

CORYDON BAPTISTCHURCH

*Submitting to, Spreading, & Savoring
the Reign of King Jesus*

Church Covenant, Core Values, Constitution, & By-Laws

We, the people of Corydon Baptist Church, order ourselves under the supreme headship of Jesus Christ with the following Church Covenant, Core Values, Constitution, and By-Laws in order that we might have definite policies and rules so that “all things may be done decently and in order” to reflect His will and glory (1 Corinthians 14:40).

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Church Covenant

I have one desire for my life and this Church, to know and please the Lord Jesus Christ by whom and for whom we were created and given new birth. I long, by God's grace, for this to be a church that genuinely exists for His pleasure and glory alone.¹ I realize that for us to please the Lord, we desperately need Him and each other.²

Therefore, relying upon the grace of God, I joyfully and thoughtfully enter into a bond of encouragement³ and accountability⁴ with the other members of this body. I have repented of my sin,⁵ trusted in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord,⁶ and have professed my faith publicly through baptism.⁷

I will faithfully participate with this Church in worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, giving, and the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.⁸ I will watch over the other members in love as they watch over me.⁹ I will remember them in prayer,¹⁰ help them in sickness and distress,¹¹ promote their spiritual growth,¹² restrain them from sin,¹³ and stir them up to love and good deeds.¹⁴ I will shun gossip and divisive words, knowing that they dishonor God and destroy Christian fellowship.¹⁵

I will diligently train myself and my family in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.¹⁶ I will strive to promote marriages that reflect the relationship of Jesus Christ and His Church. I will seek the preservation of marriages, knowing that God hates divorce, and I will submit to biblical regulations regarding marriage.¹⁷

I will seek the salvation of my family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and people of all nations through loving, bold evangelism and a life that reflects my King.¹⁸

I promise to remain faithful to this Church in membership and participation. I will consult with the pastors in advance if I sense that God is directing me elsewhere. If I must leave, I will not delay in uniting with another church that preaches the biblical gospel.¹⁹

¹ Psalm 63:1-8; Ephesians 3:10, 20-21; Philippians 3:7-16; Colossians 1:16

² John 15:5-6; Ephesians 4:14-16

³ Acts 2:42; Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:1-6, 16, 29; Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 John 1:6-7; Hebrews 3:5-15; 10:19-25

⁴ Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; James 5:16

⁵ Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20; 2 Corinthians 7:10

⁶ John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 10:9-11

⁷ Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 10:47-48

⁸ Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:41-47; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9; Ephesians 4:7-16; Hebrews 10:24-25

⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:24; Galatians 6:1-2, 10; Philippians 2:1-4

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:18; James 5:14-16

¹¹ Matthew 25:34-40; Romans 12:13, 15-16; Galatians 2:10; 6:2, 10; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:16-18

¹² Ephesians 4:11-16; Titus 2:1-15

¹³ Proverbs 24:11; Galatians 6:1; Hebrews 3:12-13; James 5:19-20

¹⁴ Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:1-10; 3:8, 14; Hebrews 10:24-25

¹⁵ Proverbs 6:16-19; 26:20; Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:29, 31; Titus 3:10-11; James 3:6-10

¹⁶ Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 78:5-7; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 3:17-18

¹⁷ Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; 1 Corinthians 7; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:21-33; Hebrews 13:4

¹⁸ Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20; Romans 10:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 3:15

¹⁹ Proverbs 3:5-6; 11:14; 12:15; 18:1; 1 Corinthians 12:18; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:24-25

Core Values

With a passion for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31), Corydon Baptist Church embraces the following core values and seeks to carry them out with joy, excellence, and creativity until the promise of Jesus reigning supremely is fulfilled:

- 1) **Regenerate Church Membership** — We believe that the Church of God consists only of those persons who have personally been brought by God to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Everyone so saved by Jesus Christ has been rescued from themselves and the world and has been born again into a new life of joyful submission and consecration to King Jesus (Mark 8:34-35; John 3:3; Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21). Therefore, for the sake of Christ's honor, the health of the Church, and our testimony to the world, we strive to include only Christ's disciples in membership of the Church.
- 2) **Authentic Worship** — We seek to exalt Christ constantly through lives of love and obedience and through corporate times of celebration (Psalm 95:6; John 4:24; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 12:28-29).
- 3) **Christ-Centered Preaching and Teaching** — We believe that biblical truth centers on Jesus Christ and is a primary means by which God changes people's lives. Therefore, we value relevant, transformational, and dynamic preaching and teaching within the body of Christ that promotes joyful submission to His good and ultimate authority (Romans 10:13-17; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 9:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5; 1 John 2:23).
- 4) **Expectant Evangelism** — We desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ here and abroad to win, by God's grace, fruit-bearing disciples in the local church (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 15; Romans 10:13-17; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 2 Timothy 2:10; Revelation 5:9-10).
- 5) **Genuine Community** — We seek to enjoy and share genuine love through real relationships and dynamic small groups that cultivate an atmosphere of trust and understanding, resulting in encouragement, accountability, maturity, and a true sense of belonging (Acts 2:42; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16; Hebrews 10:23-25).
- 6) **All-Encompassing Prayer** — We exalt God as supreme over all. Therefore, we depend on Him alone for all things, praying faithfully and fervently as a local body and as individual followers of Christ (Matthew 6:6-13; John 15:5; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16-18; Jude 20-21).
- 7) **Enduring Families** — We believe that strong families are foundational to a healthy church as well as a healthy society. Therefore, we seek to assist families to be Christ-centered and biblically rooted in every way (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 78:1-8; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5-7; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:7).
- 8) **Gospel-Driven Mercy Ministry** — Jesus Christ was sent to proclaim the good news of His reign "to the poor" (Luke 4:18). The kingdom of God is good news because it means an end to the kingdom of Satan—a kingdom plagued by disobedience, chaos, injustice, racism, hopelessness, suffering, and death. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ is bringing a new kingdom where He will rule eternally with perfect justice, righteousness, and peace (Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Mark 1:14-16). Therefore, following Jesus in His incarnation, by means of truth, protection, and sacrificial service, we strive to proclaim the reality of His present and future reign by laboring to rescue people from Satan's kingdom and all its effects (John 1:14; Galatians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 8:9).

Constitution

ARTICLE 1 NAME

This body shall be known as “Corydon Baptist Church, Corydon, Indiana” and referenced in this document as “the Church.”

ARTICLE 2 MISSION STATEMENT

Corydon Baptist Church exists to be a community of disciples who are submitting to, spreading, and savoring the reign of King Jesus.¹

ARTICLE 3 STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our statement of faith is *The Baptist Faith and Message*, 2000 edition. We believe that it is an accurate summary of biblical truth and is useful as a guide in interpretation. In itself, it has no inherent authority over the conscience. The sole authority for faith and practice over this Church is Jesus Christ whose will is revealed in the Bible.

ARTICLE 4 RELATIONSHIPS

The Church is independent in its organization and in the regulation of its own affairs. It is answerable to no ecclesiastical organization. Under the authority of Christ and His Word, this local church controls the admission, organization, discipline, and removal of its members. However, recognizing the need for united action, this Church seeks to cooperate with the Southeastern Indiana Association of Baptists and affiliates with the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and with the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE 5 DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

¹ Corydon Baptist Church is organized exclusively for charitable and religious purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

By-Laws

I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Reception of Members

Members may be received upon presentation by the pastors by a simple majority vote of the Church during a regular meeting of the Church. Before such a presentation, a pastor will seek to discern if the person is prepared for and committed to membership in the Church. Minimally, a pastor should hear the person's account of his or her conversion experience, seek a recommendation from a previous church (if any), and seek to identify evidence of regeneration in the person's life. A member must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant and must not hold settled convictions contrary to the teachings of Scripture as outlined in the Statement of Faith and Core Values.

Section 2 Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated by the Church in the following ways:

- a. By death
- b. Transfer to another church that preaches salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
- c. Exclusion by action of this Church (see Section 3 "Discipline").

Section 3 Discipline

- a. All actions of the Church in the discipline of its members will be governed by a zeal for the purity of Christ's church, Christian love, a spirit of meekness, and the principles taught in Scripture (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1; Titus 1:10-16; 3:10-11). The ultimate goals of disciplinary action are always repentance and restoration.
- b. Should some situation or conflict arise warranting the discipline of a member, the offended member(s) must diligently seek to resolve the matter privately and shall bring the matter before the pastors before bringing it to the Church.
- c. If it becomes necessary to bring a member before the Church, the matter will be presented to the Church at a regular or special business meeting. A simple majority vote is required for a member to be removed from church membership (cf., 2 Corinthians 2:6).
- d. A member so removed from membership may, upon request, be restored to membership. When such a request is made, the pastors will determine if repentance is confessed and evident and make a recommendation to the Church for the person to be restored to membership according to Section 1 above.

Section 4 Voting Privileges

Every member of the Church in good standing, including active participation during the previous three months (unless providentially hindered), is entitled to vote at all elections and on all motions submitted to the Church in a business meeting provided the member is present or the Church has made provision for absentee balloting.

II. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1 The Chief Shepherd

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd of the Church (Ezekiel 34:11-24; 1 Peter 5:4). It is to Him that every member and all other leadership must submit. He communicates His will for the Church through His Word, the Bible. He gives specific, congruent guidance by means of His Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer. He has also chosen to shepherd His Church through pastors whom He gifts and gives as gifts to the Church (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

Section 2 The Congregation

We affirm that Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the dead to save and build His church, a united body of baptized believers who submit to Him as their Savior-King and who continue His ongoing work on the earth (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:10, 19-22; 3:8-12, 14-21; 4:1-16; 5:23-32). He has made His church to be a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9), has gifted each member for ministry (Ephesians 4:7-16), and holds the congregation ultimately responsible to:

- Display and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through love, purity, good works, ~~and~~ bold evangelism, and intentional discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:20-23; Ephesians 3:8-12, 21; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 3:15)
- Maintain godliness among its members through encouragement, accountability, and discipline (Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:14-16; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Hebrews 10:23-24)
- Set apart and support faithful, gifted men to teach, lead, and shepherd the flock (Acts 6:1-7; 15:22; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- Submit to and follow the leaders so set apart (1 Corinthians 16:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17)
- Preserve sound doctrine and hold leaders accountable to teach it (Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:8-9; 1 Timothy 3:15-16; 2 John 9-11)
- Be the final settler of disputes between Christians (1 Corinthians 6:1-7).

Section 3 The Pastors

(The terms “pastors,” “elders,” and “overseers” are all used in the Scriptures to refer to the office that we will call “pastors” in this document).

a. Qualifications, Responsibilities, and Organization

In order to reflect the pattern of leadership in the New Testament and to promote broad wisdom, accountability, and long-term stability, the Church will seek to recognize at least two, God-called pastors at all times up to any number deemed best by the Church to fulfill effectively the Church’s goals and mission. When at all possible, the Church will set apart at least one pastor recognized as particularly gifted by God to preach and teach the Bible.

The pastors of the Church must be biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9) in hearty agreement with the Church’s Covenant, Core Values, and Statement of Faith. They will serve as the leaders and overseers of the Church and its ministries. They shall seek the will of Christ through the Word of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they shepherd the people of God. Together, the pastors shall:

- Be given to prayer, study, and the proclamation of the Word of God, teaching and exhorting the people of God and refuting those who contradict the truth (Acts 6:4; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; Titus 1:9; 2:15)
- Oversee, organize, and lead the Church in performing its mission and tasks (Acts 20:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- Equip the Church to engage in lives of worship, witness, discipleship, service, and fellowship (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- Oversee and support the ministry of the deacons
- Conduct the public worship services and oversee the administration of the ordinances
- Pray for the sick and care for the souls of the Church’s members and other persons in the community (James 5:14-15)
- Labor to raise up leaders to carry the gospel faithfully to the nations and the next generation (2 Timothy 2:2).

The pastors may organize themselves as they deem helpful to the Church. Individual pastors may be set apart for specific ministry responsibilities (i.e., preaching, counseling, evangelism, etc.) to best accomplish the mission of the Church.

b. Pastor Searches

In the event the Church needs or could benefit from an additional pastor, a pastor search team will be formed, consisting of the current pastors (1 Timothy 4:14) along with a group chosen by the Church. This team will search out, interview, assess, and recommend persons to the Church from within or outside the Church.

This team will also be responsible for recommending a compensation package (if any) to the Church for the prospective pastor.

c. The Calling of a Pastor

- 1) Upon agreeing to recommend an individual to the Church, the pastor search team shall give the Church at least one week's notice, announcing the time the prospective pastor will be recommended to the Church.
- 2) A quorum of 15% of the resident members and a 75% majority vote will be required to call a pastor.

d. The Tenure and Termination of a Pastor

- 1) Each pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated at the pastor's or the Church's request.
- 2) A pastor shall give a minimum of two weeks notice before terminating his responsibilities as pastor.
- 3) Any member with reason to believe that a pastor should be dismissed should express that concern to the pastors and, if needed, only afterwards, to the Church. Any action to dismiss a pastor will be taken in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21.
- 4) Any pastor may be dismissed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special business meeting called for the purpose of such a vote.

Section 4 The Deacons

a. Qualification

- 1) A deacon shall meet the biblical qualifications as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-5.
- 2) A deacon shall have been a Christian and an active member of the Church for a minimum of one year, demonstrating a genuine passion to serve through a life of service.
- 3) A deacon shall be of moral integrity and spiritual maturity. Furthermore, the business life of a deacon shall be in harmony with the character of Christ.
- 4) A deacon shall be a faithful steward of time, talents, and money and shall be able and willing to be in faithful participation at the meetings of the Church, deacon body meetings, and in his assigned duties without compromising personal devotion and family responsibilities (1 Timothy 3:12).
- 5) If a deacon is unable to maintain these requirements, he will resign from his role as a deacon. If the deacon does not make this request, the situation should be reviewed by the pastors and the deacon body for a recommendation.

b. Calling

By definition, deacons are servants of the Church to promote spiritual and physical well-being and an environment of order to maximize the pastors' and Church's effectiveness in carrying out their callings. As such, the deacons shall:

- 1) Be responsible in looking after the welfare of the Church's members
- 2) Visit, comfort, and encourage the suffering
- 3) Oversee the mercy ministries of the Church
- 4) Oversee the preparations of the Lord's Supper
- 5) Assist in the physical preparations for the observance of baptism
- 6) Oversee the maintenance of all church properties and the collection, distribution, tracking, and reporting of all church monies
- 7) Have the authority to appoint a representative of the Church to preach and administer the Lord's Supper and baptism if the Church has no pastor.

c. Organization

When qualified men are available and willing, the Church shall elect approximately one deacon for every twenty-five families, with a minimum number of two active deacons at all times. The deacon body shall elect by majority vote a chairman and other officers as they deem beneficial.

d. Nomination and Election

- 1) After the congregation has been properly informed and instructed on the qualifications and duties of a deacon, members may nominate qualified persons from the resident membership to serve as deacons.
- 2) At an announced meeting, each member present is to nominate the person(s) of his or her choice according to the method decided by the pastors.
- 3) The nominations will be counted by the pastors.
- 4) The nominee receiving the most nominations shall be contacted by the pastors and deacons to ascertain qualification and willingness to serve if elected (cf., Acts 6:6). If the person receiving the most nominations is deemed qualified and is willing to serve, the person will be presented to the Church for a vote. If necessary, the process will continue with the person receiving the next highest number of nominations until the needed number of deacons is elected.
- 5) The election of deacons shall take place no sooner than two weeks and no later than four weeks after the candidate(s) are presented to the Church.
- 6) If an un-ordained candidate is elected, the candidate will be publicly ordained and commissioned as a deacon.

Section 5 Ministry Teams

The pastors and/or deacons may organize members of the Church into ministry teams for temporary or ongoing assignments as they deem beneficial to the Church's wellbeing, witness, and work. Each team's organization and responsibilities will be carefully documented and explained before its work commences. Each team will make regular reports to the pastors/deacons and the Church to promote an environment of openness and accountability.

Section 6 Trustees

The Church shall elect two or more trustees to serve as the legal officers of the Church to hold in trust all church properties. Upon specific vote of the Church authorizing each action and its terms, together they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any church property. When the signatures of the trustees are required, they shall all sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents related to the Church's approved matters as representatives of the Church.

III. OTHER VOCATIONAL STAFF

The pastors may recommend to the Church, the hiring of other vocational staff to assist the Church in carrying out its mission. When making such a recommendation, the pastors will:

- 1) Prepare a job description and bring the recommendation to the Church for a vote
- 2) Be responsible for hiring the staff member and for his or her compensation package.

IV. ORDINANCES

Section 1 Baptism

Following a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, candidates for baptism may be received by the Church upon presentation by the pastors during a regular worship service for a simple majority vote. As soon as possible following the vote, the person shall be baptized by immersion in water and be accepted into membership of the Church.

A person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the pastors.

Section 2 The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of worship and obedience whereby baptized Christians, together as a Church, through partaking of bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). The Church will strive to observe the Lord's Supper at least quarterly.

V. CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 Regular Church Meetings

The Church shall meet regularly for prayer, preaching, biblical instruction, evangelism, and worship. These meetings will be open to all persons and shall be conducted under the direction of a pastor of the Church.

Section 2 Business Meetings

a. Regular Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held quarterly on the second Wednesday night of each quarter.

b. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the pastors, the deacons, or by a written request from at least 20% of the Church's members. If a special meeting is called by 20% of the members, this meeting will take place within one month of the request. The date, time, and purpose of all special meetings must be announced at the Sunday service(s) for at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

c. Quorum

A quorum consists of those who attend the business meeting.

d. Business Meeting Procedures

All business meetings procedures will be conducted according to *Roberts Rules of Order, Revised*.

e. Church Year

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on January 1 and close on December 31.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Changes to the Church Covenant, Core Values, Constitution, and/or By-Laws may be made at any regular business meeting of the Church, provided:

- 1) Each amendment was presented in writing at a previous meeting
- 2) Copies of the proposed amendments are furnished to each member present.

Amendments to the Church Covenant, Core Values, Constitution, and/or By-Laws shall be by two-thirds vote.