

THE CONSTITUTION OF CROSSROAD CHURCH

PREAMBLE

In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to create the world and everything in it, and it was all very good. However, our first parents (and we in them) fell from their original righteousness and communion with God. Now, all mankind is born dead in sin. But God, in His mercy and kindness, determined to call a people out of this fallen world unto Himself. He sent His Son into the world to redeem these people, grant them new life and to gather them into His church through the working of the Holy Spirit. As a group of people redeemed by God's grace shown in Christ Jesus, we willingly organize ourselves under the headship of Christ and do submit ourselves to the following articles so that all our affairs may be conducted in a fitting and orderly fashion.

I. NAME. The name of this organization shall be: Crossroad Church.

II. CORPORATE POWERS.

- A. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any director or officer of the church or any private individual (except reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the church affecting one-or-more of its purposes).
- B. No officer of the church or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any church assets upon dissolution of the church.
- C. The church shall have all of the general powers set forth in Chapter 504 of the Code of Iowa, and as it may hereafter be amended. These general powers shall be exercised for the attainment of the charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes of the church as set forth in this Article.

III. AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION.

- A. Authority. This congregation believes in the autonomy of the local church under God. This congregation believes that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that we have fellowship with every other church which acknowledges His Lordship. This church believes that every local church has the right under Christ to decide and govern its own affairs. The congregation, at its annual, quarterly and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization.
- B. Affiliation. This church is affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Iowa, and may send delegates to its convention or the Southern Baptist Convention, support its missions and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ in the measure which the church itself may officially decide.

IV . PURPOSE.

- A. Exalt the Lord. Since God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to redeem us and make us His own, the purpose of this church shall be to glorify, worship and make known the most high and living God.
- B. Equip the Saints. This purpose shall be accomplished by using the means God has established, namely
 - 1. through the public reading of the scriptures, I Timothy 4:13,
 - 2. preaching, II Timothy 4:2,
 - 3. teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord, Colossians 3:16, and
 - 4. the administration of
 - a) baptism, Matthew 28:19 and
 - b) The Lord's Supper, Luke 22:17-20.
 - 5. We will perform all of these in obedience to Him with understanding, faith, reverence and godly fear, regularly
 - a) worshiping together
 - 1. Acts 2:42,
 - 2. Hebrews 10:24-25
 - b) Encouraging one another in the things of God
 - 3. I Thessalonians 5:1
 - 4. Hebrews 3:13
 - c) Exercising church discipline
 - 5. Matthew 18:15-20,
 - 6. I Corinthians 5:1-15 and
 - d) Performing other duties found in the Scriptures.
- C. Proclaim the Good News. Salvation requires a physical hearing of the gospel accompanied by the supernatural work of the holy spirit. (Romans 10:17, John 3:1-8, 6:44, Ephesians 2:5). Nontheological preaching, services based upon entertainment rather than on obedience to scripture and man centered methodologies are no substitute for the biblical exposition of the gospel. Inviting a man to raise a hand, walk down an aisle, sign a card, and pray a prayer is not a valid substitute for biblical call for repentance, faith, personal discipleship in community and a continual desire for God's glory. Therefore, biblical assurance of salvation is rooted in the examination of those enduring the lifestyle in the light of scripture and in the light of the glory of God.

V. STATEMENT OF FAITH. The Statement Of Faith of this organization reads as follow:

- A. We believe one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons:
 - 1. The Father,
 - 2. The Son and
 - 3. The Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.
- B. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is

without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires and trusted in all that it promises.

- C. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.
 - D. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.
 - E. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.
 - F. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.
 - G. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the Gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.
 - H. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed.
 - I. We believe in the personal and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.
 - J. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.
- VI. **MEMBERSHIP.** This Church will receive into active membership those who have a living faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and have been born again into a new-and-

living hope through faith, living worthy of His high calling, being willing to adjust their lives to the precepts of the Bible. Members shall subscribe to the aforementioned Statement-Of-Faith.

VII. **OFFICERS.** The corporation affairs shall be managed by a Board of Directors. The members of this Board, their election and their term of office are defined in the bylaws of this church. Elected Board members shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith.

VIII. **PROPERTY.**

- A. This church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and to hold such real, personal or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State Of Iowa and as is deemed necessary for the business of the church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, deed or otherwise. All purchases of real estate or major construction and building renovations or additions must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of a quorum present at any annual, quarterly or special business meeting of the church.
- B. All debts for the corporation shall be held in the name of the corporation. The personal and private property of the officers or members of this corporation shall not be used in the payment of the corporate debt.
- C. In case of a division of the church (from which we pray God by His mercy will preserve us), the property of the church shall be resolved as follows:
 - 1. The dispute shall be submitted to mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation and judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction.
 - 2. All mediators and arbitrators shall be essentially in agreement with the statement of faith of this church and our basic form of government, unless this requirement is modified or waived by all parties to the dispute. If a dispute involves an attempted revision of the statement of faith or our form of government, the mediators and arbitrators shall be in agreement with those documents as they existed prior to the attempted revision.
- D. In case of dissolution of the church organization, the property shall be assigned to the Baptist Convention of Iowa, to enable said convention to renew the work or use the value thereof for the further Gospel enterprises. The church shall be considered dissolved if
 - 1. so decided by the organization or
 - 2. when the church has not held an annual meeting for three (3) years, or when fewer than six (6) members remain.

IX. **AMENDMENTS.**

- A. This Constitution shall be amended upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters (75%) of the Members present and voting on the question at any regular Members' Meeting, provided the Amendment shall have been

offered in writing at any previous regular Members' Meeting, and shall have been announced at every public meeting of the church for two weeks immediately prior to final consideration.

B. **Article V.B** shall not be subject to amendment.