

Colonial Baptist Church
Covenant,
Doctrinal Statement,
and
Constitution

January 2020
Colonial Baptist Church
8963 Milton-Carlisle Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344

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Revision History

Change.....	Church Approval
Update of Marriage Policy in Appendix C	August 16, 2015
Removed blank page (30)	
Changed CBC Important Document Manual to CBC Policies. Made it a separate document instead of an appendix to this document.....	December 11, 2016
Moved Covenant from CBC Policies to this document	December 11, 2016
Elder Office changes and updates	December 2018
Final Elder Office changes and updates	January 10, 2019
Deaconess Committee change.....	January 26, 2020

1.0 COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and personal devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our friends and acquaintances, to walk as Jesus walked in the world, to be just in our dealings, to be faithful in our engagements, and to be exemplary in our conduct. It is our commitment to the Lord to be obedient to His commandments. It is our task to edify the body of Christ and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further purpose to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech, and to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation.

We, Colonial Baptist Church, close this covenant by stating, "We will live according to God's Holy Word until He calls us home."

JESUS . . . JESUS . . . JESUS

2.0 DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

ARTICLE I: THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible is verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men and, therefore, is truth without error (*inerrant truth*). We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21)

ARTICLE II: THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one—and only one—living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth who is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. We believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons—the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit—equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2–3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11)

ARTICLE III: THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is a divine person equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature (the Holy Trinity); that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He is the agent in the new birth; and that He seals, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and lives within the believer. (Genesis 1:1–3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5–6; 14:16–17, 26; 16:8–11; Acts 5:30–32; 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16, 26–27; Ephesians 1:13–14; Hebrews 9:14)

ARTICLE IV: THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe in the person of Satan and that he is the unholy fallen angel of this age, the father of lies, the author of all the powers of darkness, and destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12–15; Matthew 4:1–3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

ARTICLE V: THE CREATION

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Genesis 1–2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16–17)

ARTICLE VI: THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners not only by the imputed sin of Adam but by sinful choices and, therefore, under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Genesis 3:1–6, 24; Romans 1:18, 32; 5:10–19)

ARTICLE VII: THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman; and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4)

ARTICLE VIII: THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Himself our nature yet, without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience and through His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. We believe that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust. We believe that Christ, the Lord, bore our sins in His own body on the tree and that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven and, uniting in His wonderful person the most tender sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient

Savior. (Isaiah 53:4–7; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24–25; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 4:10)

ARTICLE IX: GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be born again, which is the new birth. We believe that the person receiving the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus. We believe that the new birth is instantaneous and not a process, and that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, which is the free gift of God. We believe that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. (John 3:3, 6–8; Acts 16:30–33; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 19; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:1)

ARTICLE X: JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great Gospel blessing that Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification. That justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness and is bestowed not in consideration of any works or righteousness that we have done but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, which is His righteousness imputed to us. (Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1)

ARTICLE XI: FAITH AND SALVATION

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. (Acts 16:31)

ARTICLE XII: THE LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We believe that the local church is a congregation of immersed believers associated by a covenant of faith and the fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that its biblical officers are Pastors, Elders, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individual or organizations, and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit. We hold that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, or benevolence, we hold that the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41–42; 15:13–18; 20:17–28; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1–13)

ARTICLE XIII: BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership and that water baptism is an outward demonstration of a spiritual rebirth. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:26–39; Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23–38)

ARTICLE XIV: THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ and that the believer is graced with eternal security. (John 10:28–29; Romans 8:36–39; Philippians 1:6)

ARTICLE XV: THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. We believe that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sanctified by

the Spirit of God, and made truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse. We believe this distinction holds among men both in and after death—in the everlasting blessing of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 25:34–41; Luke 6:25; Romans 6:17–18; 7:6; 1 John 5:19)

ARTICLE XVI: CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society. We believe that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince and King. (Exodus 18:21–22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Daniel 3:17–18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19–20; 5:20; 23:5; Romans 13:1–7)

ARTICLE XVII: THE RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST—AND FUTURE EVENTS

- We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ. (Matthew 28:6–7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2–6, 39; John 20:2–7; 1 Corinthians 15:4)
- We believe in the bodily ascension of Christ into heaven. (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9–11; Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 3:21)
- We believe in the High Priesthood of Christ. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9–10; 8:6; 1 John 2:1)
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the “righteous dead in Christ” at the Rapture. (1 Corinthians 15:20–23, 42–57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–16)
- We believe in the change of the “living in Christ” at the Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- We believe in the rapture of the Saints before the Great Tribulation, commonly termed Pretribulation Rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 3:10; 4:9–10)
- We believe in the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers. (1 Corinthians 3:12–15; 2 Corinthians 5:8–10)
- We believe in the seven years of the Great Tribulation upon the earth. (Daniel 9:24–27; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 6–19)
- We believe in the coming of Christ to the earth, commonly termed Premillennial Return of Christ. (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11–21)
- We believe in the establishment of the Throne of David. (Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29–30)
- We believe in the Great White Throne Judgment for the Lost. (Revelation 20:11–15)
- We believe in the New Heaven and the New Earth. (Revelation 21)

3.0 CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization in New Carlisle of Clark County, Ohio, shall be COLONIAL BAPTIST CHURCH (hereafter referred to as CBC). It is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE II: MISSION AND PURPOSE

The mission of CBC is to “preach Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and coming again. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!”

The purpose of this mission is established in an endeavor to fulfill the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as given in Matthew 28:19. CBC shall seek to attain this purpose through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, Christian education, the consistent Christian living of its members, personal and church evangelism, and missionary efforts both at home and abroad.

ARTICLE III: POLITY

The government of this church shall be vested in the assembly, which is composed of its active membership. This church shall remain independent and autonomous but has the right to cooperate and associate with other Biblical groups on a voluntary basis.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; who desire to live a Christian life; and who, in obedience to the Lord’s command, have been baptized as a public display of their faith. Each person must have met formally with the Pastors or Elders to profess their faith; must be in agreement with the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of this church; and must have been accepted by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 2: Inactive List

The Board of Elders shall review yearly the membership list. A member deemed inactive for at least three (3) months may be moved to the inactive members’ list by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders. A person who has been moved to the inactive membership list will not be considered a voting member. If that person’s status changes, he or she may request to be reactivated, which requires a simple majority vote of the Elders.

Section 3: Dismissal

- A. *Exclusion.* Should any member become an offense to the church, its good name, and its testimony by reason of immoral or un-Christian conduct or by breach of this church’s Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, or Covenant, the Board of Elders may terminate their membership—but only after efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance.
- B. *Restoration.* Any person who has lost his membership in this church for any reason may be restored to membership. The process of restoration involves a review by the Board of Elders. If the review is favorable, then approval for reinstatement may be given by a simple majority vote of the Elders.

ARTICLE V: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

It is the responsibility of each member to . . .

- A. profess to be a child of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and to receive that sacrifice as a personal payment for one’s sins;
- B. regularly attend the services and activities of the church;
- C. use their spiritual gifts and talents for the building of God’s Kingdom;

- D. contribute regularly to the financial support of the church according to Biblical guidelines (Malachi 3:8–11);
- E. prayerfully uphold the church family;
- F. be acquainted with the contents of the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of the church; and,
- G. speak highly of the church, its officers, and ministries.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1: Officers

The officers of this church shall consist of Pastor(s), Elders, Deacons, and Trustees.

All officers shall be church members who are spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, and dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ as well as to the spiritual and material welfare of this church. They also shall be faithful in attendance and participation both in regular services and business meetings of the church. Their moral conduct shall be beyond reproach. In light of 1 Timothy 3, their home and family relationships must be considered as well as individual qualifications.

Section 2: Duties

(In addition to the duties listed in this Constitution, the church leaders should consult the job description for each position in the CBC Policies document.)

- A. *Each Officer.* Following the yearly elections, each new and existing officer shall review and recommit their support of the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of the church.
- B. *Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Committee Heads.* All Elders, Deacons, Trustees and committee heads shall participate in an annual board meeting (held during the summer) to plan, share, and coordinate yearly activities. This meeting shall be organized and chaired by the Senior Pastor.
- C. *Pastor(s).* The Pastor(s) shall preach the Word of God, administer the ordinances of the church, be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship, and exercise oversight of all church interests and activities. He shall show diligence in maintaining the duties and qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3; 2 Timothy 4; and the book of Titus. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and groups of the church. If the Senior Pastor is to be absent, it shall be his responsibility to secure a substitute speaker (see also Article VIII).
- D. *Elders.* The Board of Elders shall consist of no less than two (2) qualified members. Elders shall be chosen from the membership on the basis of *qualifications* as set forth in the Epistles of Timothy and Titus. Elders shall be nominated by a unanimous vote of the existing Board of Elders. The names of those nominated shall be submitted to the church at the annual business meeting for approval or rejection. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the members present and voting is necessary for approval. Elders shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms of office with at least one (1) year off before serving again. However, all elders not currently serving a term shall be considered “on-call” if needed by the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders as long as they remain qualified individuals. The term of office for Elders is three (3) years.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Elders to act as the pulpit committee should the Senior Pastor resign or be dismissed, and to assist the Pastor in his work in every way possible so that he may give sufficient attention to preaching the Word and to prayer.

The Elders shall no less than annually review each Pastor’s salary and performance, and shall present recommendations to the budget committee. (However, any church member has the right to a hearing with the Elders about this matter or may present this matter to the church at a regular church business meeting.)

The Elders, along with the Senior Pastor, shall serve as the nominating committee; as the advisory council; and as the interpreters of the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of this church. The Elders, along with the Senior Pastor, shall represent the church in the area of conflict resolution. Each year the Board of Elders shall elect from its number a chairman and a secretary for the recording of board minutes.

- E. *Deacons.* The Board of Deacons shall consist of no less than three (3) members. Deacons shall be chosen from the membership based on the qualifications as set forth in the Epistles of Timothy and modeled in Acts 6. Deacons shall be nominated by a unanimous vote of the existing Board of Deacons. The names of those nominated shall be submitted to the church at the annual business meeting for approval or rejection. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the members present and voting is necessary for approval. Deacons shall not be nominated for a second term of office until at least one (1) year has transpired between terms. The term of office for Deacons is three (3) years. Each year the Board of Deacons shall elect from its number a chairman and a secretary for the recording of board minutes.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Deacons to care for the spiritual and material needs of the congregation through visitation and benevolence. The Board of Deacons shall also meet monthly to discuss, pray for, and set the ministry focus for the next month.

All church fund raising requests must be submitted to the Board of Deacons in writing by a member. The written requests will be evaluated, approved, and/or disapproved, and the decision will be reported to the requesting member(s).

- F. *Trustees.* The Board of Trustees shall consist of no less than three (3) members. Trustees shall be elected by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of members present for a three-year (3) term with the goal of no more than a third turnover each year. Trustees shall not be nominated for a second term of office until at least one (1) year has transpired between terms. Each year the Board of Trustees shall elect from its number a chairman and a secretary for the recording of board minutes

The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust all property belonging to the church and shall take all necessary measures for its protection and upkeep, as well as oversight of the budget. It shall hold in custody and be responsible for the insurance policies, title papers, securities, deeds, investments, and all other legal documents of the church.

The Trustees shall not have power, without specific vote of the church, to incur expenses that would place the church in debt, but they may make necessary repairs and improvements on buildings or other property owned by the church without specific authorization from the church when same does not exceed the sum of \$1,500. The only exception to this procedure would be in the event of an emergency expense that exceeds the limit of \$1,500, which would require the approval of the Board of Deacons. There shall be no improvements of church property by members without consent of the Trustees.

In the event it becomes necessary to temporarily transfer funds from one account to another account, this committee is authorized to make this adjustment after confirming prayers of guidance from the Holy Spirit. These adjustments will be documented and formally presented at the next business meeting for approval, reversal, correction, or change in the budget plan.

- G. *Other Positions and Offices.* All other positions and offices are described in the CBC Policies and Job Descriptions.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

The standing committees for this church shall be the nominating committee, budget committee, pulpit committee, and deaconess committee. Temporary committees may be formed by the Senior Pastor and/or Board of Elders as the need arises.

Section 1: Nominating Committee

The Board of Elders, the Senior Pastor, and the chairmen of the Board of Deacons and Trustees shall serve as the nominating committee of the church. Six (6) weeks before the business meeting in December, the committee shall begin interviewing qualified members of the church to ascertain their willingness to serve in stated offices if elected. Members of the church may submit names of persons for any office of the church to the nominating committee up until three (3) weeks before the December business meeting. The nominating committee shall announce at two (2) regular church services the opportunity for members to submit nominations.

The committee shall submit to the church at the December business meeting a list of qualified and willing nominees for the various offices in the church. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the December business meeting. All nominees shall have subscribed to the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of the church. Any nominee for an office who is a member of a secret society or similar fraternal organization must declare so to the committee in order to discuss their involvement. No church officer may be an active member in any such society.

Section 2: Budget Committee

The budget committee shall consist of an Elder, a Deacon, and a Trustee, each appointed by their respective boards; the church treasurer; and a member-at-large selected by the Board of Elders and Deacons.

This committee shall meet at least thirty (30) days before the annual business meeting to analyze the year's financial situation and recommend budget changes to the Board of Elders and Deacons. Once approved by the Elders and Deacons, the committee will bring the recommended budget changes to the members at the annual business meeting held in April of each year.

The budget committee will review (audit) the financial report annually and produce a signed statement of the completion of the review, including any findings, to the Board of Elders and Deacons.

Section 3: Pulpit Committee

The Board of Elders shall serve as the pulpit committee of the church. The duty of the pulpit committee shall be to see that the pulpit is occupied in the event the church is without a Pastor. In the event the church is without a Pastor, this committee shall seek out a candidate for the pastorate of the church. When a candidate is decided upon by the committee, the committee shall submit such candidate to the church at a specially called business meeting. The committee shall continue this procedure, one candidate at a time, until a Pastor is chosen. The chairman of the Elders shall be the chairman of the pulpit committee and the moderator of the church while it is without a Pastor.

Section 4: Deaconess Committee

The Board of Elders shall appoint and review members of the deaconess committee as needed and according to the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3. It shall be the duty of the deaconesses to care for spiritual and material needs through visitation, hospitality, and service, with the emphasis being on the women of the church. The committee shall meet monthly to discuss, organize, and plan the women's ministries and set the ministry focuses for the next month. Each year, the committee shall elect from its number a chairperson and a secretary for the recording of the committee minutes.

ARTICLE VIII: THE PASTORATE

Section 1: The Call

A candidate for the pastorate of this church shall be thoroughly interviewed by the Board of Elders, which shall serve as the pulpit committee, as to his experience of salvation; his call into the ministry; his qualifications as described in 1 Timothy 3, 2 Timothy 4, and the book of Titus; his doctrinal beliefs; and any other matters concerning the church or candidate that the Elders or the candidate may want to

discuss. A candidate shall subscribe to the Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant of this church.

The business of calling a Pastor to this church shall come before the members as a specially called business meeting. Notice of such a meeting and its purpose shall be given from the pulpit on the previous Sunday. At the meeting, members may request any information (from the pulpit committee) about the candidate. A three-fourths majority vote of the active church members is necessary to extend a call. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at a time.

Section 2: Termination

A Pastor may terminate his ministry in this church after thirty (30) days' notice to the church, unless otherwise agreed upon by mutual agreement between a Pastor and the Board of Elders. If, at any time, the Board of Elders feels it is not the Lord's will for a Pastor to continue his ministry in this church, and/or there is sufficient and valid dissatisfaction about a Pastor within the church membership and/or the church is not progressing satisfactorily, it may meet with that Pastor and discuss such matters thoroughly and in a Christian manner. After such a meeting, the Board of Elders may ask, if necessary, for that Pastor to terminate his ministry in the church within a period of ninety (90) days. Under such termination, that Pastor may be granted a vote from the members if requested. Such termination of a Pastor's ministry by the Board of Elders or by vote of the church shall not be an act of discipline.

In case the termination of a Pastor's ministry shall be brought to a vote, notice of such shall be presented in writing to all church members stating the time the meeting shall be held for such a vote. A three-fourths majority vote by ballot of church members present and voting is necessary to terminate a Pastor's ministry in this church.

ARTICLE IX: MEETINGS

The church shall hold its annual business meeting in April. The other business meetings shall be held in July, September, and December (elections). Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. These members must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

- A. All matters of business of the church shall be voted on by members who are at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- B. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor, Elders, or Deacons. Notice of such meetings and the matter of business for which they are called shall be given from the pulpit at a regular service of the church the Sunday before the date of the meeting. However, the church may act, without notice, upon the acceptance of members or upon the dismissal of members to other churches at their own request but not upon any particular matter of business.
- C. The business meetings shall be governed by usual parliamentary rules of order.

ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS

Section 1: Time

The annual election of officers shall be in conjunction with the business meeting of the church held in December. Officers elected at that time begin their duties the first Sunday in January.

Section 2: Procedure

At the business meeting in December, the nominating committee shall present to the church the names of one or more persons for each office to be filled. It then shall be the privilege of any member, present and qualified, to vote. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the December business meeting (see Article VII, Section 1). For the amount required for a majority vote for the election of each officer, see Article VI of this Constitution, which describes each officer.

Section 3: Tenure and Vacancies

The tenure of each officer is described under the duties of officers in Article VI of this Constitution and/or in the job descriptions presented in the document titled CBC Policies and Job Descriptions. For a

Pastor's tenure of office, see Article VIII, Section 2, of this Constitution. Vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment from the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders and Deacons.

ARTICLE XI: ORDINANCES

This church shall administer the two ordinances established by our Lord Jesus Christ: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion).

Section 1: Baptism

Those persons professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior shall, by the Senior Pastor or some person authorized by the church, be immersed in water for Baptism in accordance with the Scriptures. Baptism by immersion shall be a prerequisite to church membership.

Section 2: The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Lord's Supper shall be served by the Senior Pastor (or some person authorized by the church) and the Elders and Deacons at least four (4) times throughout the year. Changes for the time of administering the Lord's Supper may be made as circumstances so demand by the Senior Pastor or Board of Elders or Board of Deacons. This church shall not practice a closed Communion service, but the Senior Pastor shall exhort persons present to honestly judge their relationship to Christ and participate in or refrain from the Communion service accordingly.

ARTICLE XII: CONFLICT RESOLUTION (BODY OF CHRIST)

In the event that conflict arises within the church body, Matthew 18:15–17 shall be applied in the following way:

- A. The parties involved should seek one another out in privacy with the goal of healing and bringing unity in Christ.
- B. If unity cannot be restored, the Senior Pastor or an Elder should be called upon to sit down with both parties, thus aiming to seek the same goal as step A.
- C. If unity still cannot be restored, the matter will be brought before the Board of Elders in order to pray and consider what steps need to be taken to restore fellowship (Galatians 6:1).
- D. If the Board of Elders' efforts to restore fellowship are not received, the Board of Elders has the authority to act for the good of the body of Christ.
- E. If the matter involves unrepentant sin that is bringing harm to the ministries and testimony of the church after exhausting all reasonable efforts to restore an individual to Christ, the Board of Elders has the authority to remove the individual from fellowship within the church.
- F. It is the intent of this church body to not hold meetings that deal with conflict within the ministries or leadership of the church without the knowledge and approval of the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE XIII: COLONIAL BAPTIST CHURCH POLICIES

The document titled CBC Policies and Job Descriptions will be maintained by the church secretary and be available upon request.

The document titled CBC Policies and Job Descriptions contains all mission, doctrine, covenant, constitution, and job descriptions.

If the condition should arise where a conflict would exist between any document of the CBC Policies document and the CBC Constitution, the CBC Constitution prevails.

ARTICLE XIV: GENERAL

Missionaries or organizations supported by this church shall subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of the church. The Senior Pastor shall screen potential missionaries or organizations and forward candidates

to the Missions Committee for approval. The Missions Committee, upon approval, shall determine available financial support through the Missions Faith Promise program and submit their approved missionaries or organizations to the Elders. The Board of Elders shall then recommend the missionaries or organizations to the congregation for a vote at the next available quarterly business meeting. All missionaries and organizations supported by the church shall be reviewed annually by the Senior Pastor and the Missions Committee to evaluate continuing support and to adjust financial needs accordingly.

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all its debts shall be fully satisfied. Its assets shall be designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit Christian corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Covenant adopted by this church and in conformity with the requirements of the United States Internal Revenue Service.

This Constitution, the Doctrinal Statement, and the Covenant may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of church members present and voting. However, written proposed changes must be presented to all members at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of voting. The date and time of voting must be presented in writing to all members two weeks in advance.

All constitutions, doctrinal statements, rules, regulations, resolutions, and so forth, heretofore adopted by the church that are not consistent with this Constitution, Doctrinal Statement, and Covenant are hereby repealed. This Constitution, the Doctrinal Statement, and the Covenant were adopted by order and by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the active church members voting.

Date: _____

Elder Chairman: _____

Deacon Chairman: _____

Trustee Chairman: _____