



**HBCCR**

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Adopted in 2014**



## *A word from the pastor . . .*

The Constitution and Bylaws are the most important man-written documents of our church. It is important for you to read them before joining the church. They are really two separate documents. The Constitution is a document of principle and the Bylaws is a document of policy. It is important to agree with the constitution of any church. The bylaws of the church, however, may be different from church to church. One should look for complete agreement with the constitution. In the bylaws, you should look for something that is unwarranted or unbiblical. Each church may have different bylaws based on the polities of that church.

It is our hope that the constitution and bylaws of Harvest Baptist Church will help strengthen you in your Christian life.

Pastor Josh Musgrave  
Pastor  
Harvest Baptist Church of Castle Rock

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# Constitution

## *Preamble*

Since the Bible admonishes to do all things decently and in order<sup>1</sup>, we the membership of Harvest Baptist Church of Castle Rock, Colorado, under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit, do hereby declare and establish this constitution and bylaws.

## *Article 1: Name*

The name of this church shall be Harvest Baptist Church of Castle Rock, Colorado.

## *Article 2: Purpose*

Our mission is to *win* and *disciple* followers of Jesus Christ and to *teach* them to *impact* the world through our community, Castle Rock.

To accomplish this mission, we will bring people to Christ and *membership* in his church, teach them to love the

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<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 14:40

Lord and *magnify* His name, disciple them to Christ-like *maturity*, and equip them for their *ministry* in the church and their *mission* in the world.

## 1. Membership

- Assemble together faithfully for the edification of the body<sup>1</sup>
- Observe His ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Magnifying

- Teach His people to love and magnify the Lord through their lives<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Maturity

- Disciple His people through sound Bible preaching and teaching<sup>4</sup>
- Build each other up in Christian fellowship<sup>5</sup>

## 4. Ministry

- Equip every member for his or her God given purpose in the church<sup>6</sup>
- Train adults and children in Bible doctrine, philosophy, and practice<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Heb. 10:25

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 11:26

<sup>3</sup> Luke 10:27

<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 15:2

<sup>6</sup> 1 Cor. 12:12-26

<sup>7</sup> Proverbs 22:6

## 5. Mission

- Spread the gospel faithfully<sup>1</sup>
- Witness for Him in our community and to the fullest possible extent throughout the whole world<sup>2</sup>

By this it is expressly intended that the church is authorized to engage in any activity in pursuit of the above enumerated purposes in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation, whether said activity is generally recognized as a function of the traditional church or not. Such activities may include but are not limited to the establishment of Christian schools, nursing homes, hospitals, rescue missions, day-care centers, camps, sister churches, mission churches, and other such programs as will promote the purposes of Harvest Baptist Church. It is further intended that any such activities or any other activities, which may evolve under the sponsorship of the church, shall be under the direction of the Pastor and Deacons in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of Harvest Baptist Church.

## *Article 3: Statement of Faith*

### **Section 1 - Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible is God's special revelation. God's Word, the Bible, is the accurate<sup>3</sup> and purposeful<sup>4</sup> revelation of Himself. We believe that God superintended the human authors of the Bible so that they composed and recorded without error His message to mankind in the words of their original writings. The Bible is not man's words, but it

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 1:8

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>3</sup> 2 Peter 1:20

<sup>4</sup> 2 Tim. 3:15-17

is the actual Word of God<sup>1</sup>. God guided His holy men<sup>2</sup>, using their distinctive personalities and styles. This work of God, inspiration, extends to every word (verbal inspiration)<sup>3</sup> and every part (plenary inspiration)<sup>4</sup> of the original autographs of the Scriptures (sixty-six canonical books). Since these originals are God's actual words breathed out to men, they are without error (inerrant), without fault (infallible), and reliable in all areas. The Bible is complete and nothing should be added to it or taken away from it<sup>5</sup>. We believe that the Scriptures are to be the only rule of faith and practice. The Word of God is alive and effective in working in the heart of man<sup>6</sup>.

## Section 2 - Doctrine of God

We believe in the triunity of God. God is three persons, all three the same in substance but distinct in existence<sup>7</sup>. God is indivisible<sup>8</sup>, but He has three distinct persons. We believe that God the Father is God<sup>9</sup>. We believe that Jesus Christ is God<sup>10</sup>. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God<sup>11</sup>. Each of these persons is equal in all aspects and is worthy of the same praise, confidence, and obedience<sup>12</sup>.

We believe that God's attributes reveal His perfection. He is eternal<sup>13</sup>, holy<sup>1</sup>, immutable<sup>2</sup>, infinite<sup>3</sup>, loving<sup>4</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Thess. 2:13

<sup>2</sup> 2 Pet. 2:21

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; 5:17-18

<sup>4</sup> 2 Tim. 3:16

<sup>5</sup> Rev. 22:19

<sup>6</sup> Hebrews 4:12

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; John 10:30; 2 Cor. 13:14

<sup>8</sup> Deut. 6:4; John 4:24; Eph. 4:6; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:5

<sup>9</sup> John 6:27

<sup>10</sup> Matt. 9:4; John 1:1; Rom. 9:5

<sup>11</sup> Acts 5:3-4

<sup>12</sup> John 5:23; 2 Cor. 13:14

<sup>13</sup> Gen. 21:23; Ps. 90:2



omnipotent<sup>5</sup>, omnipresent<sup>6</sup>, omniscient<sup>7</sup>, and righteous<sup>8</sup>. He is absolute truth<sup>9</sup>. God is sovereign over all things<sup>10</sup>. His sovereignty does not negate the responsibility and free will of man<sup>11</sup>.

We believe that God spoke<sup>12</sup> and created the world out of nothing (Ex Nihilo)<sup>13</sup> in six literal, consecutive days<sup>14</sup>.

## Section 3 - Doctrine of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God<sup>15</sup>. He is 100% God<sup>16</sup>. Jesus has all of the attributes of God the Father<sup>17</sup>. He forgives sin<sup>18</sup>, gives life<sup>19</sup>, raised from the dead<sup>20</sup>, judges all people<sup>21</sup>, and works miracles.<sup>22</sup> These are things that only God can do.

Jesus is also 100% man<sup>23</sup>. Jesus had a human body<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Lev. 11:44; Josh. 24:19; Ps. 99:3, 5, 9; Isa. 40:25; Hab. 1:12; John 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:15; 1 John 1:5; Rev. 4:8

<sup>2</sup> 1 Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17

<sup>3</sup> 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24-28

<sup>4</sup> John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; 4:8

<sup>5</sup> Gen. 17:1; Exod. 6:3; 1 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 1:8; 19:6

<sup>6</sup> Job 22:12-14; Ps. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24; Jonah 2:2; Acts 17:24-28

<sup>7</sup> Ps. 139:16; 147:4; Matt. 11:21; Acts 15:18

<sup>8</sup> Ps. 11:7; Dan. 9:7

<sup>9</sup> John 17:3; Rom. 3:4

<sup>10</sup> Ps. 135:6; Prov. 16:4; Acts 15:18; Eph. 1:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23

<sup>12</sup> Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24

<sup>13</sup> Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Matt. 13:35; Mark 13:19; John 1:3; Rom. 4:17; Heb. 1:10; 11:3

<sup>14</sup> Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3

<sup>15</sup> John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> Titus 2:13; Col. 2:9

<sup>17</sup> Matt. 16:21; 18:20; 28:18; John 8:58; Heb. 13:8

<sup>18</sup> Mark 2:1-12

<sup>19</sup> John 5:21

<sup>20</sup> John 11:43

<sup>21</sup> John 5:22, 27

<sup>22</sup> John 2:11; 9:16; 20:30-31

<sup>23</sup> John 1:14; Rom. 8:3; 1 John 4:2; 2 John 7

soul and spirit<sup>2</sup>. We believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah<sup>3</sup>, was born of a virgin<sup>4</sup>, lived a perfect life though He was tempted to sin<sup>5</sup>, died and paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world<sup>6</sup>, rose again on the third day<sup>7</sup>, ascended to heaven<sup>8</sup>, and is now at the right hand of the Father interceding for us<sup>9</sup>. We believe that Jesus' return to receive His own is imminent<sup>10</sup>. Dependence upon the shed blood of Jesus Christ<sup>11</sup> is the only way for men to receive forgiveness for their sins and eternal life in heaven<sup>12</sup>.

## Section 4 - Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is 100% God, sent from the Father<sup>13</sup>, and magnifies the person of Christ<sup>14</sup>. We believe in the personhood of the Holy Spirit in that He has a mind<sup>15</sup>, will<sup>16</sup>, and emotion<sup>17</sup>. We believe that the Holy Spirit always draws people to Christ<sup>18</sup>. The Holy Spirit possesses all of the attributes of God the Father<sup>19</sup>.

We believe that when a person gets saved the Holy Spirit immediately and permanently resides in (indwells) the

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 2:52; John 8:40

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 26:38; Luke 23:46

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:16-17; Luke 2:11

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 1:18, 23

<sup>5</sup> Heb. 4:15

<sup>6</sup> 1 Tim. 2:6; 1 John 2:2

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15:14, 17, 18

<sup>8</sup> Acts 1:9

<sup>9</sup> Heb. 7:25; 12:2

<sup>10</sup> 1 Thess. 4:13-18

<sup>11</sup> Rev. 13:8

<sup>12</sup> John 14:6

<sup>13</sup> John 14:16, 26

<sup>14</sup> John 16:13-14

<sup>15</sup> Rom. 8:27

<sup>16</sup> Acts 16:6-11; 1 Cor. 12:11

<sup>17</sup> Rom. 15:30; Eph. 4:30

<sup>18</sup> John 15:26-27; 16:8-14; 1 John 5:6b

<sup>19</sup> Heb. 9:14; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Ps. 139:7-10; Luke 1:35

believer<sup>1</sup>. The Holy Spirit teaches<sup>2</sup>, comforts<sup>3</sup>, empowers<sup>4</sup>, and guides<sup>5</sup> Christians. The Spirit fills (controls) a believer when he yields his will to the will of the Spirit<sup>6</sup>. The Holy Spirit gifts every believer with at least one spiritual gift<sup>7</sup>. This gifting enables every person to do the will of God. We believe the Holy Spirit gave sign gifts (healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, and prophecy—foretelling not forth telling<sup>8</sup>), as well as the apostles, that are no longer needed since we now have the completed revelation of God<sup>9</sup>.

## Section 5 - Doctrine of Man

We believe that God created man on the sixth day of creation<sup>10</sup> for His own glory<sup>11</sup>. God created man in His own image<sup>12</sup>.

Man was created with the ability to have unrestricted fellowship with God<sup>13</sup>. He was deceived by Satan, rebelled against God, and sinned by eating the forbidden fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”<sup>14</sup>. This sin caused all men to die physically and spiritually<sup>15</sup>. All men are born with a sin nature and are spiritually dead<sup>16</sup>. With this spiritual death man lost fellowship with God, but man can

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 2:27

<sup>3</sup> John 14:6-17

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:2

<sup>5</sup> Gal. 5:16, 29

<sup>6</sup> Eph. 5:18

<sup>7</sup> 1 Cor. 12:7, 11; Eph. 4:7; 1 Pet. 4:10

<sup>8</sup> 1 Cor. 14:1-33

<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor. 13:8-10

<sup>10</sup> Gen. 1:26

<sup>11</sup> Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:11-12

<sup>12</sup> Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1, 3; 9:6; Ps. 8; 1 Cor. 11:7; Col. 3:10; James 3:9

<sup>13</sup> 2 Cor. 3:12-18; Gen. 3:8a

<sup>14</sup> Gen. 3:6

<sup>15</sup> Rom. 5:12, 19

<sup>16</sup> Rom. 3:23

access this fellowship again through salvation<sup>1</sup>. Salvation and sanctification renew the image of God in a believer until the day when we are completely conformed into the image of Christ in heaven<sup>2</sup>.

## Section 6 - Doctrine of Sin

We believe that sin is breaking God's law<sup>3</sup>. All sin originated with Satan<sup>4</sup>. Sin and the penalty for it came to all men when Adam first chose to sin in the garden<sup>5</sup>. This brought the curse of sin upon the earth. Adam sinned as a representative of all mankind<sup>6</sup>. Through Adam's sin all men sinned and became guilty<sup>7</sup>. The penalty for sin is that all men died spiritually, were separated from fellowship with God<sup>8</sup>, and would eventually die physically<sup>9</sup>. Everyone is born a sinner and therefore deserves eternal punishment for his sin in the lake of fire, hell<sup>10</sup>. Because God is just, all sin, no matter how trivial it may seem, disqualifies from fellowship with God and deserves punishment in hell<sup>11</sup>. Man is unable to cleanse himself from sin<sup>12</sup> and appease God's wrath<sup>13</sup>. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can satisfy God's wrath<sup>14</sup>, wash away sins, bring sinners into fellowship with God, and deliver sinners from the punishment of hell<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:15; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:17-24; Col. 3:10

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18

<sup>3</sup> 1 John 3:4

<sup>4</sup> Eze. 28:15

<sup>5</sup> 1 Cor. 15:21-22

<sup>6</sup> Rom 5:19

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 5:12-17

<sup>8</sup> Gen. 3:8-9

<sup>9</sup> Gen. 2:17, 5:5; Rom. 6:23

<sup>10</sup> Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:10, 23

<sup>11</sup> Eze. 18:4, 20; James 2:10-11; Rev. 14:20

<sup>12</sup> Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

<sup>13</sup> Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 13:4

<sup>14</sup> Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

<sup>15</sup> 1 John 1:7

## Section 7 - Doctrine of Salvation

Salvation is the quickening of the spiritual part of man that died at the fall<sup>1</sup>. In this new birth God gives man a new nature<sup>2</sup>. No man can spend eternity with God without salvation because God is holy and man is sinful<sup>3</sup>. Salvation is possible only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ<sup>4</sup>. Men can only receive salvation by grace through faith upon the finished work of Christ on the cross<sup>5</sup>. Salvation is a gift of God's mercy and cannot be earned through good deeds<sup>6</sup>. At salvation a person is justified. When a believer is justified, Christ exchanges His holy record for a man's sinful record<sup>7</sup>. Justification changes man's standing with God<sup>8</sup>. Before justification, a man cannot fellowship with God because of man's sin. After justification is received, God views man as if he has never sinned. God sees the righteous reputation of Christ in place of the man's sinful reputation<sup>9</sup>. It is through justification that man is brought into a right standing with God.

When a person places his dependence on Jesus Christ to save him from sin, he is saved<sup>10</sup>. He cannot lose his salvation<sup>11</sup>. When Christ died on the cross He paid for all of our sins: past, present, and future<sup>12</sup>; gave eternal life to those who were dead in trespasses and sin<sup>13</sup>; and caused them to be seated together with Christ in heavenly places<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> John 3:3-7; Eph. 2:1

<sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. 5:17

<sup>3</sup> Hab. 1:13; 1 Pet. 1:16

<sup>4</sup> John 5:24; 1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9

<sup>6</sup> Titus 3:5

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 5:9; Eph. 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup> 1 Pet. 3:18

<sup>9</sup> Ps. 130:4, Rom. 5:18-19

<sup>10</sup> Acts 16:31

<sup>11</sup> Eph. 1:13-14

<sup>12</sup> 1 John 1:7

<sup>13</sup> John 5:24; 6:45; Eph. 2:1

<sup>14</sup> Eph. 2:4-6

Believing that salvation offers anything less than eternal security limits the power of Christ to save sinners from their sin<sup>1</sup>.

At salvation a person enters into an intimate relationship with God. This relationship gives a believer the opportunity to be changed to be more like Christ as he or she yields to the Spirit<sup>2</sup>. This process, called sanctification, is progressive and is only complete when a believer sees Christ for the first time in heaven<sup>3</sup>.

## Section 8 - Doctrine of the Church

The local church is a physical manifestation of the body of Christ<sup>4</sup>. God has chosen to work through the local church in this age<sup>5</sup>. Pastor-teachers and deacons are the scripturally appointed leaders for the church today. All of the church should work together under God's appointed leaders, pastor-teacher and deacons, to build up the entire body of Christ.

We believe that Christ is the head<sup>6</sup>, chief cornerstone<sup>7</sup>, and husband<sup>8</sup> of the church. We believe that the church is the body<sup>9</sup> and the bride of Christ<sup>10</sup> that serves as the pillar and ground of truth<sup>11</sup>.

We believe in a dispensational view of the church in

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<sup>1</sup> John 10:28-29; 2 Tim. 1:12

<sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. 3:18, 7:1; Eph. 4:11-15; Phil. 3:10-15; 1 Thess. 3:12, 4:1, 10; 2 Pet. 3:18

<sup>3</sup> Rom 8:30; Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23; 1 John 3:2

<sup>4</sup> 1 Tim. 3:15

<sup>5</sup> Acts; Rev. 1:9–3:22

<sup>6</sup> Eph. 1:22, 5:23

<sup>7</sup> Eph. 2:20

<sup>8</sup> Rev. 21:2

<sup>9</sup> Eph. 1:23

<sup>10</sup> Eph. 5:24-27; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7-9

<sup>11</sup> 1 Tim. 3:15

which the church is distinguished from Israel<sup>1</sup>. We believe that the church is a manifestation of the Kingdom of God but is not the same as the Millennial Kingdom<sup>2</sup>.

We believe that God gave the church two ordinances that are to be observed until the return of Christ. The first ordinance is baptism. Baptism is a choice to identify publicly with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection<sup>3</sup>. Immersion is the only legitimate mode of baptism<sup>4</sup>. The second ordinance is the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is to be taken in remembrance of Christ's work on the cross<sup>5</sup>. Neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper is required for salvation, though both are required steps of obedience.

We believe that the local church and the state are two different organizations<sup>6</sup>. The church must not allow the state to rule over it in scriptural matters<sup>7</sup>. However, the state must not allow the church to rule over it in social and governmental rulings<sup>8</sup>.

## **Section 9 - Doctrine of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire<sup>9</sup>.

## **Section 10 - Doctrine of Last Things**

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 10:32; Gal. 1:13

<sup>2</sup> Acts 8:12; 19:8; Col. 1:13

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 6:3-4

<sup>4</sup> Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39

<sup>5</sup> Luke 22:19 1 Cor. 11:24-26

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 13:1-7

<sup>7</sup> Acts 4:19

<sup>8</sup> Matt. 22:15-22; Rom. 13:4

<sup>9</sup> Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10

We believe in a literal interpretation of end-time prophecies unless the Bible states that a prophecy should be taken figuratively.

We believe that heaven is a literal place where believers will spend eternity with Christ<sup>1</sup>, and will spend eternity in fellowship with God<sup>2</sup>.

We believe that hell is a literal place that God created to punish the devil and fallen angels<sup>3</sup>. Men whose names are not found written in the Lamb's book of life<sup>4</sup> will also be condemned to hell for eternity<sup>5</sup>. Hell is described as a lake of fire<sup>6</sup>, second death<sup>7</sup>, place of pain; anguish<sup>8</sup>; and eternal separation from God<sup>9</sup>. All men deserve hell, and the only way to avoid this punishment is to accept the gift of salvation provided for all men through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross<sup>10</sup>.

We believe that the next prophetic event is the rapture, and that it could occur at any moment (pre-tribulational)<sup>11</sup>. During this return, Christ will come to take up all believers, dead and alive, to be with Him in heaven<sup>12</sup>. All Christians should be enthusiastically anticipating the imminent return of Christ<sup>13</sup>.

We believe that the tribulation is a seven-year period

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:4

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 25:34, 46

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 25:41

<sup>4</sup> Rev. 20:11-15

<sup>5</sup> Rev. 21:8

<sup>6</sup> Mark 9:43-48

<sup>7</sup> Rev. 21:8

<sup>8</sup> Luke 16:23-26

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 8:12; 25:30

<sup>10</sup> Rom. 6:23

<sup>11</sup> 1 Thess. 4:5; 2 Thess. 2

<sup>12</sup> 1 Thess. 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> Titus. 2:11-14



of time that occurs after the rapture (pre-millennial)<sup>1</sup>. We believe that the millennium will take place after the tribulation time period. Christ will return to the earth<sup>2</sup> and will reign for one thousand years<sup>3</sup>, and there will be peace on the earth<sup>4</sup>. Satan will be released at the end of the thousand years<sup>5</sup>, amass another army, and fight one last time with God<sup>6</sup>. And God will cast him into the lake of fire for all eternity<sup>7</sup>. At this time God will judge all sinners that ever lived at the Great White Throne Judgment. Those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's book of life will be cast into hell for eternity<sup>8</sup>.

## **Section 11 - Doctrine of Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy; all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations; and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances<sup>9</sup>.

## **Section 12 - Doctrine of Christian Practice**

### **Section 12.1 - Family Relationships**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Thess. 2:8-12

<sup>2</sup> Zech. 14:4

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 24:29-30; Rev. 2:27

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 46:9; Isa. 11:6-9; Amos 9:13; Zech. 14:9; Rom. 8:18-23

<sup>5</sup> Rev. 20:7

<sup>6</sup> Rev. 20:8-10

<sup>7</sup> Rev. 20:10

<sup>8</sup> Rev. 20:11-15

<sup>9</sup> Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline.<sup>2</sup>

## Section 12.2 - Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions.<sup>3</sup>

## Section 12.3 – Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that intimate

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<sup>1</sup> Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7

<sup>3</sup> Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17- 21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18

sexual activity be engaged in only within the bonds of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, molestation, rape, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.<sup>2</sup>

## **Section 12.4 - Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last a lifetime. However, we recognize that in our culture divorce and remarriage does occur. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, but they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon.<sup>3</sup>

## **Section 12.5 - Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception, and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable.<sup>4</sup>

## **Section 12.6 - Lawsuits Between Believers**

It is God's ideal that Christians not bring civil lawsuits

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<sup>1</sup> Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23

<sup>3</sup> Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6

<sup>4</sup> Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44

against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may use civil litigation to seek compensation for injuries from another Christian when that other Christian has rejected the authority of the church as long as the litigation is pursued without malice or slander.<sup>1</sup>

## Section 12.7 - Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made.<sup>2</sup>

## *Article 4: Autonomy*

The government and administration of this church are vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. They are subject to the control of no outside ecclesiastical organization. However, this church recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among churches of like faith and practice, so long as the independence and autonomy of this church is maintained.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17

## *Article 5: Membership*

To become a member of the local church, a person must be saved<sup>1</sup>, must be baptized by immersion<sup>2</sup>, and must show a desire to live in obedience to the Scriptures<sup>3</sup>.

Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord; who shows evidence of the new life in Christ; who has, in accordance with our Lord's commands and example, been baptized by immersion upon his confession of faith in Jesus Christ; and who is in agreement with the faith and practices as stated in the constitution, shall be eligible for membership in accordance with Article I of the Bylaws of Harvest Baptist Church.

## *Article 6: Amendments*

This Constitution may be amended or repealed, or a new constitution may be made and adopted upon the recommendation of the deacons by the two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum at any regular business meeting or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that notice of the time and nature of the meeting be announced during the three consecutive services immediately preceding the meeting and that copies of the proposed changes be made available for inspection by the membership in a reasonable manner.

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:47

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:38-41; 8:36-38

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 5; 2 Cor. 6:14-17, 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 John 10

# Bylaws

## *Article 1: Membership*

### **Section 1 - Qualification of Members**

A person who has accepted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, shows evidence of the new life in Christ, has been baptized by immersion after their salvation, and is in agreement with the Statement of Faith of this Church

### **Section 2 - Reception of Members**

Any eligible person as provided in ARTICLE I, Section 1, of the Bylaws may be received into the membership of the church by a majority vote of the membership at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

### **Section 3 - Dismissal of Members**

1. By death
2. By letter
  - A letter of transfer from this church to unite with any other church of like faith and practice shall be

granted to members in good standings upon request from such church.

- A letter of dismissal from this church shall be granted with regard to members who wish to unite with other churches which are not of like faith and order.

## Section 4 - Removal of Members

The name of any member may be removed from the roll without a formal trial by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the pastor and the deacons at any meeting called by the deacons pursuant to ARTICLE III, Section 5, of the Bylaws in the following instances:

1. When a member, through a change of religious belief or other sufficient cause, *presents a request to withdrawn*
2. When a member *abandons active connection with the church* through failure to attend for a period of six months or who otherwise gives no indication of interest or support
3. When a member is *guilty of open sin*<sup>1</sup>, or is causing division<sup>2</sup>, and is not willing to repent and forsake that sin

The deacons shall have the power to conduct hearings and render a verdict in the light of unbiased testimony of those involved when charges may be laid against any member of the church. If, by the two-thirds (2/3) vote of the pastor and the deacons, such a member is guilty, he shall be dropped from the

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<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 5:13

<sup>2</sup> Romans 16:17

membership by that vote. In this event, the individual in question shall be dropped from the membership by church voting at a regular business meeting. Such a person may appeal this decision of the pastor and deacons to the church. The procedure laid down in Matthew 18:15-17 shall be followed in all personal disputes and grievances between members.

## *Article 2: Church Meetings*

### **Section 1 - Worship Services**

The church shall conduct such meetings as are deemed necessary and desirable for public worship, prayer, evangelism, and promotional work of Christian education and missions, and the general work of the Gospel. Regular worship services of the church shall be held on Sunday.

### **Section 2 - Business Meetings**

Business of the church may be transacted at any of the regular church services or at such other special meetings designated by the pastor and/or deacons for that purpose. The regular annual business meeting of the church, held for the purpose of the election of the deacons and officers, shall be held at the church in January or at such other place and time as may be designated by the pastor and/or the deacons.

### **Section 3 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

### **Section 4 - Notice**

No notice other than that provided in these Bylaws



shall be given unless the date and/or place of the annual meeting shall be other than that stated, in which case, the said notice for both the annual meeting and such special business meetings as are called pursuant to Section 2 of this Article II shall be given by announcing the time and nature of the meeting during the three consecutive services immediately preceding the meeting.

## **Section 5 - Voting**

1. For purposes of conducting business, a quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the voting membership.
2. Only active members, 16 years of age or over, are entitled to vote.
3. Voting shall not be by written ballot, unless authorized by a majority vote.

## *Article 3: Deacons*

### **Section 1 - Qualifications**

Inasmuch as the New Testament places as much importance on the qualifications of the deacon as that of the pastor, the office of the deacon is considered to be a privileged responsibility. The deacons shall qualify as outlined in I Timothy 3:8-13.

### **Section 2 - Election**

Deacons shall be nominated by the current deacons, which shall act as nominating committee for this purpose, and shall be elected upon a majority vote of a quorum at the annual business meeting for a term of one year.

## **Section 3 - Tenure**

Deacons must be reelected each year and may be reelected upon satisfactory service and testimony year after year. After a deacon has served six years consecutively, it will be required that he retire from the deacon board for at least one year unless the minimum number of deacons is not met. In such a case the deacon can remain in office until another deacon is elected to take his place. If a deacon chooses to remove himself from office for any reason he must present his resignation to the pastor and deacons.

## **Section 4 - Number**

The number of deacons shall be determined by the number of active families in the church. There shall be a minimum of three (3) deacons, seven (7) deacons for the first 90 families and one (1) additional deacon for each 10 families thereafter. It will never be necessary for the church to have a complete complement of deacons, if such qualified individuals are not available.

## **Section 5 - Organization**

The deacons shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary at their first regular business meeting following the annual business meeting of the membership.

It is suggested that the deacons have regular monthly meetings. They may meet for special meetings at the call of the pastor or the chairman of the deacons, provided that notice is given of such meeting to the pastor and every deacon available.

The deacons shall act as trustees of the church.

The pastor, the chairman of the deacons, the church

clerk, and such other persons as are properly authorized by the Deacons are expressly empowered to sign for and on behalf of the church.

The deacons, under the authority of the pastor, are hereby authorized to act as any other committee or board as is properly authorized under these Bylaws. Alternatively, the deacons are hereby authorized to appoint committees for this purpose. In every case, a deacon shall be appointed chairman of any committee so created. Any committee so created and the chairman thereof shall be approved by the pastor. The deacons, upon approval by the pastor, are authorized to create and make appointments to any other posts, whether existing or created, as may be deemed desirable upon the majority vote of the deacons.

The pastor shall serve as ex-officio member of the deacons.

The term “deacon” shall be used interchangeably and mean one and the same as the term “director” used in the Colorado Non-Profit Corporation Act.

## **Section 6 - Duties**

The deacons shall assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual and material ministry of the church. Their duties shall include:

1. Serving the Lord's Supper;
2. Assisting in the baptismal service;
3. Ministering to those who are seeking Christ, as well as to those who desire membership in the church;

4. Providing pulpit supply during the vacancy of the pastorate;
5. Acting as a pulpit committee in the vacancy of the pastorate;
6. Ministering to the poor and needy of the church and carrying responsibility with the pastor for the distribution of the Deacon's Fund;
7. Considering all matters of church discipline before being presented to the church;
8. Considering any problem affecting the spiritual welfare of the church;
9. Examining and recommending for licensing or ordination candidates for the ministry.
10. Ministering to the personal, family, and spiritual needs of the members under the authority of the pastor.
11. Actively participating in the soul-winning efforts of the church.

## *Article 4: Officers*

### **Section 1 - Pastor**

1. Qualifications:

The pastor shall qualify as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7.

2. Call:

When it is necessary to call a pastor, the deacons, as the permanent pulpit selection committee, shall take the necessary steps to secure a pastor. The matters of salary, parsonage, vacation, and such items as are related to official activities shall be mutually agreed upon in connection with the call of the pastor. These arrangements may be reviewed annually by the pastor and the deacons.

3. Election:

Upon the recommendation of the deacons a three-fourths (3/4) vote of a quorum at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose shall constitute a pastoral call, provided notice of the time and nature of the meeting is announced during the three consecutive services immediately preceding the meeting.

4. Tenure:

The pastor's tenure shall be considered permanent. It shall be terminated either upon the pastor's resignation or upon the recommendation of the deacons and the majority vote of the membership of the church at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, provided notice of the time and nature of the meeting is announced during the three consecutive services immediately preceding the meeting. Termination shall be upon sixty (60) days' notice or such lesser period as may be mutually agreed upon between the pastor and the deacons provided, however, that during that period the pastor may be suspended from performing duties incident to that office at the discretion of the deacons.

5. Duties:

- a. The pastor is the shepherd (Jesus Christ being called the Chief Shepherd) and the spiritual overseer of the church.
- b. The pastor shall have charge of the pulpit and conduct the regular and special services of the church.
- c. The pastor shall be responsible for the spiritual interest of the church.
- d. The pastor shall have the supervisory authority over all teaching within the church and its ministries.
- e. The pastor shall perform those duties as traditionally pertain to the office of Pastor.
- f. The pastor is the president of the corporation. Therefore, the pastor has discretionary authority to serve as moderator at all business meetings. The pastor is empowered to sign for and on behalf of the Corporation.
- g. The pastor is the chief executive officer of the corporation. Therefore, he is authorized to employ staff personnel as needed by Harvest Baptist Church and/or auxiliary organizations. The pastor is also authorized to dismiss any staff personnel.

## **Section 2 - Offices of the Corporation**

The following parts shall be filled as officers of the Corporation:

1. President.

Upon satisfactory call under Article 4, Section 1, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation until death, resignation, or removal.

2. First Vice-President.

The chairman of the deacons shall serve as first vice-president of the corporation.

3. Second Vice-President.

The vice-chairman of the deacons shall serve as second vice-president of the corporation.

4. Church Clerk.

The office of church clerk shall be nominated by the deacons and elected upon a majority vote of a quorum at the annual business meeting for a term of one year. The church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation for purposes of the Colorado Non-Profit Corporation Act and shall perform all functions incident to the office of secretary, including but not limited to the following:

- a. The church clerk shall keep a record of all business transacted by the church and shall be the keeper of the seal of the church.
- b. The church clerk is empowered to sign for and on behalf of the church as the secretary of the corporation.
- c. The church clerk shall have charge of the membership role of the church and shall keep an accurate record of additions to, or dismissals from the church membership.

- d. The church clerk shall secure letters for those wishing to transfer their membership to Harvest Baptist Church and shall sign letters of transfer and dismissal for those leaving Harvest Baptist Church.
  - e. The church clerk shall maintain minutes of business meetings undertaken by the church.
5. Treasurer
- The office of Treasurer shall be nominated by the deacons and elected upon a majority of a quorum at the annual business meeting for a term of one year. The treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the Corporation for purposes of the Colorado Non-Profit Corporation Act and shall perform such functions as are incident to that post including but not limited to the following:
- a. The treasurer is empowered to sign checks for and on behalf of the church whether for payment or deposit.
  - b. The treasurer shall maintain and prepare regular financial reports regarding the corporation.
  - c. The treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the church at the annual business meeting and at such other times as may be deemed desirable by the deacons and/or pastor.

## *Article 5: Boards and Committees*

In accordance with Article 3, Section 5, the deacons, under the authority of the pastor, are expressly authorized to



create any boards and/or committees deemed desirable in the furtherance of the church's activities. In addition, unless otherwise expressly provided by these Bylaws, the deacons, upon approval by the pastor, are authorized to appoint individuals to said committees upon the majority vote of the deacons. Said individuals are to serve under the authority of deacons.

## *Article 6: Charitable Contributions & Trust Department*

### **Section 1 - Trust Office**

The president or a person designated by the president, as trust officer shall act as chairman and trust officer of the charitable contributions and trust department.

### **Section 2 - Trust Department**

The charitable contributions and trust department is authorized to act as trustee when necessary, or to prepare such instruments as are necessary to receive, use, invest, or otherwise operate and control funds of real or personal property, trusts, or other legal entities which are intended as charitable contributions or charitable trusts for the benefit of the corporation. Such entities shall include, but not be limited to, charitable remainder annuity trusts, charitable remainder unitrusts, and pooled income funds.

## *Article 7: Inurement*

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons except that the

corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of said corporation.

## *Article 8: Dissolution & Disposition*

### **Section 1 - Dissolution**

The corporation may be terminated and dissolved at any time by unanimous vote of all of the directors, or as otherwise provided by law.

### **Section 2 - Disposition**

In the event of the dissolution of Harvest Baptist Church, the deacons shall act as trustees for the dissolution. Upon the dissolution or termination of said corporation, after all liabilities have been settled, the remaining assets shall be distributed to a non-profit corporation that stands for the fundamental truths of the Word of God and holds to the doctrinal statements as set forth in the Statement of Faith which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code) as the deacons shall determine. No benefits or assets of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any individual member or officer.

## *Article 9: Political Influence*

No substantial part of the activities of the said

corporation shall be to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation and shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for any public office.

## *Article 10: Amendment of the Bylaws*

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be made and adopted upon the recommendation of the deacons by the two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum at any regular business meeting or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that notice of the time and nature of the meeting be announced during the three consecutive services immediately preceding the meeting and provided further that copies of the proposed changes be made available for inspection by the membership in a reasonable manner.



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