



BIBLE CENTER | CHURCH[®]

Making disciples of Jesus

**Constitution
Distinctive Beliefs & Practices
Membership Covenant**

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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, March 2019, April 2021. This present revision went into effect on June 22, 2025.

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



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

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.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

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](#)

ARTICLE III. MEMBER STATEMENT OF FAITH

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](#); [10:1-11](#); [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 intimacy 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 evangelical 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.

— **ARTICLE V. THE OFFICES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH** —

We believe the New Testament gives the local church two (2) offices, Elders (Overseers) and Deacons (Servants).

Each role is distinct, important, and valuable to the effective mission and ministry of the local church.

*Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the **overseers and deacons**.*

— [Philippians 1:1](#)

**words in bold for our emphasis*

Leadership Candidates

Church offices are filled by those who have demonstrated competence, character, and chemistry through the Leadership Process which is designed to equip and prepare them for service.

The membership may nominate candidates to the Leadership Process at any point through communication with the Elders. Members may also inform the Elders of a personal desire to participate in the Leadership Process.

Church officers will be appointed by the Elders from among those who have completed the Leadership Process. Care will be taken to ensure transparent communication to the congregation regarding both the availability of and appointments to positions within church offices.

A. Elders (Overseers)

1. The Scriptural Qualifications of an Elder (*Biblical - Who they are*)

We believe Scripture describes an "aspiration" to the office of Elder (Overseer) that is cultivated and shaped through conforming to the characteristics set forward by the Apostle Paul in the New Testament. Evaluation will be conducted on a case-by-case basis with the understanding that growth is a journey of progress, not perfection. ([1 Tim. 3:1](#))

We believe that a faithful interpretation of the New Testament leads to the office of Elder (Overseer) held by men who are biblically-qualified members of Bible Center Church. ([Titus 1:6](#); [1 Tim. 2:12-13](#); [3:3](#))

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

— 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Above reproach - an all-encompassing term that Paul then develops with specifics throughout the rest of the passage

Faithful to his wife ("man of one woman") - speaks to present faithfulness to his wife and does not limit those who are unmarried or have been divorced previously

Temperate - level-headed in terms of thought life, emotions, and volition

Self-Controlled - temperate, controlled, grounded, not addicted to substances

Respectable - well-ordered in behavior and lifestyle

Hospitable - willing and engaged in giving and opening life to others

Able to teach - able to understand and embrace sound doctrine and have the ability to communicate to others

Not given to drunkenness - must not be addicted to or controlled by alcohol

Not violent, but gentle - not an abusive person—physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually

Not quarrelsome - not given to conflict, but seeking to be an agent of peace

Not a lover of money - not a servant of money or materialism

Manage his own family well - if married, loves his wife the way Christ loves the church and leads his family with a Christlike posture

Not a recent convert - seasoned and rooted in the faith

Good reputation - an excellent standing in the community

2. The Role of an Elder (*Replicable - What they do*)

*If anyone does not know how to manage his own household,
how will **he take care of God's church?***

— 1 Timothy 3:5

We believe the local church is led by a plurality of biblically-qualified Elders (Overseers) who lead in:

1. Shepherding.
2. Governing.
3. Teaching.
4. Prayer.
5. Appointing Believers to the work of the Ministry.

3. The Polity of an Elder (*Scalable - How they do it*)

Bible Center Governing Board of Elders

1. The Governing Board of Elders (Overseers) consists of Lay Governing Elders and Staff Governing Elders. There will be at least three (3) and up to nine (9) Lay Governing Elders who are biblically-qualified members of Bible Center Church.
2. The number of Staff Governing Elders will be less than or equal to one-third of the number of Lay Governing Elders.
3. The Governing Board of Elders will be the leading board for the ministries of Bible Center Church.
4. Governing Elders will serve a one-year term. Based on an annual internal review, Elders may serve until they choose to rotate off or are removed by the Governing Board of Elders. After serving six (6) consecutive one-year terms, Elders will take a one-year sabbatical, after which they will be eligible for reappointment.
5. The Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor at Bible Center's Southridge Campus will serve as Staff Governing Elders.
6. The Governing Board of Elders will annually appoint a Chairman and a Secretary.

Campus Elders

1. Each local Bible Center Church may have local Campus Elders.
2. The Campus Elder team is an as-needed group based on the needs of the congregation in the areas of prayer, teaching, and shepherding, and is appointed by the Governing Elder Board.
3. The Governing Elder Board shall commission new Campus Elders as needed through utilization of the Leadership Process.
4. Campus Elders will serve a one-year term. Through an annual board review, Campus Elders may serve until they choose to rotate off or are removed by the Governing Board of Elders. After serving six (6) consecutive one-year terms, Elders will take a one-year sabbatical, after which they will be eligible for reappointment.

B. Deacons (Servants)

1. The Scriptural Qualifications of a Deacon (*Biblical - Who they are*)

We believe that faithful interpretation of the New Testament makes available the role of Deacon to biblically-qualified men and women who are members of Bible Center Church.

In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

— 1 Timothy 3:8-13

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon, of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.

— Romans 16:1-2

Worthy of respect - noble character

Sincere - honest, truthful

Not indulging in much wine - not addicted or controlled by alcohol

Not pursuing dishonest gain
- conducting themselves with integrity



Keep hold of the faith - seasoned and grounded in the faith

Tested - approved

Faithful to his wife ("man of one woman") - speaks to present faithfulness to his wife and does not limit those who are unmarried or have been divorced previously

Manage household - if married, love their wife the way that Christ loves the church and leads sacrificially

For the Women:

Worthy of Respect - noble character

Not malicious talkers - not engaging in slander of others

Temperate - steady, measured

Trustworthy - able to be trusted

2. The Role of a Deacon (*Replicable - What they do*)

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

– [1 Timothy 3:13](#)

Literally "servants who serve well"

We believe that Deacons (Servants) primarily engage in service to the church body through:

1. Serving and caring for widows.
2. Serving the physical needs of the church.
3. Serving the Ministry and Operational staff.
4. Serving the body of Christ in adaptable ways that allow the church to continue on mission.

3. The Polity of a Deacon (*Scalable - How they do it*)

Deacons

1. Each local Bible Center Church may have local Deacons as appointed by the Elders.
2. Deacons will serve a one-year term. Based on an annual internal review, Deacons may serve until they choose to rotate off or are removed by the Governing Board of Elders. After serving six (6) consecutive one-year terms, Deacons will take a one-year sabbatical, after which they will be eligible for reappointment.
3. The Deacons will maintain a "Deacon Process Guide" which will be updated as needed by the Elders and/or the Deacons.
4. The Deacons will annually appoint a Chairperson and a Secretary and any other positions deemed necessary.
5. The Deacons will function in adaptable ways, looking to help people connect to Jesus and Bible Center Church, grow as followers of Jesus, and reach others with the hope of the gospel. Alongside the Elders, they will continually assess where they are needed to serve.

Deacons of Finance

1. Deacons of Finance will work with the Executive Pastor or other designee to develop the annual budget, recommend financial moves, and evaluate future financial endeavors.
2. The developed budget will be submitted to the Governing Board of Elders for final approval and then presented to the membership at the annual Member Meeting.
3. The Deacons of Finance will be made up of four to six (4-6) Deacons who have been appointed by the Governing Board of Elders.
4. Deacons of Finance will regularly meet with the Executive Pastor or another designee and be available for questions from the membership.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERS

Membership is a commitment made by Christians to the Lord and to a local church. Church leaders and members covenant together to live inter-connected lives as the Body of Christ, designed to grow and multiply ([1 Cor. 12:12-21](#); [Eph 4:16](#)). This spiritual family is unified and aligned under the oversight of the Elders who serve under the leadership of Jesus ([Acts 20:28](#); [1 Pet. 5:1-4](#); [Heb. 13:17](#)).

A. Becoming a Member

Membership is received by completing the “Membership Process” and the approval of the Governing Elder Board.

B. Membership Expectations

Members of Bible Center who profess Jesus as Lord and have followed Him in believer’s baptism aspire to be:

1. Committed to Jesus.
2. Committed to growth.
3. Committed to alignment with the leadership.
4. Committed to love and unity and accountability with other members.
5. Committed to the core doctrines (Membership Statement of Faith) and values (Values Statement) of Bible Center.

C. Membership Benefits

Members of Bible Center receive:

1. Shepherding and Care.
2. Spiritual Leadership and Governance.
3. Faithful Teaching of God’s Word.
4. Prayer.
5. Equipping to do the work of the ministry.

D. Membership Responsibilities

Members of Bible Center participate in:

1. Nominating members or opting into the Leadership Process.
2. Supporting financially.
3. Serving within the ongoing ministries of Bible Center.
4. Approving the sale of or lien on real property.
5. Providing input on the process of hiring a Lead or Executive Pastor.

6. Amending the Constitution.

E. Ending Membership

Membership will continue until:

1. Death.
2. A request is submitted to the Governing Elder Board to transfer membership.
3. Removal by the Governing Elder Board according to the biblical process of church discipline.
4. A member's prolonged absence from the church community.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY STAFF

A. Lead Pastor

The Lead Pastor will be accountable to and serve alongside the Governing Board of Elders as a voting member of the Board. The Governing Board of Elders will evaluate and establish duties, salary, and accountability for the Lead Pastor.

The Lead Pastor will be hired by the Governing Board of Elders, with input from the membership, and will serve until such a time as he chooses to resign the position or is removed by the Board.

B. Executive Pastor

The Executive Pastor will be accountable to and serve alongside the Governing Board of Elders as a voting member of the Board. The Governing Board of Elders will evaluate and establish duties, salary, and accountability for the Executive Pastor.

The Executive Pastor will be hired by the Governing Board of Elders, with input from the membership, and will serve until such a time as he chooses to resign the position or is removed by the Board.

C. Ministry Staff

The Lead and Executive Pastors will be responsible for organizing, evaluating, and establishing duties, salaries, leadership, and accountability for the remainder of the staff. Ministry staff will be hired, managed, and regularly evaluated through processes implemented by the Lead and Executive Pastors, and will serve until such a time that they resign or are removed from the position.

ARTICLE VIII. MINISTRY BUSINESS

A. Properties and Assets

Any sale or lien on Bible Center Church real property must be recommended by the Governing Board of Elders and approved by the membership in a duly called Member Meeting, per WV state code. The meeting will be announced at least two (2) weeks prior and a two-thirds vote of the members gathered will constitute approval.

B. Meetings

A Staff Elder will chair the business meetings, or, in the absence of any staff Elder, the Chairman of the Governing Board of Elders will preside. The members gathered will constitute a quorum. Member Meetings will be held at least one (1) time annually and may be called more frequently based on need determined by the Governing Board of Elders.

C. Annual Budget

After receiving recommendations from the Deacons of Finance, the annual budget will be approved by the Governing Board of Elders and communicated to the members in an annually held Member Meeting.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

A. Events of Dissolution

The local church shall be dissolved and its affairs wound up only upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

1. An election to dissolve the church made by holders of two-thirds of the members of the congregation;
2. The sale, exchange, involuntary conversion, or other disposition or transfer of all or substantially all the assets of the church;
3. The entry of a decree of judicial dissolution under applicable law; or
4. At any time there are no Members of the church, unless the church is continued in accordance with applicable law.

B. Effectiveness of Dissolution

Dissolution of the church shall be effective on the day on which the event described in Article IX, Section A occurs, but the church shall not

terminate until the winding up of the church has been completed, the assets of the church have been distributed as provided in subsection C below, and all applicable filings are filed with applicable governmental entities.

C. Liquidation

If the church is dissolved pursuant to subsection A above, the church shall be liquidated and its business and affairs wound up in accordance with applicable law and the following provisions:

1. **Liquidator.** Any Elder, another Person selected by two-thirds of the membership, or another Person appointed by court order shall act as liquidator to wind up the church (the "Liquidator"). The Liquidator shall have full power and authority to sell, assign, and encumber any or all of the church's assets and to wind up and liquidate the affairs of the church in an orderly and business-like manner.
2. **Accounting.** As promptly as possible after dissolution and again after final liquidation, the Liquidator shall cause a proper accounting to be made by a recognized firm of certified public accountants of the church's assets, liabilities, and operations through the last day of the calendar month in which the dissolution occurs or the final liquidation is completed, as applicable.
3. **Distribution of Proceeds.** The Liquidator shall liquidate the assets of the church and distribute the proceeds of such liquidation in the following order of priority, unless otherwise required by mandatory provisions of Applicable Law:
 - a. *first*, to the payment of all of the church's debts and liabilities to its creditors and the expenses of liquidation (including sales commissions incident to any sales of assets of the church);
 - b. *second*, to the establishment of and additions to reserves that are determined by the Liquidator to be reasonably necessary for any contingent or unforeseen liabilities or obligations of the church; and
 - c. *third*, to like-minded ministries for the sake of continuing the gospel.

D. Cancellation of Status

Upon completion of the distribution of the assets of the church as provided in subsection C, the church shall be terminated and the

Liquidator shall cause the cancellation of its entity status in the State of West Virginia and of all qualifications and shall take such other actions as may be necessary to terminate the church.

E. Survival of Rights, Duties, and Obligations

Dissolution, liquidation, winding up or termination of the church for any reason shall not release any party from any Loss that at the time of such dissolution, liquidation, winding up or termination already had accrued to any other party or thereafter may accrue in respect of any act or omission prior to such dissolution, liquidation, winding up, or termination.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Books and Records

Any records administered by or on behalf of the church in the regular course of its activities, including its books of account and minute books, may be maintained on any information storage device, method, or one or more electronic networks or databases (including one or more distributed electronic networks or databases); *provided that* the records so kept can be converted into clearly legible paper form within a reasonable time. The church shall so convert any records so kept upon the request of any person entitled to inspect such records pursuant to applicable law.

B. Checks, Notes, Drafts, Etc.

All checks, notes, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money of the church shall be signed, endorsed, or accepted in the name of the church by such officer, officers, person, or persons as from time to time may be designated by the Governing Board of Elders or by an officer or officers authorized by the Governing Board of Elders to make such designation.

C. Conflict with Applicable Law or Certificate of Incorporation

This Constitution is adopted subject to any applicable law. Whenever this Constitution may conflict with any applicable law, such conflict shall be resolved in favor of such law.

D. Amendments

This Constitution may be adopted, amended, or repealed or a new

Constitution adopted by the Board, subject to an affirmative vote in favor of the same by two-thirds of the members gathered at a duly called Member Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

The Membership Covenant is made by Bible Center members to the Lord and to the local church family. Members are Christians who seek to live as fully-functioning parts of the Body of Christ at Bible Center ([1 Cor. 12:12-26](#), [Eph. 4:16](#)). The covenant acknowledges an alignment with the beliefs, mission, values, and leadership of Bible Center Church as the Elders oversee and shepherd the church under the leadership of Jesus ([Acts 20:28](#), [1 Pet. 5:1-4](#), [Heb. 13:17](#)). The commitment is a declaration of what we believe and how we intend to live in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

I believe...

- In Jesus, as Savior and Lord, who died for my sins and was resurrected from the dead.
- The Gospel is central in all things. God creates all things, sin breaks all things, and Jesus saves all who place their faith in Him. Jesus transforms those who believe and God restores His broken creation at the end of the age.
- In the biblical core truths expressed in Bible Center's *Member Statement of Faith*.
- We are to make every effort to spiritually grow (HABITS), multiply disciples of Jesus, and increase in our love for the Lord, one another, and our neighbors.
- We fight for unity above our preferences as all Christians are united together in the mission to make disciples of Jesus.

I commit to...

- Making disciples of Jesus. ([Matt. 28:18-20](#); [John 20:21](#))
- Actively participating in the discipleship process by taking steps of spiritual **growth** and **multiplying** disciples by helping others **connect** to Jesus. ([Matt. 4:19](#))
- Attending church regularly, serving in its ministries, and frequently praying for the church. ([Heb. 10:24-25](#); [Eph. 4:11-16](#))
- Giving of my time and finances for the growth of the church and the impact of the Gospel in our state. ([1 Cor. 12:14-18](#); [2 Cor. 9:6-7](#); [Acts 1:8](#))
- Supporting and submitting to church leadership as God's appointed shepherds and servants. ([Heb. 13:17](#))

I agree to the Membership Covenant: _____ Date: _____

Pastor / Elder's Signature: _____ Date: _____

