

Capital Baptist Church Constitution

Article 1: Name

The name of the body shall be Capital Baptist Church of Carson City, Nevada, and will be affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article 2: Purpose

We exist to Nourish the Saints, Exalt the Lord, Witness to the World and Serve Others.

Article 3: Membership

The membership of Capital Baptist Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Church Constitution and By-Laws who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and By-Laws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor or appointed authority shall interview and present candidates for membership.

Members of this church shall be those who are received by vote of the members of the church:

1. Upon being baptized by authority of the church upon profession of faith
2. Upon the receipt of a letter of transfer from another church of like faith
3. Upon the statement of faith and previous baptism by immersion

Termination of membership shall be as follows*

1. Death of the member
2. Transfer to another church
3. Upon written request for withdrawal
4. Non-involvement for over 180 days and with the recommendation of the pastor or deacons
5. Exclusion by disciplinary action of the church in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20.

*A member may not terminate membership while undergoing discipline as outlined in the By-Laws.

Article 4: Officers

The officers of this body shall consist of Director, President, Treasurer, Secretary, and other such officers, assistants, or committees as may be deemed necessary from time to time.

Article 5: Pastor

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period and shall be paid such salary as may be fixed by the church. The pastor shall meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

The Pastor shall have general supervision and oversight over all the spiritual matters of the church and shall direct the administration of the ordinances. He shall be an Ex-Officio member of every church organization and committee. The Pastor will have the authority for the employment and dismissal of all clerical employees.

No business of any nature shall be transacted or have any effect which is done in the absence of both the Director and the Pastor.

Article 6: Meetings

Meetings for worship and instruction and for the transaction of business shall be held as provided for in the By-laws of this body.

Article 7: Discipline

This body shall exercise discipline upon its membership as outlined in the New Testament, specifically Matthew 18:15-20, and as prescribed in the By-Laws of this body.

Article 8: Government

The government of this body shall be vested in the body of believers who comprise its membership, as specifically outlined in the By-laws, and whose majority vote is final; except where otherwise ordered by this Constitution and By-Laws. This body of believers is subject to no other ecclesiastical body. Its government shall be by democratic process. This body acknowledges Jesus Christ as its only Lord and Savior, and receives the Holy Bible as its supreme guide in matters of faith, order, practice and discipline.

Article 9: Affiliation

This body shall be affiliated with and cooperate with the Sierra Baptist Association; the Nevada Baptist Convention; and with the Southern Baptist Convention and those churches of like faith and order.

Article 10: Articles of Faith

Capital Baptist Church subscribes to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole source of all that we believe. For purposes of Capital Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor with the assistance of the deacons is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

This body receives the Holy Bible as its authority in all matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian trust as contained therein is in essential harmony with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Article 11: Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect and value all human life. (Psalm 139, Jer 1:5, Gen 1:26-27)

Article 12: Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the creation of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25, Matt 19:5-6). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Cor 6:18, 7:2-5, Heb 13:4).

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage (I Cor 6:18-20, Matt 15:18-20, I Cor 6:9-10).

Capital Baptist Church will only allow its Pastors and facilities to be used for Biblical Heterosexual weddings and Marriages.

Employees and volunteers of Capital Baptist Church must agree with and abide by this statement on marriage, gender and sexuality to provide a Biblical role model to the church members and the community (Matt 5:16, Phil 2:14-16, I Thess 5:22).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Capital Baptist Church.

Article 13: Debt

This body will not approve or sign any contract which forces the congregation to take on debt. All approved contracts must be fully funded by the financial accounts of the church body.

Article 14: Amendments

Any amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws must be presented at a regular business meeting for discussion and modification. The proposed amendment will then be voted on at the next regular business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, provided notice of the time place and purpose of such meeting is properly given as stipulated in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Capital Baptist Church

By-Laws

Section 1: Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall take place quarterly on a day of the month which best suits the calendar of activities and is approved by the Deacons.

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor provided proper notice is given prior to said meeting.

Upon a written request stating the purpose for a special business meeting and signed by not less than ten members of the body who are in compliance with section 4 of this By-Law, the secretary may also call such meetings, provided proper notice is given prior to the meeting.

“Proper notice” shall be the public announcement of said meeting at not less than two Sunday morning services before said meeting with the purpose for said meeting being duly announced each week.

Section 2: Quorum

A quorum for regular business meetings consists of those in attendance. A quorum shall be 50% of the active members for any called or special business meeting. A majority vote of the quorum shall determine any matter of business except where otherwise stated in these By-Laws.

Section 3: Voting

Active members must be at least 18 years old and in accord with the membership requirements stated in this Constitution and By-Laws to be eligible to vote.

Any member who is lacking involvement for 180 consecutive days shall forfeit their part in any business meeting, including the making or seconding of motions or discussion of same and their right to vote on any matter.

Upon that members return to active participation in the activities of the body, a two thirds majority vote of active voting members present shall be necessary to reinstate the member as a voting member.

Section 4: Church Discipline

Admonition/Correction by a single individual.

- a. When the problem involves one believer sinning against another the goal must be reconciliation and restoration. The person who has been offended should first individually approach the offender seeking reconciliation and restoration.
(Matt 18:15, Matt 5:23-24)
- b. When the sin of a believer is witnessed by another believer they are to lovingly admonish and correct with the purpose of restoration (and reconciliation if the sin was against the witness). (Gal 6:1)

Collective attempt of admonition/correction. If the individual attempt at reconciliation and/or restoration is unfruitful the first person to confront, as well as one to two members of the Leadership Body are scripturally required to go to the sinning person(s). (Matt 18:16-17, I Tim 5:19, II Tim 4:2, I Thess 5:12-13, Tit 2:15, 3:10)

Admonition/correction from the entire Church. If the collective attempt at reconciliation and/or restoration is unfruitful the sin is presented before the church for the call of repentance and reconciliation. (II Thess 3:14-15, Matt 18:17, I Tim 5:20, I Cor 5:9-13)

Disassociation/disfellowship. If the sinning party refuses to heed the call of the church to repentance and reconciliation it is the responsibility of the church to remove the individual(s) from intimate fellowship and revoke their membership. (II Cor 2:6, I Cor 5:4, Matt 18:18-19, II Thess 3:14-15)

After disassociation/disfellowship the church shall notify other like-minded congregations concerning the action (not reason) of discipline. (Rom 16:17, II Jn 1:9-11, I Cor 5:9-13, II Tim 3:1-5)

In cases where a sin involves a transgression that is against the whole body or if it is a threat to the unity of the Church the Leadership Body may move directly to admonition and correction from the Church.

Section 5: Church Gatherings

This body shall meet regularly for the purpose of promoting and conducting Christian worship, service, Bible study, training, fellowship and mission activities in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the teaching and precepts of the Holy Bible. It shall meet every Sunday morning and any other services deemed beneficial by the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 6: Committees

Committee members shall be nominated and elected by the church body and their purpose as a committee shall be specifically stated in the minutes of the meeting. All committees shall be elected by the church body or appointed by the Pastor at the church body's instruction.

A Committee report shall be presented to the church body in print at properly scheduled business meetings.

Section 7: Deacons/Deaconess'

Deacons shall be nominated by the church body by a secret ballot based on the qualifications listed in Acts 6:1-7 and I Timothy 3:8-13. Those nominated will then be screened by the Pastor and/or deacon search committee to insure the candidates understand the roles and responsibilities of the deacons and are able to carry out said roles and responsibilities. The pastor and/or deacon search committee will then present the final candidates to the church body for approval. There may be as many deacons serving the congregation as deemed necessary to accomplish said tasks.

Section 8: Background Check and Agreement

Volunteers and staff will undergo a full background check in order to protect our members and children.

All employees of Capital Baptist Church must sign and date an agreement of alignment with the beliefs, practices, Constitution and By-Laws to be considered for employment and continuance of employment and volunteering.

Section 9: Officers

Officers shall serve in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws and shall be, Director, President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Director and President must both be deacons of the Church while the Treasurer and Secretary do not. The Director is the president of the deacon's board, the President is the vice-president of the deacon's board, the Treasurer is the head of the financial committee and the Secretary is the church secretary.

In the event of a protracted absence of the Director, the pastor shall appoint the President to act in his/her behalf.

No business of any nature shall be transacted or have any effect which is done in the absence of both the Director and the Pastor.

Section 10: Facility Use

Capital Baptist Church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. The facilities are not open to public rental. Church facilities may not be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed to be inconsistent with the church's faith, or moral teaching, or the Constitution and By-Laws. The Pastor and the Deacons are the final decision-makers concerning the use of church facilities.

Section 11: Procedures

All other issues regarding the policies and procedures of the congregation can be found in the church office.

Section 12: Dissolution

Upon a decision of three quarters of the active members to dissolve the corporate church and release its members to other churches, the church shall adopt a formal plan of dissolution setting forth the steps to be taken by designated officers to dissolve the corporation. After all expenses are paid, a trust fund shall be established to pay premiums on any insurance policies necessary to maintain insurance and to settle or fund any outstanding risk or obligations of the church, including the obligation to indemnify leaders. The rest and remainder of the property of the church shall be deeded, liquidated, transferred or given to another Southern Baptist church of like faith and order that the active members select by majority vote.