore all of creation, making it a holy and new place for the Lord to dwell with His resurrected people forever. [Isa. 65:17](#); [Rom. 8:18-25](#); [Phil. 2:9-11](#); [Rev. 21:1-5](#); [22:1-5](#)

## K. THE CHURCH

1. We believe that all Jesus-followers in this age comprise the Universal Church. Thus, they compose the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ, and will be His forever Bride. [Matt. 16:13-19](#); [Gal. 3:28](#); [Eph. 1:15-23](#); [2:19-22](#); [4:1-16](#); [5:25-32](#); [1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10](#); [Rev. 5:9-10](#); [19:7-8](#)
2. Jesus' Church consists of a diversity of believers from around the world, resourced with His power and presence, and organized and unified around the Bible's call to purity, accountability, and mission. [Matt. 18:15-20](#); [28:18-20](#); [Luke 24:44-48](#); [John 17](#); [Rom. 10:9-13](#); [1 Cor. 12:12-27](#); [Gal. 3:26-29](#); [Eph. 2:11-22](#); [Phil. 2:1-11](#); [Rev. 5:9-10](#)
3. We further believe in the local establishment and manifestation of the Church in a particular area as the pillar of truth and the center of God's methods and plans for this age. [Acts 1:8](#); [2:1-47](#); [8:4-25](#); [9:31](#); [10:11](#); [12:12](#); [13:1-3](#); [14:23](#); [1 Cor. 16:19](#); [Col. 4:15](#); [1 Thess. 1:1](#); [2 Thess. 1:1](#); [1 Tim. 3:15](#); [Titus 1:5](#)
4. God's people are to gather and worship together under the reading, teaching, preaching, and singing of God's Word and to respond with giving, prayer, participation in the ordinances, and mutual encouragement. [Luke 4:16](#); [Acts 2:41-47](#); [Rom. 12:10-13](#); [2 Cor. 9:6-7](#); [Eph. 4:32](#); [5:18-21](#); [Col. 3:16](#); [1 Tim. 2:1-2](#); [4:13](#); [2 Tim. 4:1-4](#); [Heb. 10:22-25](#)





5. The church lives life together throughout the week, caring and praying for one another as family and friends in ever-expanding and multiplying circles, faithfully making disciples who make disciples. [Matt. 28:18-20](#); [Acts 2:42-46](#); [20:20](#); [2 Tim. 2:2](#); [Heb. 3:12-13](#); [4:16](#); [Jas. 5:13-16](#)
6. All gospel-believers are called to use their spiritual gifts, skills, and resources for the growth and maturity of the Church as it accomplishes its mission to saturate its community and the world with the gospel. [1 Cor. 12:4-13:13](#); [Eph. 4:1-7, 11-16](#); [1 Pet. 2:5](#); [4:10-11](#)
7. Jesus, the Head of the Church, has given two ordinances to each local church:
- Baptism: In obedience to Christ, believers are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, painting a beautiful picture of our identification with a crucified, buried, and risen Savior and with the people of God. [Matt. 28:19](#); [Acts 2:41](#); [8:12](#); [36-39](#); [9:18](#); [16:13-15, 31-34](#); [22:16](#); [1 Cor. 12:12-13](#); [Col. 2:12](#); [1 Pet. 3:20-21](#)
  - Communion: Christians come together as a family at Communion—also known as the Lord’s Supper, the Lord’s Table, or the Eucharist—to partake of the bread and drink. Communion is open to all born-again believers who are in fellowship with God. Communion is a time to remember the broken body and shed blood of Christ, to examine our hearts, and to celebrate that one day Jesus will return and gather His family from all generations. [Matt. 26:26-29](#); [Mark 14:22-25](#); [Luke 22:13-20](#); [John 6:1-59](#); [1 Cor. 10:14-22](#); [11:17-34](#)

## L. THE LAST DAYS

1. In great anticipation, the Church awaits the day when Jesus will suddenly, personally, visibly, gloriously, and bodily return to the earth to bring the fullness of salvation to His disciples and to His world. Jesus can return at any moment, though the day and hour are unknown. [Matt. 24:29-44](#); [Mark 13:24-27](#); [Acts 1:9-11](#); [1 Thess. 3:13](#); [4:15-18](#); [2 Tim. 4:8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Heb. 9:28](#); [Jas. 5:7-9](#); [2 Pet. 3:10](#); [1 John 2:18](#); [Rev. 1:7](#); [22:20](#)
2. Jesus will come down from heaven, with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are

still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so, we will be with the Lord forever. In the end, the ultimate result of Jesus' return will be the bodily resurrection and judgment of the living and the dead. [Job 19:25-26](#); [Isa. 26:19](#); [Dan. 12:1-3](#); [John 5:28-29](#); [Acts 17:31](#); [Rom. 14:10-12](#); [1 Cor. 15](#); [Phil. 2:9-11](#); [3:20-21](#); [1 Thess. 4:13-18](#); [Heb. 9:27](#); [Rev. 22:3-5](#)

3. Unbelievers enter into the everlasting destruction of hell and, ultimately, into the Lake of Fire (along with Satan and his demons). [Dan. 12:2](#); [Matt. 8:12](#); [25:31-46](#); [Mark 9:42-49](#); [Luke 16:19-31](#); [John 3:36](#); [2 Thess. 1:8-9](#); [Rev. 14:11](#); [20:10-15](#)
4. In resurrected bodies, born-again believers will live forever in the presence of God freed from sin, sorrow, and suffering. Tears are wiped away and an infinitely better life is enjoyed forever. [John 5:24-29](#); [14:1-3](#); [1 Cor. 15](#); [Phil. 1:23](#); [Col. 3:4](#); [Heb. 12:23](#); [1 Pet. 5:1, 4](#); [Rev. 21:4](#)
5. There will be a final and full consummation of the Kingdom of God in the New Creation. God will redeem, restore, and renew all things culminating in a New Heaven and a New Earth. [Isa. 65:17-25](#); [66:22](#); [Rom. 8:18-30](#); [2 Pet. 3:3-13](#); [Rev. 21:1-5](#)

## **M. BIBLICAL SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE**

1. God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in His own image—equal in worth and dignity—distinct, similar, and interdependent as male and female. The divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original design and are meant for human good and flourishing. [Gen. 1:26-28](#); [2:18-25](#); [Gal. 3:26-29](#)
2. We believe God has designed marriage to be a covenantal relationship in the eyes of God and in the eyes of the law. It's a sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman (as husband and wife), and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and His bride, the Church. [Gen. 2:18-25](#); [Matt. 22:1-14](#); [John 2:1-12](#); [Rom. 13:1-7](#); [Eph. 5:21-33](#); [Heb. 13:4](#); [Rev. 19:6-8](#)
3. God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. As a wonderful gift from God, sexual intimacy is to be expressed between a man and a woman within the commitment and love of a marital relationship. Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual inti-

macy or activity is contrary to God's perfect gift and design for the marriage covenant. [Gen. 39:7-12](#); [Ex. 20:14](#); [Lev. 18:22](#); [20:13](#); [Judg. 19:22-23](#); [2 Sam. 11:1-12:15](#); [Job 31:1](#); [Prov. 5:15-23](#); [6:20-7:27](#); [Matt. 5:27-30](#); [Rom. 1:26-27](#); [1 Cor. 6:9-7:9](#); [1 Tim. 1:9-10](#)

4. We believe all people are uniquely broken, and no person is beyond the hope of the gospel. We are committed to speaking the truth in love at all times, including when we discuss these issues. The grace of God in Christ is sufficient to forgive all sexual sins and to give every gospel-believer the power to make holy choices. [Rom. 5:8](#); [1 Cor. 10:13](#); [Gal. 5:13-26](#); [Eph. 4:15](#); [1 Thess. 4:3-8](#); [1 Tim. 1:15-17](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#); [1 Pet. 2:11](#)



## N. UNITY

1. As the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have enjoyed eternal community with one another, God invites all believers to make every effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [Psa. 133:1](#); [John 13:34-35](#); [17:11](#), [20:23](#); [1 Cor. 12:12-13](#); [Gal. 3:26-29](#); [Eph. 4:1-6](#)
2. Jesus taught that some doctrines carry more weight than others, clearly indicating that there is a hierarchy of doctrinal significance. As outlined in this *Member Statement of Faith*, doctrines plainly identified by Scripture as fundamental or essential include those required for saving faith, those closely connected to the gospel, and those we are forbidden to deny under the threat of condemnation. [Matt. 23:23-26](#); [John 17:3](#); [Rom. 4:4-5](#); [1 Cor. 15:3-4](#); [16:22](#); [1 John 1:6](#), [8](#), [10](#); [4:1-3](#)
3. When an issue is a matter of personal preference or has various legitimate interpretations, we show grace and seek the good of others without requiring everyone to agree. We aspire to live, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity." [Rom. 14:16](#); [1 Cor. 10:24](#); [Col. 3:12-15](#); [1 Tim. 1:3-7](#); [4:1-11](#); [6:2b-5](#), [20-21](#); [2 Tim. 2:14-17](#), [23-26](#)

## — ARTICLE IV. DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS AND PRACTICES —

1. Bible Center, as a nondenominational evangelical church, desires the growth of all Bible-teaching, gospel-centered denominations and churches.
2. While differing viewpoints regarding believer's baptism exist in evan-

gical churches, Bible Center baptizes by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3. While appreciating the diversity of spiritual gifts within the Church, Bible Center does not encourage the sign gifts in our gatherings.
4. There are multiple views of the end times held in evangelical circles. The New Testament calls all believers to pray, "Even so come, Lord Jesus!" While Bible Center has emphasized the dispensational premillennial view of the end times, our church will openly discuss and debate differing evangelical points of view.
5. While the Church consists of all people from all ethnic groups who have placed their faith in Christ, Bible Center teaches that God will uniquely bless Israel in the future.

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## **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

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Membership at Bible Center is based upon salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ and the profession of that faith through believer's baptism.

Membership at Bible Center is a mutual commitment between the church and the member. The church commits to care for, nurture, and challenge the member. The member commits to participate in the life, mission, and financial support of the church's ministry.

### **A. Admission to Membership**

Those who express a desire to join with Bible Center in membership will engage in the following process:

1. Applicant completes a multi-session class that explains the church's beliefs and ministries.
2. Applicant submits a completed Membership Application.
3. Applicant interviews with at least one (1) member of the church's Pastoral Team and at least two (2) Elders to:
  - a. Give a testimony of faith in Christ and demonstrate a desire for a devout life.
  - b. Affirm agreement with Bible Center's Member Statement of Faith (Article III).
4. The Board of Elders presents the Applicant to the congregation on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays. Active church members are then invited to provide affirmations or concerns to the Elders regarding the Applicant's character and walk with the Lord.

5. The Board of Elders votes on whether to admit the Applicant to membership.
6. The Congregation welcomes the new member.

## **B. Privileges and Responsibilities of Active Membership**

Active members encourage, support, and exhort fellow members, attendees, and visitors in our mission together to produce maturing followers of Jesus Christ. Specifically, active members will:

1. Participate in the life and activities of Bible Center's ministries, including attendance at worship services.
2. Keep the Membership Covenant.
3. Financially support Bible Center's mission and ministries.
4. Upon reaching eighteen (18) years of age, exercise voting privileges during church business meetings. Active church membership votes on:
  - a. The call of a Senior Pastor.
  - b. The annual budget.
  - c. An unbudgeted expenditure that exceeds two percent (2%) of the total annual budget.
  - d. Any revisions to the church's constitution.
  - e. The dismissal of an unrepentant member after the exhaustion of the church's loving and restorative efforts as outlined in Article V.D.

## **C. Record of Membership**

1. The Board of Elders, in conjunction with the Pastoral Team, is responsible for maintaining the church's membership record, including an annual review.
2. Bible Center will have an Active Membership Record and an Inactive Membership Record.
  - a. Active Membership Record
    - i. Membership at Bible Center is a privilege to be valued and acknowledged through engagement, giving, and service unto our Lord.
    - ii. Other than as set forth in Article V.C.2.b., members will be removed from the Active Membership Record

after one of the following events:

01. A member's written request.
02. A vote of dismissal (as described in Article V.B.4.e).
03. A member's death.

b. Inactive Membership Record

- i. Any member who does not share in the life of Bible Center's mission and ministries as outlined in the Membership Covenant will be placed on the Inactive Membership Record, except for one of the following reasons:
  01. A member's temporary (less than one (1) year) absence from the local community. Temporary absences longer than one (1) year for military service and educational commitments will be considered by the Board of Elders on a case-by-case basis at the member's request.
  02. A member's physical condition that prevents attendance at worship services. This exception is provided for those members in the local community who desire to participate in the life of Bible Center's mission but are physically unable to do so.
- ii. A member placed on the Inactive Membership Record may petition the Board of Elders for return to the Active Membership Record. The Elders may act to reinstate the petitioning member to the Active Membership Record.
- iii. Members listed on the Inactive Membership Record for one (1) year will be removed from all membership records.

**D. Restoration of Members**

Any member who breaks Bible Center's Membership Covenant or walks away from the practice of the life of Jesus Christ will be prayed for and sought out to be restored.

1. It is our individual responsibility as members to take restorative initiative to address known sin as confirmed by two (2) witnesses or acknowledged by the erring member. This initial restorative effort will be made in private and in a spirit of love. [Matt. 18:15](#)

2. If the erring member does not respond to the initial exhortation of the fellow member, then two (2) members will meet with the erring member to call him or her to repentance. [Matt. 18:16](#).
3. In the continued absence of repentance, the Elders and Pastors will address the matter with the erring member, again inviting the member to a path of restoration. [Matt. 18:16-17](#); [Gal. 6:1-2](#)
4. Upon the erring member's repentance and restoration, church leadership and knowledgeable members will quietly celebrate the member's reconciliation. [Luke 15:24](#)
5. In the absence of repentance in due time and at a closed business meeting, the Board of Elders will announce the erring and unrepentant member and call on church membership for a vote of dismissal. [1 Cor. 5:1-12](#) The purpose of church discipline is always restorative and redemptive, designed by God to preserve the unique holiness of God's people. [Matt. 18:15](#)

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## ARTICLE VI. GOVERNANCE

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Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the source of all authority. [Matt. 28:18](#) He vests His authority through the Holy Spirit into the lives of each member of the body of Christ. [Rom. 8:9](#); [1 Pet. 2:4-5](#)

In submission to our Head, the leadership and oversight of Bible Center Church are entrusted to maturing followers of Jesus Christ who are recognized with scriptural qualification for church office. The Senior Pastor, with the Pastoral Team, Elders, and Deacons, leads the church with the consent and cooperation of church members. [Acts 6:1-7](#); [1 Tim. 3](#); [Titus 1](#)

### A. Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor will shepherd, love, and feed the flock of God. With the active support and participation of the Elders and the Pastoral Team, the Senior Pastor is chiefly responsible to oversee the spiritual life of the church body, including its regular services and the administration of church ordinances.

1. The Senior Pastor will be called to serve upon receiving a three-fourths (3/4) vote of active membership present at a specially called business meeting upon recommendation by the Board of Elders. An appointed Search Committee is responsible to seek God's will in the church's search for a senior pastor through prayer, research, and discussion of prospective candidates, and then to present a recommendation to the Board of Elders for consideration.

The Search Committee is appointed by the Board of Elders and is comprised of the following individuals:

- a. At least three (3) Elders.
  - b. The Chairman of the Deacon Board.
  - c. At least one (1) additional Deacon as recommended by the Chairman of the Deacon Board.
  - d. At least four (4) active members, including at least three (3) females and at least one (1) single individual.
2. The Senior Pastor will faithfully serve until his pastorate is terminated by resignation or by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of active membership present at a specially called business meeting. If active membership votes for his service to be terminated immediately, his full compensation shall continue at least thirty (30) days. In any business meeting wherein the Senior Pastor is the subject of the meeting, the Chairman of the Board of Elders, or a person designated by the Elders, shall preside.

## **B. Pastoral Team**

1. The Senior Pastor has the authority to call or dismiss members of the Pastoral Team. Such action is to be in consultation with the Elders and subject to the approval of a majority of three-fourths (3/4) of Elders present at a Board of Elders meeting.
2. The Elders will establish the compensation of the Senior Pastor.
3. The Deacon Board will authorize the total amount of the salaries for the Pastoral Team as included in the church's annual budget. By voting to approve the church's annual budget, the congregation will approve this total salary amount as indicated in the appropriate line item of the budget. Judicious care will be taken to review salaries on an annual basis while maintaining the confidentiality of individual salaries.

## **C. Lay Leadership**

Following the biblical pattern, Bible Center Church recognizes two (2) offices of the local church: Elder and Deacon. [\*Phil. 1:1-2\*](#), [\*1 Tim. 3:1-13\*](#) Scripturally qualified men will be considered for the office of Elder and Deacon. [\*1 Tim. 3:1-13\*](#), [\*Titus 1:5-9\*](#)

1. Elders  
Elders exercise spiritual leadership of this local body of Christ, praying ([\*Acts 6:4\*](#); [\*Jas. 5:16-21\*](#)), protecting its doctrine, overseeing discipline of its members, establishing policies pursuant

to its mission, and assisting in the administration of church ordinances. The term Elder is synonymous with Pastor and Overseer. [1 Pet. 5:1-3](#)

Elders are expected to shepherd the flock of God and seek to encourage, remedy, and restore the lives of church members.

- a. The Board of Elders will be comprised of at least five (5) scripturally qualified men who are active church members. [1 Tim. 3:1-7](#)
  - b. The Elders and the Senior Pastor will meet once a month to pray and give themselves to the oversight of the church. [Acts 6:4](#) These men will serve as the sole voting members of the Board. At their discretion, the Elders and the Senior Pastor may include other members of the Pastoral Team at such Board meetings. The Board of Elders will elect a Chairman and Secretary at its first meeting of the service year.
  - c. The Board of Elders will appoint a Church Clerk for a one-year (1-year) term to maintain a record of minutes of all annual and business meetings. The Church Clerk may serve an indefinite number of terms at the will and pleasure of the Elders.
  - d. The Board of Elders will appoint members of all church committees and approve all quasi-church groups and functions.
  - e. Any accusations against an Elder, the Senior Pastor, or a member of the Pastoral Team will be heard by the Board of Elders if it is brought by two (2) or three (3) witnesses. [1 Tim. 5:19](#) Petitions must be made in writing, addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Elders and the Senior Pastor.
2. Deacons
- Deacons serve the physical needs of the church. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, acting as caretakers of physical properties, overseeing the church's finances, administering church ordinances, and overseeing the ushering of all regular and special services.
- a. The Deacon Board will be comprised of at least five (5) spiritually qualified men who are active church members. [1 Tim. 3:8-13](#)

- b. The Deacons and the Senior Pastor will meet once a month. These men will serve as the sole voting members of the Board. At their discretion, the Deacons and the Senior Pastor may include other members of the Pastoral Team at such Board meetings. The Deacon Board will elect a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Head Usher at its first meeting of the service year.
- c. The Deacons will be responsible for the appointment and removal of trustees, as necessary.
- d. The Treasurer, in conjunction with church financial staff, will oversee the counting and deposit of received monies and present a monthly report of the receipts and expenditures of all church ministries to the Deacon Board. Special care will be given to maintain the trust of the congregation in the handling of monies received, including having at least two (2) Deacons present to check and verify the amount contributed. Confidentiality and integrity will be hallmarks of this sacred duty.
- e. All Deacon nominees who have not previously served on the Deacon Board will be eligible to serve for an initial term of one (1) year, after which he may be eligible to serve an additional two (2) years to complete a regular term of three (3) years (see [1 Tim. 3:10](#)).



### 3. Service Terms

- a. Elders and Deacons will serve a term of three (3) years and may be re-nominated to serve an additional three-year (3-year) term, for a total of six (6) consecutive years of service in the same office. A sabbatical of at least one (1) year from the same office must then be taken. The maintenance of scriptural qualification for the offices is assumed and required.
- b. A service year begins on July 1 and concludes on June 30 of the following calendar year.
- c. A sitting Elder and Deacon will not qualify for re-nomination for any church office until his current term of service is completed in its entirety.

- d. The terms for both Elders and Deacons are to be staggered to provide a level of continuity of board membership across service years.

#### 4. Nominations

Church members play an important and vital role in identifying lay leaders to serve as Elders and Deacons.

- a. Each January, the Elders will appoint a Nominating Committee comprised of the following individuals:
  - i. The Senior Pastor, who will serve as the Chairman.
  - ii. All Elders.
  - iii. Chairman of the Deacon Board.
  - iv. At least one (1) additional Deacon as chosen by the Chairman of the Deacon Board.
  - v. At least three (3) active members, including at least two (2) females.
  - vi. At their discretion, the Elders and the Senior Pastor may include other members of the staff at Nominating Committee meetings. Any invited members of the staff will not be voting members of the Nominating Committee.
- b. Each February, active members are urged to “look out among themselves” ([Acts 6:3](#)) for those who are scripturally qualified for church office ([1 Tim. 3:1-15](#); [Titus 1:5-9](#)) and submit names to the Nominating Committee for consideration.
- c. Each March, the Nominating Committee will meet to prayerfully consider the nominees, acting as a second source of vetting and screening. After prayerful consideration, the Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for the consideration of the offices of Elder and Deacon to the Board of Elders.
- d. The Board of Elders will meet to vote and extend invitations to nominees for the offices of Elder and Deacon. The Board of Elders will determine the size of each Board, considering function, order, and service to the body.
- e. Each June, the Elders and Deacons appointed to serve for the following term will be announced and set apart for service at the church’s annual business meeting.

## 5. Discontinuation of Service

- a. An officer may resign at any time by writing an explanatory letter to the Senior Pastor and Chairman of his respective Board. The letter will then be read to the respective Board and may be read to the congregation.
- b. Any officer unable or unwilling to participate within his respective Board will be lovingly approached and encouraged to continue joyful and willing service or asked to tender a resignation.
- c. Any vacancies incurred will be filled at the next annual business meeting.

## D. Business Meetings

1. The church will have an annual business meeting each June to vote on the budget and set apart all Elders and Deacons for the following fiscal and service year beginning July 1.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Elders or the Senior Pastor, in consultation with the Board of Elders, may call a special business meeting.
3. All business meetings must be announced to the congregation for at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting, which may include the Sunday on which the meeting takes place.
4. The Senior Pastor will chair all business and special meetings, except as provided in Article VI.A.2. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Chairman of the Board of Elders or his appointee will chair the meetings.
5. The number of active members present at a duly called business or special business meeting will constitute a quorum.

# — ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, PROPERTY, AND REVISION —

## A. Ministry

The Elders shall be tasked with maintaining policies which govern and shepherd all ministries associated with our mission at Bible Center Church.

## B. Mission

The Elders shall encourage the development of a church culture in which all feel the responsibility and privilege of ministry and are presented with opportunities of service. Our leadership at Bible

Center, with the congregation, will pray for God to raise up workers for ministry and look for those gifted by God and with maturing character to encourage their pursuit of vocational ministry. [Matt. 9:37-38](#)

### **C. Properties and Assets**

1. All properties, both real estate and collateral, held in the name of The Bible Center Church shall be owned by the membership and administered by the Deacons with any necessary trustees appointed by the Deacons. Any purchase or sale of real property by this church shall be recommended by the Senior Pastor, Elders, and Deacons and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of active members present at a duly called business meeting. Notice of such transactions shall be given pursuant to Article VI.D. of this constitution or otherwise as required by law.
2. Should conditions arise requiring the dissolution of this body, the Elders shall appoint a committee composed of the Chairman of the Elders and one (1) additional Elder, the Chairman of the Deacons and one (1) additional Deacon, and three (3) active members. This committee shall present to the membership a plan for liquidation and distribution of assets. The assets shall be transferred to or divided among one (1) or more institutions, churches, mission boards, or other groups whose purpose and beliefs are consistent with the mission and Member Statement of Faith of Bible Center Church. Approval of the plan is subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members in attendance at a duly called business meeting.

### **D. Constitutional Revision**

1. Constitutional revisions, amendments, annulment, or the adoption of a new constitution shall be approved by the Elders and submitted to the congregation for ratification by approval of two-thirds (2/3) of active members present at a special business meeting.
2. Draft copies of proposed constitutional changes shall be posted and made available to the congregation during a three (3)-week review period. At least three (3) Elders shall be available at specified times during the review period for the purpose of discussing the proposed changes with the congregation. Following the three (3)-week review period, the Elders shall consider congregational comments and submit the final revision for ratification at a special business meeting. Notice of the special business meeting shall be given pursuant to Article VI.D. of this constitution.



**BIBLE CENTER<sup>®</sup>**  
**CHURCH**

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