

Constitution of the Church of Hope
580 NW 105
Centerview, Missouri 64019

816 - 656 - 3558

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Non-denominational Church shall be The Church of Hope, Centerview, Missouri. Former address was 105 E. Mullins Street, P.O. Box 87, Centerview, Missouri. Current address is 580 NW 105, Centerview, Missouri, 64019.

ARTICLE II - INCORPORATION AND TERM

- A. The Church of Hope shall be organized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Missouri. It shall maintain a tax exempt status under present or amended laws and regulations of the State of Missouri and the United States of America.
- B. The term of existence of the corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

The purpose of the Church of Hope shall be to honor Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

- A. To build a church both physically and spiritually as revealed in the New Testament.
- B. To conduct services of public worship and educational programs to win people to a faith in Jesus Christ, to nurture them to maturity in that faith, and to commit them to the corporate Body of Christ.
- C. To help people grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ that they may increasingly know and do His will.
- D. To share in the world wide proclamation of the Gospel, and
- E. To carry on all activities necessary to advance the welfare of the church.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE

The Church of Hope shall be an autonomous and independent church. It shall not be controlled by nor be responsible to any other ecclesiastical body. It will, however, cooperate with other organizations in accomplishing its purpose. And, it may choose to enter into an association with other churches of like mind and purpose who are also autonomous and independent for purposes of fellowship, support, and mutual ministry.

ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

The Church of Hope has one foundation, Jesus Christ the Son of God, and is pledged to affirm Biblical Christianity. The church Apostolic and Universal includes all those who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. The church is the Body and the Bride of Christ. (Eph. 2:19-22; I Cor. 3:11)

THE HOLY TRINITY

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS the existence of the one Eternal God who has revealed himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three equal but distinct persons, mysteriously united in the Godhead which the Church historically has described as the Holy Trinity.

GOD THE FATHER

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that the first person of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, is the Eternal One and reigns supremely. He has provided a covenant through which His creatures can be redeemed and through which His creation will be liberated from all evil and brought to final righteousness at the end of the age.

GOD THE SON

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that the second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Eternal Son, became incarnate as Mary's virgin born child, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. In His unique Person, He revealed to us both the fullness of deity and the fullness of humanity. By His life, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension He provided the only way of salvation. His sacrifice on the cross once and for all was to reconcile the Holy God and sinners, thus providing the only way of access to the Father. Now He intercedes as High Priest before the Father, awaiting the day when He will return to judge every person, living and dead, and to consummate His Kingdom.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that the third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit, was active from the beginning in creation, revelation, and redemption. It was through His anointing that prophets received the Word of God, priests became intermediaries between God and His people, and kings were given ruling authority. The Spirit's presence and power, measured in the Old Testament, were found without measure in Jesus of Nazareth, the Anointed. The Spirit convicts and woos the lost, gives new birth to the penitent, and abides in the believer, perfecting holiness and empowering the Church to carry out Christ's mission in the world. He came to indwell His Church at Pentecost, enabling believers to yield fruit and endowing them with spiritual gifts according to His will. He bears witness to Christ and guides God's people into His truth. He inspired the Holy Scriptures, God's written Word, and continues to illuminate His people concerning His will and truth. His guidance is always in harmony with Christ and the truth as given in the Holy Scriptures.

HUMANITY

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that man and woman are fashioned in the image of God and are different from all of God's other creatures. God intends that we should Glorify Him and enjoy Him forever. Since the Fall of Adam the corruption of sin has pervaded every person and extended into social relationships, societal systems, and all creation. This corruption is so pervasive that we are not capable of positive response to God's offer of redemption, except by the prevenient, or preparing, grace of God. Only through the justifying, regenerating, and sanctifying work of the Triune God can we be saved from the corruption of sin, become increasingly conformed to the image of Christ, and restored to the relationships which God has intended for us.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS as the only written Word of God the Old and New Testaments. These Holy Scriptures contain all that is necessary for our knowledge of God's holy and sovereign will, of Jesus Christ the only Redeemer, of our salvation, and of our growth in grace. They are to be received through the Holy Spirit as the guide and final authority for the faith and conduct of individuals and the doctrines and life of the Church. Whatever is not clearly revealed in, or plainly established as truth by, the Holy Scriptures cannot be required as an article of faith nor be taught as essential to salvation. Anything contrary to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures is contrary to the purposes of God and must, therefore, be opposed. The authority of Scripture derives from the fact that God, through His Spirit inspires the authors, causing them to perceive God's truth and record it with accuracy. It is evident that the Holy Scriptures have been preserved during the long process of transmission through copyists and translators, and we attribute such accurate preservation to the work of the Holy Spirit. These Scriptures are supremely authoritative for the Church's teaching, preaching, witness, identifying error, correcting the erring, and training believers for ministry in and through the Church.

SALVATION

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that God offers salvation to a sinful humanity and a lost world through Jesus Christ. By His death on the cross the sinless Son propitiated the holy wrath of the Father, a righteous anger occasioned by sin. By His resurrection from the dead, the glorified Son raises us to newness of life. When we appropriate by faith God's atoning work in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, justified, regenerated by His Holy Spirit, and adopted into the family of God. By His grace He sanctifies His children, purifying their hearts by faith, renewing them in the image of God, and enabling them to love God and neighbor with whole heart. The fullness of God's salvation will come with the return of Christ. This cosmic event will signal the resurrection of the saved to eternal life and the lost to eternal damnation, the liberation of creation from the Adamic curse, God's final victory over every power and dominion, and the establishment of the new heaven and the new earth.

THE CHURCH

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that the Church of Jesus Christ is the community of all true believers under His sovereign Lordship. This Church, the Body of Christ, is ONE because it shares one Lord, one faith, one baptism. It is HOLY because it belongs to God and is set apart for His purposes in the world. It is APOSTOLIC because it partakes of the authority granted to the apostles by Christ Himself. It is UNIVERSAL because it includes all believers, both living and dead, in every nation , regardless of denominational affiliation. Its authenticity is to be found wherever the pure Word of God is preached and taught; wherever the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are celebrated in obedience to Christ's command; wherever the gifts of the Holy Spirit upbuild the body and bring spiritual growth; wherever the Spirit of God creates a loving, caring fellowship, and a faithfulness in witness and service to the world; and wherever discipline is administered with love under the guidance of the Word of God. The Church as the Bride of Christ, will ultimately be joined with her Lord in triumphant glory.

ETHICS

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY AFFIRMS that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. These works are the loving expressions of gratitude by the believer for the new life received in Christ. They do not earn one's salvation nor are they a substitute for God's work of redemption. Rather, they are the result of regeneration and are manifest in the believer as evidence of a living faith.

God has called us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with Him. In the Scriptures are found the standards and principles that guide the believer in his walk. These ethical imperatives, willingly accepted by the believer, enable us to be a part of God's purposes in the world. Moreover, in this we are called to an obedience that does not stop short of our willingness to suffer for righteousness' sake, even unto death.

Our life in Christ includes an unstinting devotion to deeds of kindness and mercy and a wholehearted participation in collective efforts to alleviate need and suffering. The believer will work for honesty, justice, and equity in human affairs; all of which witness to inherent rights and a basic dignity common to all persons created in the image of God. Such contemporary issues as racism, housing, welfare, education, Marxism, capitalism, hunger, crime, sexism, family relationships, aging, sexuality, drugs and alcohol, abortion, leisure, pornography, and related issues call for prayerful consideration, thoughtful analysis, and appropriate scriptural action from Christians, and must always be a matter of concern for the Church. Thus we remember that faith without works is dead.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Any person who believes in and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior, who is endeavoring to follow Him as Lord in his/ her personal life, and who subscribes substantially to the Statement of Faith of this church shall be eligible for membership in the Church of Hope. (See By-Laws, Article I)

ARTICLE VII - GOVERNMENT

- A. The members of the Church of Hope, in order to govern themselves, shall elect a Board of Directors which shall have vested in it complete authority and responsibility to govern all the affairs of the church. This Board shall be comprised of at least three members.
- B. The members of the Church of Hope shall have the authority to ordain and licence the Pastor while he is serving the church.
- C. The members of the Church of Hope shall elect the Pastor who shall be called the corporate President and he shall serve for one year with the option for renewal, or until his resignation or until that office is declared vacant.
- D. The Board of Directors shall also be known as the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the corporation shall be:
 - 1. The Chairman of the Board of Directors who shall also serve as the corporate Vice-President,
 - 2. The Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors,
 - 3. The President who shall also serve as Pastor of the church,
 - 4. The Secretary,
 - 5. The Treasurer.
- B. The Board of Directors shall elect from within its membership each year the Chairman of the Board, the Vice-Chairman of the Board, and the Secretary.
- C. The President shall be elected as provided in Article VII B and shall serve continuously while Pastor of the church.
- D. The Treasurer shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

E. The Chairman shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Directors. In the Chairman's absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside.

F. The President shall be the presiding officer of church business meetings unless the Board of Directors requests its Chairman or Vice-Chairman, on occasion, to preside.

G. The Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the corporation, of Board of Directors' meetings, and of church business meetings. The Secretary shall be the officer authorized to execute affidavits or certificates regarding actions of the Board of Directors.

H. The Board of Directors may declare vacant any office which it elects.

ARTICLE IX - ADMINISTRATION

A. The Pastor, as the spiritual leader and as the President, shall be the chief administrator of the affairs and activities of the Church of Hope. He shall work in cooperation with and shall report to the Board of Directors. He shall report to the church membership as he deems necessary and as requested by the membership or the Board of Directors.

B. The Pastor shall have broad authority and responsibility to carry out the purpose and mission of the church. His administration shall, however, administer the church within the limits of the annual budget as approved and/or as amended by the Board of Directors. He shall select the business administrator and associate pastors as he deems necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X - FINANCES

A. The income of the church shall be derived primarily from voluntary contributions including tithes and offerings and deferred gifts of members and friends of the church. Proper accounting and controls of income from any and all sources shall be established and maintained by the Treasurer and the Board of Directors. (See By-Laws, Article IV-G)

B. Expenditures of church funds shall be made by the Treasurer within the limits of the annual budget as approved and/or amended by the Board of Directors. (See By-Laws, Article IV-G)

C. A method of checks and balances and control of all expenditures shall be established by the Board of Directors.

D. All officers and employees of the church shall be bonded as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY

- A. The church may buy, sell, convey, mortgage, encumber or otherwise deal with or dispose of real or personal property and shall evidence such transactions by the proper legal document being signed by the President and the Secretary when such transactions have been authorized in advance by the Board of Directors.
- B. In the event of the dissolution of The Church of Hope, assets remaining after the liquidation of all liabilities shall be disposed of by donation to a Christian institution dedicated to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. The selection of such an institution is to be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. None of the assets of any such dissolution shall inure to any individual.

ARTICLE XII - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors shall establish any needed boards and committees as set forth in the By-Laws. These boards and committees shall report to the Board of Directors. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of these boards and committees.

ARTICLE XIII - DECLARATIONS OF VACANCY

- A. The Board of Directors may declare any office, elective or appointive, vacant at any time, except that of a Director or of the Pastor.
- B. The church membership may declare the office of a Director vacant at a properly called special business meeting for that purpose.
- C. Upon a recommendation by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors and upon a 2/3 majority vote of the church membership present at a special business meeting, properly called for that purpose, the office of the Pastor may be declared vacant. The procedure for declaring vacant the office of Pastor may be initiated by either the Board of Directors or the church membership.
- D. Grounds for dismissal of a Director or the Pastor shall be unscriptural conduct or radical departure from the Statement of Faith or incompetency in office or loss of confidence by the membership in his leadership ability.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of members present at any properly called special business meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE CHURCH OF HOPE

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

A. Admission to membership shall be initiated by the prospective member's request for membership. He may also submit a letter of recommendation from another church if he so desires. Prospective members shall attend a membership orientation class scheduled by the Pastor. On approval of the Pastor and public confession of faith in Jesus Christ the prospective member shall be publicly received at a regularly scheduled worship service and his name shall be placed on the church membership records. If he has not already done so, he will submit himself for Christian baptism.

B. Responsibility of members: Every member shall consider the responsibilities placed upon him by the Word of God and the church as detailed in the Statement of Faith of the Constitution of The Church of Hope. In addition to the Statement of Faith we lift up the following goals:

THE GOALS HELD UP FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH

1. To be active in daily prayer and Bible reading.
2. To be active in all the worship of the church.
3. To be a full participant in the adult education ministry of the church.
4. To take training in personal evangelism.
5. To find at least one place of ministry or service in the life of the church within ninety days of becoming a member.
6. To tithe your income or grow toward it.
7. To participate in church-wide emphasis, renewals, etc.

These goals are held before every member not as rules or requirements, but as a challenge for earnest and prayerful consideration. We believe that these activities are among those that are vital to every Christian's well being.

C. Admonishment and discipline of members: Members who willfully neglect their duties to the church or who err in doctrine or conduct shall be admonished by the Council of Elders. Discipline shall be administered in the spirit of Christ with due regard for the welfare of the individual as well as the church. (Matthew 18:15-18, Galatians 6:1) Termination of membership shall be acted upon by the Council of Elders, which alone has that authority.

D. Termination of membership shall be accomplished in one of the following ways:

1. By member's written request.
2. By becoming a member of another church.
3. By action of the Council of Elders for good and sufficient cause including the demonstration of a lack of commitment for one year or more.
4. By death. The names of the deceased members shall be transferred to a permanent record of deceased members.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS

A. Worship, teaching, and preaching meetings and all other meetings designed to accomplish the purpose of the church shall be approved by the Pastor or his designate.

B. Public use of the buildings or grounds must have prior approval by the Pastor. In the absence of the Pastor, approval of such public use shall be made by the Chairman of the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE III - BUSINESS MEETINGS

A. The annual church business meeting shall be held as soon as possible, and not more than sixty days following the conclusion of the fiscal year. The meeting shall be announced publicly and by written notification of all members, two weeks in advance. The meeting shall include the following items:

1. Call to worship, hymn, prayer.
2. Reading and approval of prior annual business meeting minutes.
3. Election of Council of Elders members as required to fill vacancies.
4. Reports as deemed appropriate by the Council of Elders.
5. Election of Pastor if that office is vacant. (See Article IV, D & E)
6. Question and answer time.
7. Recommendations of the membership to the Council of Elders and/or to the Pastor.
8. Adjournment with prayer and hymn.

B. Special business meetings shall be called by the Pastor as he deems necessary, or by the Chairman of the Council of Elders when so instructed by a majority vote of the Council or by the Chairman of the Council when requested by the petition of 10 % of the active membership. A special meeting shall be announced publicly and by written notification of all members two Sundays in advance. The

announcement shall state the specific purpose of the special business meeting.

C. The number of church members present at any properly called church business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

D. Decisions and recommendations shall be made by a simple majority vote, except an amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws and declaration of pastoral or council vacancy shall require a 2/3 majority vote.

E. Voting privileges shall be limited to those eighteen years of age and older.

F. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide on all procedural matters.

ARTICLE IV - THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

A. Council members shall be mature Christians who have been members of The Church of Hope for at least one year, (this does not apply to the original board) deemed to meet the Scriptural standards for Elders. (I Timothy, Titus, etc.)

B. Conflict of interest and compensation: No paid employee of the church or any related organization shall be eligible for membership on the Council of Elders. Any Council member whose spouse is or becomes employed by the church or any related organization shall be disqualified to vote on any financial matters pertaining to the spouse's employment or salary. No compensation shall be paid to any Council member for his services as a Council member. These requirements shall not preclude attendance in an advisory capacity by church staff at Council meetings when invited by the Pastor or the Chairman of the Council.

C. Term of office: Resignation and discipline

1. Term of office of Council members shall be three years, or to fill an unexpired term. They may serve multiple terms. The original election shall be for 3 - 2 - 1 year terms. A Council member's office shall be terminated by:

a. His/her death.

b. Termination of his/her membership in the church.

c. His/her removal from such office by the church.

d. The actions of the Council as provided in C - 2 of this Article IV.

e. Expiration of the term for which elected.

2. Resignations and unexcused absences. On behalf of the church, and without additional church

action, the Council may accept the resignation of any Council member. The Council may request the resignation of any Council member who is absent during the previous calendar year for more than five regular meetings of the Council without excuses deemed valid by the Council.

D. Nominating Committee- Nominations to fill vacancies and expiring terms on the Council of Elders shall be made each year by a nominating committee composed of four members elected at the church business meeting and the Pastor. Six weeks prior to the annual business meeting, an announcement shall be made that the nominating committee will consider recommendations from the church members. The committee shall make its report of nominations to the annual business meeting.

E. Elections - Each year, prior to the nominating committee's work, the Chairman of the Council and the Secretary, together with the Pastor, shall determine the number of Elders to be elected. The church membership shall elect from those nominated the number of Elders required to fill those vacancies. Elections to fill Council member vacancies occurring during the year shall not be required.

F. Meetings and Quorum - The Council of Elders shall meet monthly at such time and place as they may determine. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Council, the Pastor or a majority of the Council members by giving written notice thereof of starting time, place and agenda to each Council member at least one week in advance. The Chairman shall have an agenda prepared before each meeting and shall preside at the meeting. The Pastor shall have full freedom in presenting his plans, programs and strategies for fulfilling the purpose of the church. The Elders present at any meeting held in accordance with these By-Laws shall constitute a quorum, provided a majority of the Council members are present. The vote of a majority of the Elders present shall be sufficient to decide any matter for which the Council of Elders is responsible, except as noted in Article XIII, C of the Constitution.

G. Finance and Budget Committee - Each year the Chairman of the Council of Elders shall appoint, with Council ratification, a Finance and Budget Committee, to be composed of church members with the insight, experience, gifts, and graces for financial oversight. This committee shall, in conjunction with the Treasurer and the Pastor, cause to be prepared by the end of each fiscal year a comprehensive annual budget for the forthcoming year. The budget shall include detailed estimates of income, expenses and anticipated new liabilities. The final proposed budget shall be presented to the Council of Elders for approval. Expenditures of commitments of any kind during any fiscal year which are in excess of the budget for that year shall require advance approval by the Council.

In addition to the above duties, this committee shall also act during the year as an internal audit committee regarding the current year's budget, paying particular attention to the proper classification of income and expenses. It shall regularly consider and report to the Council of Elders regarding the adequacy of internal controls, efficiency of operations and adequacy of the accounting and reporting system. The fiscal year shall correspond to the calendar year.

H. The Council of Elders may select a qualified accountant to perform the annual audit and an attorney-at-law to provide legal counsel and representation. The Council may request the services of other outside expert and professional counselors as it deems necessary.

ARTICLE V - BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Council of Elders shall have the power to establish the necessary Church committees to carry out the various ministries and functions of the Church. Membership and chairmen of the committees shall be appointed by the Pastor with approval of the Council of Elders. All committee chairmen shall be maturing men or women deemed to meet the Scriptural standards for Deacons and Deaconesses. (Acts 6, I Timothy, Titus, etc.)

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be adopted at any regular business meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose by a 2/3 majority vote of all members present, but a proposed By-Law or amendment must first be presented in writing at a preceding regular business meeting.

ARTICLE VII

Copies of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be printed and made readily available to all church members.

AMENDMENT 1

The name of the corporation is Church of Hope.

AMENDMENT 2

There are some members, having voting rights with respect to amendments.

AMENDMENT 3

The Corporation shall be subject to the below requirements, to wit:

A. Inurement of Income. 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.

B. Legislative or Political Activities. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

C. Operational Limitations. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on
(a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or
(b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

D. Dissolution Clause. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations 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 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

The End