

# Centerpoint Fellowship Church Constitution

## I. NAME

The name of this organization, a nonprofit Corporation, shall be Centerpoint Fellowship Church.

## II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Statement of Faith for Centerpoint Fellowship Church is a summary of what we believe God's Word teaches with regard to the essential tenets of Christian theology. Centerpoint Fellowship Church believes these things as we choose to have fellowship with the Southern Baptists:

### **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. (II Tim 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Matt 5:18; John 16:12,13).

### **God**

There is one and only one living and true God. ...The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Deut 6:4; II Cor. 13:14)

#### **• 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. ...God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

#### **• 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. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross made provision for the redemption of men from sin. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Rom 3:24; I Peter 2:24; Eph 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of

God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Heb 7:25, Heb 9:24; Rom 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

- **God the Holy Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. ...He exalts Christ. He convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment ...He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. (John 16:8-11; II Cor 3:6; I Cor 12:12-14; Rom 8:9; Eph 5:18)

## **Man**

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His creation. ... but through Adam's sin all of humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. Each and every person has sinned against God and is guilty of breaking His holy law. The sacredness of human personality is evident in God creating man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (Gen 1:26,27 Rom 3:22, 23, 5:12; Eph 2:1-3, 12)

## **Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely by grace to all who believe in faith on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification. (Eph 2:8-10; John 1:12; Eph 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19).

## **Eternal security and assurance of believers**

All the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38, 39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5). We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom 13:13,14; Gal 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

## **The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The New Testament church is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 11:2). We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament scriptures (Acts 14:27, 18:22, 20:17, I Tim 3:1-3 & Titus 1:5-11). We believe in the autonomy of the local churches and their freedom of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Rom 16:1,4; I Cor. 3:9, 16, I Cor. 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4). We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's supper as scriptural

means of testimony for the church in this age (Matt 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; Acts 18:8; I Cor. 11:23-26).

### **The ministry and spiritual gifts**

God is sovereign in the bestowing of spiritual gifts. It is, however, the believer's responsibility to attempt to develop their sovereignly given spiritual gift(s). The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion placing the believer into the Body of Christ. We also believe that particular spiritual gift(s) are neither essential (proving the presence of the Holy Spirit), nor an indication of deep spiritual experience (I Cor. 12:7, 11, 13 & Eph. 4:7-8). We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted, according to His will (John 15:7 & I John 5:14, 15). We believe it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to minister according to the gift(s) and grace of God given to him (Rom 12:1-8; I Cor. 13; I Peter 4:10-11).

### **Baptism & the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. ...It is an act of obedience that symbolizes the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It further symbolizes the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:1-4, Acts 8:12)

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. (Luke 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24, 25)

### **The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion. (Matthew 28:1, John 20:19, Acts 20:7)

### **Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. ...Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly...the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell as the righteous will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. (Matthew 24:4-51, Matthew 25:31-46, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Luke 16:22-24, John 3:16)

### **Evangelism & Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations seeking constantly to win the lost to Christ, according to the will of God. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15)

### **Education**

The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence ... there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and

academic responsibility. ...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.

### **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. We should also take work to take care of the earth in whatever way we can. (Matthew 25:14-30,

### **Cooperation**

Christ's people should ... 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. ...Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

### **The Christian & the Social Order**

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life and in human society. ... The Christian should oppose, in the spirit of Christ, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice.

### **Religious Liberty**

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. ...A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

### **Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Marriage is the unity of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. They do, however, have different roles within the marriage. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. ...Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. (Ephesians 5:21-33, Ephesians 6:1-4, Psalm 127:3)

## **III. STANDING**

This church shall maintain fellowship with The Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, and the Central Baptist Association.

## **IV. PURPOSE**

We exist to see the people of Southeast Albuquerque hear the gospel and put Christ at the Centerpoint of their lives as disciples and to allow Him to change their hearts, hopes, and futures

so that they can be disciple-makers around the UNM community and among the nations of the world.

## **V. PARTNERSHIP**

The church shall receive as partners those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, being born again, and manifesting the fruits of the Spirit in their lives as they are in agreement with the doctrine and polity of this church. It is not required that a person be re-baptized to become a partner. However, if the prospective member was only baptized as an infant, or for some reason there is a question about the validity of the original baptism, the prospective member shall be asked to be baptized as a believer. Individuals will be considered as a partner of Centerpoint Fellowship after they have attended a partnership meal and have signed our church covenant agreeing to the following expectations.

### **A. Expectations of Church Partners**

- a. We expect anyone who desires to partner with us to
  - i. Pray weekly for the pastors and partners of Centerpoint Fellowship
  - ii. Join a small group for Discipleship, Fellowship, and Missions
  - iii. Attend worship services regularly and participate in communion
  - iv. Give tithes and offerings to Centerpoint Fellowship
  - v. Share the Gospel regularly with family, friends, and others.
  - vi. Devote themselves to reading, studying, and striving to obey the scriptures (see section II for our statement of faith).

## **VI. AFFILIATIONS**

Centerpoint Fellowship Church shall not be subordinated to any other organization. Centerpoint Fellowship Church may, cooperate with other organizations of like mind and purpose, and may even affiliate with them as long as the right of withdrawal is reserved. However, neither Centerpoint Fellowship Church authority nor property shall be subordinate to any other organization.

## **VII. DISSOLUTION**

If the church partnership votes to dissolve and cease to function as a church of like faith and practice, or if the partnership should dissolve through some disaster, no member, officer of the church, or private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any assets. Upon dissolution, assets of the church shall first be used to pay any outstanding debts. Following this, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be equally divided and given to the Baptist Convention of New Mexico and to the Central Baptist Association. The selection of recipients, as well as the timing of the actual transfers, shall be determined by vote of the Elders with consideration given to recommendations made by the deacons. Actions required to carry out the dissolution shall be performed by the Deacon Board, who shall seek out legal assistance to complete the process.

## **VIII. GOVERNMENT**

The government of this church shall be under the headship of Jesus Christ and in obedience to the Word of God (Colossians 1:17-18). This church shall remain free and self-governing. The government is vested in its partnership and administered by its officers. In function, final authority shall reside in the partners. They shall approve and/or affirm Biblically qualified leadership, to carry out Christ's purposes. Under Christ's leadership, Centerpoint Fellowship Church shall be led by its Elders and Pastors in accordance with this Constitution, fulfilling the Biblical responsibilities defined in the By-Laws. Likewise, Deacons will administer certain affairs of this church, under the oversight of the Elders, in accordance with this Constitution, fulfilling the Biblical responsibilities defined in the By-Laws.

### **SECTION 1: ELDERS**

Elders shall be men called of God who are qualified according to I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:2-3, and have accepted the Centerpoint Fellowship Church Statement of Faith. Unless providentially hindered, there shall be no less than three Elders at any given time, and up to as many as the Lord calls to the undershepherding role. Each Elder will serve as long as he remains Biblically qualified, available, and desires to continue to serve.

### **SECTION 2. DEACONS**

Deacons shall be men called of God who are qualified according to I Timothy 3:8-13 and have accepted the Centerpoint Fellowship Church Statement of Faith. Unless providentially hindered, there shall be no fewer than three Deacons at any given time, and as many as the Lord calls to this ministering role. Each Deacon will serve as long as he remains Biblically qualified, available, and desires to continue to serve.

### **SECTION 3. OTHER LEADERSHIP**

All positions of leadership associated with Centerpoint Fellowship Church shall be filled with partners. This includes all teaching positions (Bible Studies, small groups, etc.), the leading of worship services, and leadership positions for all other recognized ministry areas. All teaching and preaching from these leaders is expected to be consistent with the official Statement of Faith of Centerpoint Fellowship Church. The Elders may invite members of other churches to minister at Centerpoint Fellowship Church periodically.

## **ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

It is the aim of Centerpoint Fellowship Church to vindicate the integrity and honor of Christ by maintaining the purity of the local church and her worship (Matthew 18:15-18; Rom 16:17; I Cor. 5:6-8; II Thess. 3:6-15; Titus 1:13, 2:15, 3:10). Centerpoint Fellowship Church, by consistently applying Biblical principles to Christians whether they are partners or regular attendees, shall strive to restore offenders (I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1) and deter others from sin (I Timothy 5:20).wa

### **VIII. OFFICERS**

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor(s) and Elders and other officers as deemed necessary by the local church.

### **IX. PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS AND POLICY MANUAL**

A supplement to this constitution known as the BY-LAWS shall embody the stated qualifications for church leaders and officers. The BY-LAWS shall also include officers' duties, provisions for appointment of additional leaders and teachers, conditions for partnership, method by which partners are received, along with other rules and regulations for church activities as needed. A Policy Manual shall cover such items as operational, job descriptions for all positions in the church, etc.

### **ARTICLE IX: ADDITIONAL CENTERPOINT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH DOCUMENTS**

All additional church documents approved by the Elder Board or church officers shall be in agreement with and subordinate to this Constitution and By-Laws.

### **X. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution may be made at the annual business meeting or a special called business meeting when said proposed Amendments have been presented to the membership in writing and posted for at least one month prior to the business meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for passage. Any partner of the church shall be able to submit comments and recommended changes to the Constitution to the Elders. All proposed amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws require at least thirty days prior notification to the partnership of the church for their formal approval and incorporation. After evaluating responses from the membership, final approval of amendments shall be made by the Elder Board at a regularly scheduled Elder Board meeting.