

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESTONSBURG, KY

We declare and establish this constitution and by-laws for the preservation and security of the principle of our Faith and to the Glory of God, and so that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This document will preserve the liberties of each member of CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH and the freedom of action in her relation to other churches.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

This body shall be known as CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH of 171 Abbott Creek Road, Prestonsburg, Floyd County, Kentucky, 41653.

ARTICLE TWO: OBJECTIVES

The mission of Christ Community Baptist Church is to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in making disciples of all nations by *declaring* the gospel, *displaying* the gospel, and *defending* the gospel to the glory of God and the eternal good of our neighbors.

The vision of Christ Community Baptist Church has been the vision of the church from the very beginning. As those redeemed by the blood of Christ, our vision is to bring God glory in all we do. The primary way we glorify God is by gathering together as a church to sing His praises, offer Him our prayers, hear His Word, practice the ordinances, and love and care for one another (John 13:34-35).

ARTICLE THREE: STATEMENT & CONFESSION OF FAITH

The concise statement of faith for our congregation is the Baptist Faith & Message (2000) provided below; while the more thorough and detailed confessional standard of our church is the historic Second London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689.

Baptist Faith & Message (2000)

1. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and

truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

[Exodus 24:4](#); [Deuteronomy 4:1-2](#); [17:19](#); [Joshua 8:34](#); [Psalms 19:7-10](#); [119:11,89,105,140](#); [Isaiah 34:16](#); [40:8](#); [Jeremiah 15:16](#); [36:1-32](#); [Matthew 5:17-18](#); [22:29](#); [Luke 21:33](#); [24:44-46](#); [John 5:39](#); [16:13-15](#); [17:17](#); [Acts 2:16](#); [17:11](#); [Romans 15:4](#); [16:25-26](#); [2 Timothy 3:15-17](#); [Hebrews 1:1-2](#); [4:12](#); [1 Peter 1:25](#); [2 Peter 1:19-21](#)

2. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

[Genesis 1:1](#); [2:7](#); [Exodus 3:14](#); [6:2-3](#); [15:11](#); [20:1](#); [Leviticus 22:2](#); [Deuteronomy 6:4](#); [32:6](#); [1 Chronicles 29:10](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [Isaiah 43:3,15](#); [64:8](#); [Jeremiah 10:10](#); [17:13](#); [Matthew 6:9](#); [7:11](#); [23:9](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [John 4:24](#); [5:26](#); [14:6-13](#); [17:1-8](#); [Acts 1:7](#); [Romans 8:14-15](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 4:6](#); [Colossians 1:15](#); [1 Timothy 1:17](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [12:9](#); [1 Peter 1:17](#); [1 John 5:7](#)

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

[Genesis 18:1](#); [Psalms 2:7](#); [110:1](#); [Isaiah 7:14](#); [Isaiah 53:1-12](#); [Matthew 1:18-23](#); [3:17](#); [8:29](#); [11:27](#); [14:33](#); [16:16,27](#); [17:5](#); [27](#); [28:1-6,19](#); [Mark 1:1](#); [3:11](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [4:41](#); [22:70](#); [24:46](#); [John 1:1-18,29](#); [10:30,38](#); [11:25-27](#); [12:44-50](#); [14:7-11](#); [16:15-16,28](#); [17:1-5](#); [21-22](#); [20:1-20,28](#); [Acts 1:9](#); [2:22-24](#); [7:55-56](#); [9:4-5,20](#); [Romans 1:3-4](#); [3:23-26](#); [5:6-21](#); [8:1-3,34](#); [10:4](#); [1 Corinthians 1:30](#); [2:2](#); [8:6](#); [15:1-8,24-28](#); [2 Corinthians 5:19-21](#); [8:9](#); [Galatians 4:4-5](#); [Ephesians 1:20](#); [3:11](#); [4:7-10](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Colossians 1:13-22](#); [2:9](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#); [3:16](#); [Titus 2:13-14](#); [Hebrews 1:1-3](#); [4:14-15](#); [7:14-28](#); [9:12-15,24-28](#); [12:2](#); [13:8](#); [1 Peter 2:21-25](#); [3:22](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [3:2](#); [4:14-15](#); [5:9](#); [2 John 7-9](#); [Revelation 1:13-16](#); [5:9-14](#); [12:10-11](#); [13:8](#); [19:16](#)

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

[Genesis 1:2](#); [Judges 14:6](#); [Job 26:13](#); [Psalms 51:11](#); [139:7](#); [Isaiah 61:1-3](#); [Joel 2:28-32](#); [Matthew 1:18](#); [3:16](#); [4:1](#); [12:28-32](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:10,12](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [4:1,18-19](#); [11:13](#); [12:12](#); [24:49](#); [John 4:24](#); [14:16-17,26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7-14](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2:1-4,38](#); [4:31](#); [5:3](#); [6:3](#); [7:55](#); [8:17,39](#); [10:44](#); [13:2](#); [15:28](#); [16:6](#); [19:1-6](#); [Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 2:10-14](#); [3:16](#); [12:3-11,13](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#); [4:30](#); [5:18](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:19](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [4:1](#); [2 Timothy 1:14](#); [3:16](#); [Hebrews 9:8,14](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#); [1 John 4:13](#); [5:6-7](#); [Revelation 1:10](#); [22:17](#)

3. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin.

Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

[Genesis 1:26-30](#); [2:5,7,18-22](#); [3](#); [9:6](#); [Psalms 1](#); [8:3-6](#); [32:1-5](#); [51:5](#); [Isaiah 6:5](#); [Jeremiah 17:5](#); [Matthew 16:26](#); [Acts 17:26-31](#); [Romans 1:19-32](#); [3:10-18,23](#); [5:6,12,19](#); [6:6](#); [7:14-25](#); [8:14-18,29](#); [1 Corinthians 1:21-31](#); [15:19,21-22](#); [Ephesians 2:1-22](#); [Colossians 1:21-22](#); [3:9-11](#)

4. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

[Genesis 3:15](#); [Exodus 3:14-17](#); [6:2-8](#); [Matthew 1:21](#); [4:17](#); [16:21-26](#); [27:22-28:6](#); [Luke 1:68-69](#); [2:28-32](#); [John 1:11-14,29](#); [3:3-21,36](#); [5:24](#); [10:9,28-29](#); [15:1-16](#); [17:17](#); [Acts 2:21](#); [4:12](#); [15:11](#); [16:30-31](#); [17:30-31](#); [20:32](#); [Romans 1:16-18](#); [2:4](#); [3:23-25](#); [4:3](#); [5:8-10](#); [6:1-23](#); [8:1-18,29-39](#); [10:9-10,13](#); [13:11-14](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18,30](#); [6:19-20](#); [15:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17-20](#); [Galatians 2:20](#); [3:13](#); [5:22-25](#); [6:15](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#); [2:8-22](#); [4:11-16](#); [Philippians 2:12-13](#); [Colossians 1:9-22](#); [3:1](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#); [2 Timothy 1:12](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#); [Hebrews 2:1-3](#); [5:8-9](#); [9:24-28](#); [11:1-12:8,14](#); [James 2:14-26](#); [1 Peter 1:2-23](#); [1 John 1:6-2:11](#); [Revelation 3:20](#); [21:1-22:5](#)

5. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers

may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

[Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Exodus 19:5-8](#); [1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22](#); [Isaiah 5:1-7](#); [Jeremiah 31:31](#); [Matthew 16:18-19](#); [21:28-45](#); [24:22,31](#); [25:34](#); [Luke 1:68-79](#); [2:29-32](#); [19:41-44](#); [24:44-48](#); [John 1:12-14](#); [3:16](#); [5:24](#); [6:44-45,65](#); [10:27-29](#); [15:16](#); [17:6,12,17-18](#); [Acts 20:32](#); [Romans 5:9-10](#); [8:28-39](#); [10:12-15](#); [11:5-7,26-36](#); [1 Corinthians 1:1-2](#); [15:24-28](#); [Ephesians 1:4-23](#); [2:1-10](#); [3:1-11](#); [Colossians 1:12-14](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:13-14](#); [2 Timothy 1:12](#); [2:10,19](#); [Hebrews 11:39-12:2](#); [James 1:12](#); [1 Peter 1:2-5,13](#); [2:4-10](#); [1 John 1:7-9](#); [2:19](#); [3:2](#)

6. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

[Matthew 16:15-19](#); [18:15-20](#); [Acts 2:41-42,47](#); [5:11-14](#); [6:3-6](#); [13:1-3](#); [14:23,27](#); [15:1-30](#); [16:5](#); [20:28](#); [Romans 1:7](#); [1 Corinthians 1:2](#); [3:16](#); [5:4-5](#); [7:17](#); [9:13-14](#); [12](#); [Ephesians 1:22-23](#); [2:19-22](#); [3:8-11,21](#); [5:22-32](#); [Philippians 1:1](#); [Colossians 1:18](#); [1 Timothy 2:9-14](#); [3:1-15](#); [4:14](#); [Hebrews 11:39-40](#); [1 Peter 5:1-4](#); [Revelation 2:3](#); [21:2-3](#)

7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

[Matthew 3:13-17](#); [26:26-30](#); [28:19-20](#); [Mark 1:9-11](#); [14:22-26](#); [Luke 3:21-22](#); [22:19-20](#); [John 3:23](#); [Acts 2:41-42](#); [8:35-39](#); [16:30-33](#); [20:7](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#); [1 Corinthians 10:16,21](#); [11:23-29](#); [Colossians 2:12](#)

8. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

[Exodus 20:8-11](#); [Matthew 12:1-12](#); [28:1](#); [Mark 2:27-28](#); [16:1-7](#); [Luke 24:1-3,33-36](#); [John 4:21-24](#); [20:1,19-28](#); [Acts 20:7](#); [Romans 14:5-10](#); [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#); [Colossians 2:16](#); [3:16](#); [Revelation 1:10](#)

9. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

[Genesis 1:1](#); [Isaiah 9:6-7](#); [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#); [Matthew 3:2](#); [4:8-10,23](#); [12:25-28](#); [13:1-52](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:29](#); [Mark 1:14-15](#); [9:1](#); [Luke 4:43](#); [8:1](#); [9:2](#); [12:31-32](#); [17:20-21](#); [23:42](#); [John 3:3](#); [18:36](#); [Acts 1:6-7](#); [17:22-31](#); [Romans 5:17](#); [8:19](#); [1 Corinthians 15:24-28](#); [Colossians 1:13](#); [Hebrews 11:10,16](#); [12:28](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#); [4:13](#); [Revelation 1:6,9](#); [5:10](#); [11:15](#); [21-22](#)

10. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

[Isaiah 2:4](#); [11:9](#); [Matthew 16:27](#); [18:8-9](#); [19:28](#); [24:27,30,36,44](#); [25:31-46](#); [26:64](#); [Mark 8:38](#); [9:43-48](#); [Luke 12:40,48](#); [16:19-26](#); [17:22-37](#); [21:27-28](#); [John 14:1-3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [17:31](#); [Romans 14:10](#); [1 Corinthians 4:5](#); [15:24-28,35-58](#); [2 Corinthians 5:10](#); [Philippians 3:20-21](#); [Colossians 1:5](#); [3:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#); [5:1](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7](#); [2](#); [1 Timothy 6:14](#); [2 Timothy 4:1,8](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [Hebrews 9:27-28](#); [James 5:8](#); [2 Peter 3:7](#); [1 John 2:28](#); [3:2](#); [Jude 14](#); [Revelation 1:18](#); [3:11](#); [20:1-22:13](#)

11. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

[Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Exodus 19:5-6](#); [Isaiah 6:1-8](#); [Matthew 9:37-38](#); [10:5-15](#); [13:18-30](#), [37-43](#); [16:19](#); [22:9-10](#); [24:14](#); [28:18-20](#); [Luke 10:1-18](#); [24:46-53](#); [John 14:11-12](#); [15:7-8,16](#); [17:15](#); [20:21](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2](#); [8:26-40](#); [10:42-48](#); [13:2-3](#); [Romans 10:13-15](#); [Ephesians 3:1-11](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:8](#); [2 Timothy 4:5](#); [Hebrews 2:1-3](#); [11:39-12:2](#); [1 Peter 2:4-10](#); [Revelation 22:17](#)

12. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

[Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14](#); [6:1-10](#); [31:12-13](#); [Nehemiah 8:1-8](#); [Job 28:28](#); [Psalms 19:7](#); [119:11](#); [Proverbs 3:13](#); [4:1-10](#); [8:1-7,11](#); [15:14](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:19](#); [Matthew 5:2](#); [7:24](#); [28:19-20](#); [Luke 2:40](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [Philippians 4:8](#); [Colossians 2:3,8-9](#); [1 Timothy 1:3-7](#); [2 Timothy 2:15](#); [3:14-17](#); [Hebrews 5:12-6:3](#); [James 1:5](#); [3:17](#)

13. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

[Genesis 14:20](#); [Leviticus 27:30-32](#); [Deuteronomy 8:18](#); [Malachi 3:8-12](#); [Matthew 6:1-4,19-21](#); [19:21](#); [23:23](#); [25:14-29](#); [Luke 12:16-21,42](#); [16:1-13](#); [Acts 2:44-47](#); [5:1-11](#); [17:24-25](#); [20:35](#); [Romans 6:6-22](#); [12:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 4:1-2](#); [6:19-20](#); [12](#); [16:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 8-9](#); [12:15](#); [Philippians 4:10-19](#); [1 Peter 1:18-19](#)

14. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner.

Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

[Exodus 17:12; 18:17; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18](#)

15. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

[Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8](#)

16. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application

of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

[Isaiah 2:4](#); [Matthew 5:9,38-48](#); [6:33](#); [26:52](#); [Luke 22:36,38](#); [Romans 12:18-19](#); [13:1-7](#); [14:19](#); [Hebrews 12:14](#); [James 4:1-2](#)

17. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God.

The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

[Genesis 1:27](#); [2:7](#); [Matthew 6:6-7,24](#); [16:26](#); [22:21](#); [John 8:36](#); [Acts 4:19-20](#); [Romans 6:1-2](#); [13:1-7](#); [Galatians 5:1,13](#); [Philippians 3:20](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#); [James 4:12](#); [1 Peter 2:12-17](#); [3:11-17](#); [4:12-19](#)

18. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

[Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; Psalms 127; Psalms 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7](#)

ARTICLE FOUR: CHURCH COVENANT

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to, by His Spirit, give ourselves up to Him and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on God's gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other as one body in Christ to:

- I. Commit to walking together in Christian love, exercising affectionate care and watchfulness over each other even if that means humbly and graciously warning, rebuking, and admonishing one another as the occasion may require (John 13:34-35; Hebrews 3:12-14).
- II. Commit to the ministry of attendance, understanding that our regular attendance at worship services encourages the faith of our fellow church members and expresses our own devotion to Christ as the Lord of our lives (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- III. Commit to honoring the Lord in our home, workplace, and community by living a life worthy of the gospel both in conduct and speech (Philippians 1:27).
- IV. Commit to cheerfully contribute regularly to the financial support of this local church for the expenses of gospel ministry and relief of the poor (Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 9:23; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- V. Commit to maintaining the unity within this local church by affirming our doctrinal standard and pursuing relational peace among the congregation (Ephesians 4:3).

ARTICLE FIVE: GOVERNMENT AND AFFILIATION

The government of this church is in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches.

Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support other like-minded Baptist churches.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE SIX: PARLIAMENTARY RULES

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.

ARTICLE SEVEN: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of those who have confessed Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, completed the membership three-step process (Membership Matters Classes, Membership Meeting, and Congregational Affirmation) and have followed God in biblical baptism, which is by immersion only.

SECTION 1: ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Any person may offer himself/herself as a candidate for membership into this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church in the regular church service for membership in the following order:

1. Attend all membership classes
2. Attend membership meeting
 - A pastor will learn biographical information in this meeting, listen to the testimony of God's converting work in the life of the prospective member, confirm the prospective member has a biblical understanding of the gospel, and establish a plan to be baptized if they have not already.
3. Congregational Affirmation

- The majority vote of members present must be taken for admission into membership.
- If the prospective member is affirmed, he/she will read the church covenant before the congregation.
- If a prospective member is voted against from joining the membership of CCBC, a six (6) month period of investigating the concerns of the church will proceed where the prospective member can pursue reconciliation regarding stated concerns, attend Lord's Day services faithfully, and display to the church a life that is in step with the Holy Spirit. After the six (6) month period the prospective member will be able to approach the congregation for an affirmative vote into membership.

SECTION 2: DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

1. Duties and rights as outlined in church covenant.

SECTION 3: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. By death.
2. Being led to another church.
3. By request of said member.
4. By not participating in the life of the church for at least 6 months. *If a member has been absent from gathering with the church for at least 6 months, a hand-written letter will be sent to the member by a pastor at the midway point seeking to restore the member to active attendance.*
5. Terminated in accordance with Section 4.

SECTION 4: DISCIPLINE

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to the members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist in any trouble. The elders, other members of the staff and deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemptive action rather than punishment.

Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, the elders will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, an eighty percent (80%) vote of the members present is required for exclusion; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be void of Christian character and lifestyle.

The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person and by vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

ARTICLE EIGHT: MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

SECTION 1: CHURCH MEETINGS WORSHIP

1. Regular worship services for the entire body and for all people who attend shall be held each Lord's Day (Sunday) and Wednesday at such times are agreeable with the church.

2. Special services for evangelism and Bible study shall be held as the church may be led by the Holy Spirit.

SECTION 2: BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. Every six (6) to twelve (12) months, the church shall hold regular business meetings as deemed necessary by the elders for budget & business updates. If and when a situation arises, the business meeting may be postponed until another date by announcement of the elders, or in case the church is without elders present, or in the case of being without elders, by announcement of the acting moderator.
2. Special business meetings can be called by the elders or acting moderator after announcement at one prior regular service of the church to consider matters needing immediate attention.

3. All business meetings having to do with the employment of professional personnel, with the sale, conveying, mortgaging or otherwise disposing of any, or all property of the church, must be announced from the pulpit on two Sunday mornings at the regular hour of services, next preceding the regular called business meeting. These matters of business must receive at least eighty percent (80%) of the votes of the members present and voting at such meetings, for approval.
4. A business meeting is not required for the elders to spend up to \$200.00 of church funds for ministry purposes. The purchases must be reported to the treasurer and recorded.

SECTION 3: QUORUM

The quorum shall be made up of at least fifty percent (50%) of members of the church over the age of 18 years old.

SECTION 4: VOTING

Each member shall be entitled to one vote. A simple majority of the membership in attendance and voting will govern on any item called to a vote before the corporate body unless otherwise designated in the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE NINE: CHURCH MINISTRIES & MISSIONS

SECTION 1: CHURCH MINISTRIES

The church shall strive to maintain programs of Bible teaching, church member training, church leadership training, new member classes, action and support, and education and performance. All organizations related to the church program shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church, and all program activities subject to church coordination and approval. The church shall provide the human resources, the physical resources and the financial resources for the appropriate advancement of these programs.

A. **Sunday School, Sunday Corporate Worship, Wednesday Evening** - These three are the primary gatherings of our church.

B. **Membership** - CCBC believes *membership matters* because the Bible points us toward membership for our encouragement, protection, and our instruction (Acts 1:15; 2:41, 44-47; 4:4; 5:11-13). We seek to carry out this vision through the following three-step process by which an individual becomes a member of Christ Community Baptist Church: Membership Classes, Member Meeting, and Congregational Affirmation.

ARTICLE TEN: CHURCH OFFICERS

The officers of this church, CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, shall be elder(s), deacons, and other leaders as needed. All of these offices shall be elected by the church and shall be in good standing. Other officers of the church, including the heads of various teaching, training, and missionary organizations shall be elected annually by the church upon recommendation of the elder(s) unless otherwise indicated. A church officer that is not an elder or deacon is in a temporary office position that can be maintained or removed at the elders discretion.

SECTION 1: PASTOR/ELDER

1. CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH believes in a plurality of elders/pastors (Gk. *presbuteros*). CCBC elders/pastors are men who, by the grace of God, meet the biblical qualifications for being an elder in Scripture. They are men who recognize they are under-shepherds to the Chief Shepherd Jesus, and willfully and joyfully shepherd God's people entrusted to them until Christ returns. Elders at CCBC are responsible for pastoring the church in teaching the Word, prayer, and oversight. Elders serve in leading the local church through preaching, teaching, prayer, and administerial oversight.
2. The elders at CCBC must align in cheerful confession of the doctrinal standard of Christ Community Baptist Church which is the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) and the Baptist Faith & Message.

3. There shall always be at least one elder at CCBC. Additional elders shall be appointed by the elder(s) already present at CCBC (a majority vote) and membership (at least 80% vote).
4. If an elder is to be removed at CCBC, an eighty percent (80%) affirmative vote of members present (must be at least 80% membership gathered) and a majority vote of the elders at CCBC are needed. At least thirty (30) days notice shall be given of termination of the relationship unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both the elder(s) and membership seeking to follow the will of the Lord and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
5. The call of the elder shall take place at a meeting especially for that purpose; which meeting shall have been announced to the congregation at least two weeks in advance. The election shall be upon the recommendation of the elders, who seek other elder-qualified men to lead, love, and shepherd the flock of God at CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in faithfulness to the gospel.
6. Elders can be paid a salary mutually agreeable to him and the church. It shall be reviewed yearly or sooner if the need arises. Pastoral pay will depend upon an elder vote (at least 50%) and membership vote (at least 80%) of those present at a business meeting.
7. Elders are permitted to be out of the pulpit (conferences/vacations/speaking engagements) as long as a two week notice is given for another elder to prepare for the sermon and Lord's Day service. A notice of absence is not required if the absence is due to sudden illness or emergency.
8. Supply - The church shall pay for a supply speaker if another elder is not preaching. It is the elders responsibility to see that the pulpit is filled every Lord's Day.
9. Elders are to regularly and generously support the ministry of Christ Community Baptist Church financially, setting the standard of giving to the rest of the congregation.
10. The wife of an elder - a pastor's wife is to be faithful in her character and actions. She is to be thoughtful in her appearance and manner, making her worthy of the respect of all people. She is to guard her speech so as to never utter maliciously false statements and charges which would damage the reputation and character of another person. She is expected to promote unity in the church and to wisely consider the possible consequences of any actions. She is to support her husband in light of the office to which he has been called (1 Timothy 3:11).
11. In good faith, the following should be observed by the elder and church prior to public announcement:

- A) When an elder resigns he is requested to give to the church his reasons for resigning. This should be in writing and will be read to the congregation at a members meeting.
- B) If an elder is asked to resign, he should be told the reasons for this request. This should be presented to him and the church in writing.

SECTION 2: DEACONS

1. CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, according to the New Testament, believes in the ministry aid of deacons (Gk. *diakonos*). Deacons are servant-oriented men who assist the elders in fulfilling ministries of the church. Deacons also serve alongside women in the congregation who assist them in ministries of the church (Romans 16:1; 1 Timothy 3:11). Deacons help ensure practical matters of church life are met to help free the pastors to devote themselves to the spiritual needs of the congregation such as teaching, praying, and oversight. Deacons at CCBC will serve under the oversight of the elders as they serve under Christ. Deacons lead in serving the local church.
2. The deacons at CCBC must align in cheerful confession of the doctrinal standard at Christ Community Baptist Church which is the Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) and the Baptist Faith & Message.
3. The deacons shall meet as often as necessary, in times mutually agreed, in order that their duties might be carried out in an orderly manner.
4. A deacon is expected to be a regular in attendance, attending all regular services of the church, and is to participate in the activities of the church. No man shall be considered for ordination or election to the deaconship who has not previously proven himself faithful to the church and her doctrines and covenant and is an example of a Christian in his home, business and social relationships.
5. A deacon, who for any reason feels that he cannot faithfully fulfill the qualifications and duties of an active deacon, may resign by notifying the elders of the church for acceptance of that resignation.
6. Each deacon shall be free to confer with the elders about all matters and cases of discipline which in their judgment would be most wisely and spiritually handled privately.
7. Deacons are not a dictatorial board; along with the elders they serve the congregation as they serve under Christ. Deacons have no governing authority over the elders.

8. Deacons too are expected to regularly and generously support the ministry of Christ Community Baptist Church financially.
9. The wife of a deacon - a deacon's wife is to be faithful in her character and actions. She is to be thoughtful in her appearance and manner, making her worthy of the respect of all people. She is to guard her speech so as to never utter maliciously false statements and charges which would damage the reputation and character of another person. She is expected to promote unity in the church and to wisely consider the possible consequences of any actions. She is to support her husband in light of the office to which he has been called (1 Timothy 3:11).
10. Deacons are expected to undergo training for the specific duties and roles in which they have been called to serve.
11. Number & election:
 - a. Number - There shall be at least one (1) deacon active.
 - b. Election - The election of deacons will be lasting appointments, as the call to be a deacon is a lifelong calling by God; similar to that of an elder. Deacons are elected with a fifty percent (50%) elder vote and a eighty percent (80%) membership vote of at least 50 percent (50%) members gathered. Likewise, the same percentage vote of elders and congregation is necessary for removal of a deacon if the deacon fails to meet assigned duties, resists church discipline, or desires to take a season where he is not actively serving due to illness, travel, or other personal reasons.

SECTION 4: TREASURER

1. The treasurer shall be elected by the church every three years; recurring terms can be approved pending church membership vote of at least eighty percent (80%) of at least fifty percent (50%) members gathered.
2. The treasurer shall count all funds received through all channels. The treasurer verifies and confirms that the funds are correct for deposit immediately at a bank of the church's choice.
3. The treasurer shall make all payments of all accounts of the church and shall disburse by check all money consistent with the budget of the church. Any exceptions will be made upon authority of the church.
4. The treasurer shall make a detailed financial statement quarterly of all obligations incurred, purchases made of all receipts at the business meetings. The treasurer shall be present at the business meeting.

5. The church may elect a financial assistant treasurer.
6. The treasurer shall consider it a part of his/her responsibility to promote, in every proper way, Scriptural giving on the part of the entire membership of the church.

SECTION 6: FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

1. The financial assistant to the treasurer may be elected by the church every three years; recurring terms can be approved pending church membership vote of at least eighty percent (80%) of at least fifty percent (50%) members gathered.
2. He/She shall receive the empty collection of envelopes after the money has been removed for deposit.
3. He/She shall count all money in cooperation with the treasurer to verify the deposit to be made.
4. He/She shall, along with the treasurer, keep a record for each individual contributor as provided.

SECTION 7: MODERATOR

1. An elder shall serve as moderator, and if an elder is not available, a deacon shall also serve as moderator in the absence of an elder for said meeting.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: CHURCH COMMITTEES

This church shall elect regular and special committees as the church deems necessary to carry out her mission and programs. All committees, except an elder committee, can be maintained or removed at the discretion of the elders.

SECTION 1: ELDER COMMITTEE

1. In case of a pastoral vacancy where there are no active elders serving Christ Community Baptist Church, the appointed deacon(s) at CCBC shall become the committee to search for a suitable pastor to present before the church for approval. If there is only one deacon currently at CCBC during this time, the deacon will prayerfully appoint two (2) other faithful members to assist in the prayerful discernment of identifying and appointing the next pastor of Christ Community Baptist Church.
2. The committee, if desired, shall consult the partnering local Baptist network in affiliation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention for suitable pastoral candidates.
3. The committee shall take steps necessary to secure an elder. They shall investigate the merits of every man under consideration in regard to his personal character, ministerial record, doctrinal beliefs, financial condition and preaching ability in determining his

fitness for this pastorate position. Any prospect should be given a copy of the church Constitution and By-Laws. When a suitable candidate is found, the committee shall recommend him to the church at a special gathering announced at least two weeks prior.

4. The members present (at least 80% gathered) must pass an eighty percent (80%) vote in favor of the candidate for the church to move forward in hiring the candidate as an elder.
5. The committee shall work as a group and present all facts concerning the church to a prospective lead teaching elder. They shall know from the church precisely what obligations the church is willing to meet. They shall report progress to the church.
6. No two members from the same immediate family shall serve on this committee.

ARTICLE TWELVE: CHURCH ORDINANCES

SECTION 1: BAPTISM

1. This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus by personal faith, who professes Christ publicly at any worship service and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.
2. Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
3. An elder, alongside whoever the eldership shall authorize, shall administer the baptism.
4. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service in the church.
5. Any person who professes Christ and is not baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by an elder. If negative interest is ascertained on the part of the individual who has not been baptized yet professes Christ, he/she shall be removed as one awaiting baptism.

SECTION 2: THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. The church shall observe the Lord's Supper weekly. The elders/pastors shall administer the Lord's Supper, with the help of deacons if necessary. In the absence of elders, the deacons will authorize and serve the said ordinance.