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**By-Laws & Doctrinal Statement**  
**Adopted January 2017**  
**Updated September 2020**

**Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson Inc.**  
**224 S. Maple St**  
**McPherson, Kansas 67460**  
**Elder Approval of By-Laws & Doctrinal Statement:**

32 **PREAMBLE**

33

34 Whereas, the Word of God demands that a Christian organization not only conform to the  
35 Word of God in doctrine and practice (Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8; II Timothy 4:1-5),  
36 but that all things be done decently and in order (I Corinthians 14:40).

37

38 Therefore, we, the elders of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson, set forth in this the  
39 BYLAWS by which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

40

41 **Section 1. Church Membership**

42

43 **A. Purpose of Membership**

44

45 Though all Christians become a part of Christ's assembly the moment they repent  
46 and believe the Gospel, the New Testament commands them to carry out their  
47 membership in His body in the context of a local assembly of Christians. In order  
48 to make it clear who is in our local assembly, we practice biblical Church  
49 membership. In this, we attempt to identify, commit to, receive, and document  
50 those Christians who belong to the local assembly of Cornerstone Bible Church.

51

52 "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians  
53 12:27

54 "Having come together for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry,  
55 for the edifying of the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12

56 "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of  
57 another." Romans 12:5

58 "Subject to Jesus Christ, whom God has appointed to be head over everything for  
59 the Church, which is His body." Ephesians 1:22-23

60

61 **B. Membership**

62

63 Active membership in Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson is open to anyone  
64 upon confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, obedience to the Him in baptism,  
65 and showing a willingness to commit to our local body and abide by our Bylaws  
66 and Doctrinal Statement.

67

68 **Responsibilities of Members**

69

70 The members of Cornerstone Bible Church will be responsible to fulfill these  
71 commitments:

72

73 Be diligent to exercise self-control so that they exhibit a lifestyle of true  
74 Christian love and holiness.

75

76 Faithfully assemble with this body of believers, striving to maintain unity,  
77 and doing all they can to stimulate love and good deeds in others as they  
78 seek to exercise their spiritual gifts in faithful service.

79  
80 Respectfully trust and support the leadership of this Church.

81  
82 Consistently contribute, as a good steward of God’s blessings, such time,  
83 talent, and resources, in the measure that God prospers them, so that our  
84 local and worldwide ministry of making disciples may continue.

85  
86 Teach biblical truth to their family and acquaintances, as God gives them  
87 opportunity, with a desire to see them come to trust Jesus Christ and be  
88 saved.

89  
90 Always be willing to both give and receive admonition and instruction with  
91 meekness and love.

92  
93 Commit to praying for the ministry here in this Church, their brothers and  
94 sisters in Christ, the elders, deacons, and the lost who need to be saved.

95  
96 When they move from this place, they will, as soon as possible, unite with  
97 some other Gospel-preaching Church.

98  
99 **C. Voting Privileges**

100  
101 Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in  
102 the Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson Corporation. Members may be asked  
103 to vote at meetings on matters submitted to the church membership by the Elders.  
104 Voting privileges are restricted to members. Votes by the membership of CBC are  
105 not binding on decisions made by the Elders of CBC.

106  
107 **D. Application for Membership**

108  
109 All who desire to become members of Cornerstone Bible Church must attend our  
110 “Membership Matters” class that is offered. Upon completing this class, the person  
111 seeking membership must complete the “Shepherding Information Sheet” and set  
112 up a meeting with at least one pastor. Each meeting will be discussed at the next  
113 Elders’ meeting, and, upon a unanimous agreement by the Elders, the name of the  
114 one seeking membership will be presented at the next available Family Meeting.  
115 Unless the Elders lose their unanimous consent to continue, the new members will  
116 be added on the next available Lord’s Day service.

117  
118 **E. Denial of Membership**

119

120 If, upon review of the shepherding information sheet or after meeting with a  
121 prospective member, the Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the  
122 standards for membership as set forth within the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement  
123 of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson, the membership process will be  
124 paused for further discussion with the person in question. The process will resume  
125 once unanimous consent from the Elders is reached. The decision made by the  
126 Elders shall be final and there shall be no appeal of that decision.  
127

## 128 **F. Removal of Membership**

129

130 Any member of this church who is unrepentantly forsaking this assembly, as  
131 determined by the Elders, for a period of six months may be removed at the  
132 discretion of the Elders, with written notification prior to dismissal.  
133

134 Any member in good standing, according to the Elders, with CBC may remove  
135 their membership for any reason with a letter of recession addressed to the Elders.  
136 Any member seeking to rescind membership that is not in good standing as viewed  
137 by the CBC elders may not be allowed to rescind membership. Any member  
138 involved as an offender in a church discipline situation may not be allowed to  
139 rescind membership. Involuntary removal of membership may be the result of  
140 church discipline as outlined in Section 4.  
141

## 142 **Section 2. Baptism**

143

144 Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson will practice baptism by immersion to  
145 each person whose outward testimony confirms an inward spiritual transformation,  
146 indicating salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Because baptism is one  
147 of the public ways that we authoritatively affirm someone's profession of faith, the  
148 Elders of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson will determine a course of study  
149 for all baptismal candidates which must be completed before they are baptized.  
150 This course will be led by a pastor or an acceptable substitute as determined by  
151 the Elders. A pastor of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson shall preside at all  
152 baptisms unless necessity shall require the Elders to appoint an acceptable  
153 substitute. All baptismal candidates shall be approved by Elders for admissibility  
154 to baptism.  
155

## 156 **Section 3. The Lord's Supper**

157

158 Observance of the Lord's Supper will take place as outlined in the Doctrinal  
159 Statement of Cornerstone Bible Church of McPherson. Scheduling, organization  
160 and execution of the service will be a responsibility of the Elders. We joyfully use  
161 the cup and bread to further affirm those who have already been affirmed as  
162 believers by being baptized after conversion and uniting themselves to a local  
163 Gospel-preaching Church. We invite all those who have done this to participate.

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#### **Section 4. Church Discipline**

When a member is unrepentant regarding any sin, or fails to meet the conditions outlined under qualifications for membership, he or she is subject to the church disciplinary process as described below:

Unless the elders decide that certain situations call for slight changes to this process, Church discipline shall normally be carried out in the following manner:

When a member becomes aware of another member engaged in unrepentant sin, he or she is to go alone to the unrepentant member in order to rebuke them in hopes that God will grant them repentance. Before any member approaches another member to rebuke them, they should make sure their motives are rooted in God's glory and the good of others. - Matthew 18:15; James 5:19-20; Gal. 6:1-2

If the sinning member refuses to repent, then the member who did the rebuking should involve one or two other members for the sake of them bearing witness to the member who is not repenting. It is wise to involve at least one pastor in this part of the process so that the remaining steps can go more smoothly if they are necessary. - Matthew 18:16; Deuteronomy 19:15-20; 2 Corinthians 12:20-13:6

If the sinning member still refuses to repent, then their lack of listening and repenting must be told to the Church. This will be done by the elders at the next available Family Meeting. In this meeting, the Church will be encouraged to pray for and engage the unrepentant member in hopes that God would grant them repentance.

If the unrepentant member refuses to listen to the Church, they must be removed from among us and affirmed as an unbeliever. The Church must refuse association with, reject, avoid, and keep away from those who have been removed from membership because they lack repentance.

If the elders determine a member is a divisive person who is endangering the body in a unique way, they may act quickly to remove them from our membership so as to protect the unity and purity of the Church - Titus 3:9-11

The goal of all discipline shall be to restore the individual to a right relationship with Christ, manifest in the observed fruits of repentance, and to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in light of the following Scriptures: Galatians 6:1-2; II Thessalonians 3:14-15; Hebrews 10:24-25; and James 5:19-20. Restoration to fellowship upon due repentance, restitution, and reconciliation, where necessary, will be granted by the Elders.

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## **Section 5. Pastors**

While many issues relating to Church polity must be decided by principles from God’s word, there are many aspects of it that are clearly laid out in Scripture. Cornerstone Bible Church recognizes two official offices of leadership, elders and deacons.

Cornerstone Bible Church recognizes the terms “elder”, “overseer”, “pastor”, and “shepherd” all refer to the same office. Though the terms may distinguish different aspects of this one office, they do not refer to different offices.

The responsibilities of an elder include exercising authority and responsibility as they care and give oversight to the members of Cornerstone Bible Church. They also have the responsibility to interpret the language of these By-laws.

Pastors must give evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel by explaining their desire to serve in this capacity and having their Church affirm their biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and Acts 20:17-38.

All pastors must signify in writing in their elder / staff application their willingness to abide by the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement of this Church and indicate in writing to the elders any different doctrinal positions they hold. (review Elder / Staff Application)

### **A. Duties**

According to Ephesians 4:11-12, God has given pastors “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ”. (I Peter 5:1-4).

General duties of the Pastoral staff shall include the functions of shepherds to the church membership. All the duties of shepherding as taught in the Scriptures are to be carried out by the elders.

Marriage (performing weddings) ceremonies shall be conducted by a CBC Pastor or approved visiting pastors. However, all ceremonies that use our facilities must include a CBC Pastor.

### **B. Selection of Pastoral Staff**

The Elders will search out and screen all candidates, keeping the congregation informed of its progress.

251 Unanimous consent of the Elders is needed to invite a candidate for “in person”  
252 contact with the Elders, Deacons and the congregation.

253  
254 When the conditions in steps 1 and 2 have been met, voting members at a properly  
255 called Membership meeting will be asked to affirm the candidate.

256  
257 Unanimous approval from the Elders is required to call a candidate to any position  
258 of staff Pastor.

259  
260 **C. Term of Office**

261  
262 A Pastor’s term of office shall be indefinite.

263  
264 A pastor may be dismissed by the unanimous decision of the Elders.

265  
266 When there is a reason to remove a staff Pastor, the Elders shall be unanimous,  
267 not including the staff Pastor in question, in regards to dismissal.

268  
269 **Section 6. Church Officers**

270  
271 **A. General**

272  
273 The Elders shall lead by serving the church. Their primary responsibilities are  
274 shepherding the flock, teaching the Word, caring for its spiritual welfare,  
275 overseeing the administration of the church and discipling future leaders. The  
276 Elders may delegate certain responsibilities to the Deacons or individual members  
277 of the church.

278  
279 **B. Selection of Elders**

280  
281 Any man selected as an Elder shall be a member of Cornerstone Bible Church and  
282 be recognized for his spirituality, for his leadership, and his faithfulness to the  
283 teaching of God’s Word, and shall meet the qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3:2-  
284 7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and Acts 20:17-38.

285  
286 Godly Motives And Desires To Do The Work Of The Ministry - Acts 20:28; 1  
287 Timothy 3:1

288  
289 Eager Rather Than Reluctant To Serve - 1 Peter 5:2

290  
291 Above Reproach - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7

292  
293 Well Thought Of By Outsiders - 1 Timothy 3:7

294

295            Respectable - 1 Timothy 3:2  
296  
297            Holy - Titus 1:8  
298  
299            Upright - Titus 1:8  
300  
301            Exemplary In His Service To The Flock - 1 Peter 5:3  
302  
303            Hold Firm To The Trustworthy Word As Taught - Titus 1:9  
304  
305            Able To Teach - 1 Timothy 3:2  
306  
307            Able To Give Instruction In Sound Doctrine - Titus 1:9  
308  
309            Able To Refute Those Who Contradict Sound Doctrine - Titus 1:9  
310  
311            A One-Woman-Man - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6  
312  
313            Able To Keep His Children Submissive In A Dignified Way - 1 Timothy 3:4;  
314            Titus 1:6  
315  
316            A Good Manager Of His Household - 1 Timothy 3:4  
317  
318            Sober-Minded - 1 Timothy 3:2  
319  
320            Self-Controlled - 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8  
321  
322            Disciplined - Titus 1:8  
323  
324            A Lover Of Good - Titus 1:8  
325  
326            Not A Drunkard - 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7  
327  
328            Not Greedy For Money Or Shameful Gain - 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter  
329            5:2  
330  
331            Not A Recent Convert - 1 Timothy 3:6  
332  
333            Not Quick-Tempered - Titus 1:7  
334  
335            Not Violent - 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7  
336  
337            Not Quarrelsome - 1 Timothy 3:3  
338



339 Gentle - 1 Timothy 3:3

340

341 Not Lording His Authority - 1 Peter 5:3

342

343 Not Arrogant - Titus 1:7

344

345 Hospitable - Titus 1:8

346

347 His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy  
348 Spirit.

349

350 He must be in agreement with the Church Doctrinal Statement and abide by the  
351 Bylaws.

352

353 The Elders shall select candidates from the membership of the church and approve  
354 them by unanimous vote of the Elders. Each candidate tentatively approved will  
355 be interviewed by the Elders to confirm his willingness and qualifications to serve  
356 as an Elder. A written application will then be submitted to the Elders. Candidates  
357 approved by the Elders will be presented for affirmation at a Family Meeting.  
358 Their names will be published prior to the meeting, during which time the  
359 congregation is encouraged to respond to an Elder regarding the candidate's  
360 qualification of Eldership. The final decision regarding the candidacy will be  
361 announced on the following Sunday.

362

### 363 **C. Removal of Elders from Office**

364

365 The procedures described in I Timothy 5:19-20 and Matthew 18:15-17 regarding  
366 church discipline shall be followed as for any person in the body of Christ, including  
367 Elders, with the objective of restoration to the body.

368

369 If restoration is not achieved by the procedure described in paragraph 1 above,  
370 any two members may bring the issue before the Elders, who will hear the Elder  
371 who may be subject to discipline, in accordance with the prescriptions of I Timothy  
372 5:19-20.

373

374 After hearing the issue, the Elders will decide what action is required.

375

376 When there is a reason to remove the Elder from their role, the Elders shall be  
377 unanimous, not including the Elder in question, following the same procedures as  
378 used for selection.

379

380 The Chairman of the Elders will advise the disciplined Elder of his removal from  
381 the Elders both in person, when practical, and in writing, and also advise the church  
382 congregation.

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When the issue that required the Elder’s removal has been properly resolved and the restoration process is complete, the former Elder may be eligible to return to the Elders following the process for selection of Elders.

**D. Elders’ Composition**

The Elders shall be composed of biblically qualified individuals, appointed by the Holy Spirit, Acts 20:28.

**E. Elder Officers**

The Elders shall select the following officers of the incumbent Elders for a one year term:

Chairman

Secretary

The foregoing officers shall be selected from the Elders and may succeed themselves. The election of officers shall be held the first meeting after the annual Business Meeting. The officers of the Elders shall be announced to the Church.

The Elders shall select from the church membership the Church Treasurer.

Officers of the Elders shall act as officers of the corporation and of the church membership.

**F. Responsibilities of the Officers**

The Chairman’s Duties

Act as President of the Corporation

Execute all resolutions of the Elders.

Ensure communication of decisions of the Elders that are of general interest to the congregation.

The Secretary’s Duties

Keep minutes of all meetings of the Elders and have copies sent to all Elders.

426                   Serve as Secretary of the Corporation and keep minutes of all church Business  
427 Meetings and have charge and custody of the minute book of the Corporation.

428  
429                   Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Elders or the Chairman.

430  
431                   Affix his signature to all instruments in writing requiring the signature of the  
432 Secretary.

433  
434                   Have custody of the official seal of the church and affix it as required. (this is in  
435 the office)

436  
437                   **The Treasurer's Duties**

438  
439                   Supervise and maintain the safe-keeping of corporation funds and securities.

440  
441                   Keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in church  
442 ledgers.

443  
444                   Oversee the deposit of monies and other valuable effects in name and to the  
445 credit of the Corporation in such depository as shall be designated by the  
446 Elders.

447  
448                   Disburse the funds of the church as ordered by the Elders or its delegate.

449  
450                   Render to the Elders for each calendar month an account of all his transactions  
451 as Treasurer, updating the current financial condition of the church.

452  
453                   Submit for audit each calendar year, an account of all his transactions as  
454 Treasurer, and the current financial records of the church.

455  
456                   **G. Conduct of Elders' Meetings**

457  
458                   The Elders shall meet regularly and at such times as the Elders shall select. The  
459 Elders shall call additional meetings as warranted by the business or needs of the  
460 church.

461  
462                   Sixty percent of incumbent Elders, including staff Pastors, shall constitute a  
463 quorum.

464  
465                   **Section 7. Deacons**

466  
467                   **A. General**

468

469 The Deacons shall serve the Church by assisting the Elders. The authority and  
470 responsibility of the Deacons shall be set forth in guidelines established by the  
471 Elders.

472

## 473 **B. Selection of Deacons**

474

475 Candidates for the office of Deacon shall be nominated from the church  
476 membership by the Elders and recognized for their spirituality, their faithfulness,  
477 their leadership, their genuine desire and willingness to serve in church ministries,  
478 and their individual adherence to Biblical qualifications described in the Scriptures.

479

480 Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7

481

482 Husband of one wife (a one-woman man) I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6

483

484 Temperate (sober, vigilant) I Timothy 3:2

485

486 Sober-minded (prudent) I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8

487

488 Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) I Timothy 3:2

489

490 Given to hospitality (lovers of strangers, open home) I Timothy 3:2; Titus  
491 1:8

492

493 Not given to wine I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

494

495 Not violent (pugnacious) I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

496

497 Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) I Timothy 3:3

498

499 Not a brawler (not contentious, soon angry, or quick tempered) I Timothy  
500 3:3; Titus 1:7

501

502 Not covetous (not a lover of money or greedy) I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7

503

504 Rules well his own house (his children are faithful and not accused of  
505 rebellion to God) I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6

506

507 Not a novice (not a new convert) I Timothy 3:7

508

509 Has a good report or reputation with outsiders I Timothy 3:7

510

511 Not self-willed Titus 1:7

512

513 A lover of good (men and things) Titus 1:8

514

515 Just (fair) Titus 1:8

516

517 Holy (devout) Titus 1:8

518

519 Self-controlled Titus 1:8

520

521 His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy  
522 Spirit.

523

524 He must be an active member of the church and subscribe to the church Doctrinal  
525 Statement and abide by the Bylaws.

526

527 He shall be approved by the Elders, submit a Deacon Application, and then be  
528 affirmed by the Elders.

529

### 530 **C. Deacons Term of Office**

531

532 A Deacon shall serve the Elders as long as they desire to, are qualified, and are  
533 needed.

534

535 A Deacon shall be dismissed in accordance with the same procedure as used for  
536 Elders.

537

### 538 **Section 8. Associations**

539

540 This church shall not at any time become a member of any denomination,  
541 ecclesiastical or ecumenical movement.

542

### 543 **Section 9. Annual Meeting**

544

545 A business meeting will be held during our Family Meeting in January of each year.  
546 Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will precede the meeting by at  
547 least fourteen (14) calendar days. Notification requires publication in church media  
548 and verbal announcement in weekly services. Business to be conducted will  
549 include affirmation of the leadership appointments, budget review, and a report of  
550 the year's ministry from the Elders. Other business may be brought before the  
551 congregation at the discretion of the Elders.

552

### 553 **Section 10. Special Meetings**

554

555 Special meetings may be called by a quorum of the members of the Elders.  
556 Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will be announced prior to the  
557 meeting.

558

### 559 **Section 11. Amending Bylaws**

560

561 These bylaws shall be amended at any time by the unanimous vote of the Elders.

562

### 563 **Section 12. Dissolution**

564

565 Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Elders shall cause the assets herein to be  
566 distributed to another corporation with similar purposes to that of Cornerstone Bible  
567 Church of McPherson.

568

### 569 **Section 12. Sexuality and Marriage**

570

571 We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage  
572 sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive  
573 union, as delineated in Scripture.

574

575 We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a  
576 woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that  
577 no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man  
578 and a woman.

579

580 We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication,  
581 homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to  
582 change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and  
583 offensive to God.

584

585 We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the  
586 local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members  
587 and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any  
588 capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement  
589 on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

590

591 We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and  
592 forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

593

594 We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness,  
595 respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward  
596 any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the  
597 doctrines of the church.

598

599 **Section 13. Support Staff**

600

601 Any non-contract, part-time, or full-time support staff employee of Cornerstone  
602 Bible Church:

603

604 Must agree not to participate in or represent any idea or activity that is contrary  
605 to the elders' understanding of CBC's doctrinal statement and bylaws. Both  
606 while actively representing Cornerstone Bible Church in their employment  
607 duties and in their personal life.

608

609 Shall be a member in good standing, as determined by the Elders. If the  
610 employee is not in good standing, they may be terminated from employment  
611 regardless of professional competency.