
East Durham Baptist Church Constitution

THE PREAMBLE

Reposing our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and believing in the teachings of the Holy Bible as the plenary and verbally inspired Word of the Living God. We have affiliated ourselves with one another as a body of immersed believers, and we adopt this constitution as a declaration of our convictions so that we may carry on the Lords work decently and in order.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be:
Cornerstone Baptist Church of East Durham

With a mailing address of:
P.O. Box 114, East Durham, NY 12423

Our first meeting as a body of believers was held on 8 March 1998.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Guided by the Holy Spirit, a group of born-again Christians agree to seek the establishing and maintaining a Baptist Church for worship.

The purpose of this church to be:

- Leading souls to everlasting Life in Christ; through the hearing of the word of God and the actions of the spirit filled lives of its members.
- Encouraging all people especially our young people called of God into Christian service
- Building up the spiritual life of its members through Fellowship, Prayer (mindful of the needs of our brethren, the breaking of bread (Communion) and the study of Holy Scriptures. Acts 2:42
- Spreading the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.
- To help each member and future member(s) to understand their individual purpose in God's family.
- To help us to see the vision God has for us at Cornerstone Baptist Church as we grow and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

- We believe that the Bible is the complete and infallible Word of God, verbally and literally inspired as found in the original manuscripts, and is the supreme and final authority in all matters. (pertaining to faith and practice.)
 - II Timothy 3:16
 - II PETER 1:21
- We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - John 14:16
 - Matthew 3:16-17
 - Matthew 28:19
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and that Jesus Christ is True God and True Man without sin.
 - Matthew 1:20
 - Luke 1:35
 - John 1:1-2
 - John 12:45
 - John 14:9
 - II Corinthians 5:21
 - Hebrews 4:15
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the one all-sufficient mediator between God and man.
 - I Timothy 2:5
- We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit and that His ministry is to reveal Christ to men in the regeneration and sanctification of their souls.
 - John 16:7-11
 - John 14:17
- We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and thereby incurred spiritual death, which is everlasting punishment.
 - Genesis 1:26
 - Genesis 3:3
- We believe in the vicarious death of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood, in the resurrection of His body, His ascension into Heaven and His personal and visible return to the earth.
 - I Peter 1:19
 - I Corinthians 15:3
 - Acts 1:10-11
 - I Peter 3:18
 - I Thessalonians 4:14-18
 - II Timothy 2:8
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, the righteous going to everlasting life in glory with Christ and the wicked to everlasting punishment.
 - Acts 24:15
 - John 5:28-29
- We believe that salvation is the gift of God and is received and experienced only through personal faith in Him.
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Acts 16:31
 - John 3:16,36
 - John 10:28-29
 - I John 5:11-12

- We Believe that the immersion of Believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is Baptism as set forth in the New Testament.
 - Romans 6:1-11
 - Matthew 3:13-17
 - Acts 2:38
 - Acts 8:36-39
- We believe that the ordinance of the Lord's Supper commemorates His death until He comes.
 - Matthew 26:26-30
 - I Corinthians 11:23-30
- We believe that each local church has the right to be independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority.
 - Acts 6:2-3
 - Acts 4:18-20
 - II Corinthians 8:19
- We believe that each Christian has the privilege and responsibility to serve and exercise their spiritual gifts for the family of God each according to their spiritual gifts for the betterment of each other, our church, and the (our) community at large.
 - Romans 12: 1-8

ARTICLE IV - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy 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 his angles, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, 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 give sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin:
- 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 through all the nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions:

- To religiously educate our children in all matters of faith and in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior
- To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances
- To walk circumspectly in the world
- To be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and exemplary in our conduct
- To avoid all gossip, back biting, and excessive anger

- To avoid the use of any and all mind altering illegal drugs, including excessive use of alcohol, and to seek help if when tempted or struggling with these issues
- To protect our children from all forms of sexual sin and perversions such as are common to unregenerate man by not being involved with the reading, viewing (television or Internet), or purchase of pornography
- To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love:

- To remember each other in prayer
- To aid each other in sickness and distress
- To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech
- To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, forgiveness and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We also agree that should the time come that we no longer attend this church that we will as soon as possible join another bible believing church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION

We believe that the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Durham, New York, has the power to rule and govern itself, and to choose its own officers. This shall be an independent Baptist church, without interference from any ecclesiastical or political authority; therefore, the state must be kept separate from the church, but the church has an obligation to the state to be involved, so say 54 of the original founding fathers of these United States.

This church will fellowship with the Conservative Baptist mission to the Northeast.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - QUALIFICATIONS

This church will consider for active membership any person who has been born again (**JOHN 3:7**) through faith in Jesus Christ as their personal savior, who is in agreement with the doctrinal beliefs (**ARTICLE III**) and who has upon that profession of faith been baptized by immersion (**Section 3 of Article VI**).

SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- **Voting Membership** (members in good standing)
 - **Active Membership**
 - This category includes those who are thirteen (13) years or older, who regularly support the church in attendance, prayer, work, and in giving to its ministries.
 - **Honorary Membership**
 - This category allows missionaries, college students, military personnel, pastors, and those individuals who are home bound to retain membership while unable to attend regularly. They shall have the same voting privileges as active members. Members in this category shall not be used to determine the quorum.
- **Non-Voting Membership**
 - **Inactive Membership**
 - This category includes members, who may worship with us occasionally but do not currently support the church in regular attendance, work, and in giving to its ministries. Any member who remains in the inactive Membership category for five consecutive years will be removed from the church roll, unless upon being advised of intent of removal, extenuating circumstances are brought to the attention of the Board of Deacons, which would justify retention in the inactive category, subject to annual review.
 - **Youth Membership**
 - This category includes those who are twelve (12) years or younger who have completed the membership training class set up by the Pastor/Deacons.
- **Non-Membership**
 - **Adherent**
 - This category includes people who regularly support this church by attendance and giving but have not yet chosen to become active members. Because of their regular support of the church in attendance, prayer, work, and in giving to its ministries, they may attend Church business meetings, but shall not have a voice or vote at these meetings.

SECTION 3 - RECEPTION

Prospective members, having received instruction from pastor and/or deacons in the scriptural teachings regarding our distinctive principles, and desiring to unite with this church, must meet with the board of deacons, and upon their recommendation shall testify before the church. This testimony shall state their faith and desires for fellowship with the church. After a majority vote of the church members present and voting, they shall be accepted into the church membership.

SECTION 4 - RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are expected:

- To be faithful to all duties essential to the Christian life;
 - To seek to win the lost to Christ;
 - To attend regularly the services of the church;
 - To give systematically to the financial support of the church's total ministry;
 - To share in the church's missionary interests and its total ministry;
 - To seek diligently the spiritual advancement of the church.

SECTION 5 - RIGHTS

Members in good standing, 18 years or older, may act and vote on buying or selling church property and in all corporate transactions of the church, at any church meeting. Members in good standing 13 years of age or over may vote in all other business.

SECTION 6 - CHURCH ROLL

- VOTING
 - A member in good standing may on request and by vote of the church members be granted a letter of transfer to any church of like faith and practice.
 - STATUS
 - The pastor, deacons, financial secretary, and church clerk shall act as a committee to update the church roll each year prior to the annual meeting. The committee's recommendation shall be acted upon by the church members at the annual meeting. The church roll shall indicate a person's membership status at all times.
- REINSTATEMENT
 - Reinstatement to active membership upon establishing a record of attendance and support, the non-voting member may request of the pastor/deacons that he/she be considered for active membership.

SECTION 7 - DISCIPLINE

Any member who refuses to reaffirm all the doctrinal beliefs (Article III) of the church constitution when requested to do so by the board of deacons or who continues in flagrant sin, after receiving scriptural admonition and discipline, shall forfeit the privilege of membership. All discipline shall be handled scriptural. The following scriptures and other similar ones shall be used as a basis for church discipline: **Matthew 18:15-18; I Corinthians 5:1-13, 6:1-10; II Corinthians 2:5-7, 7:8-12; I Thessalonians 5: 14; II Thessalonians 3:6-15; I Timothy 5:19-22.**

ARTICLE VII - ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1- PASTOR

Our pastor of this church shall be ordained or licensed Baptist minister, called under provisions outlined in ARTICLE IX (Pulpit committee).

Our Pastor shall be a born again believer and a preacher of the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. He shall state his belief without mental reservation and be in complete agreement with this constitution. He shall faithfully preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the ordinances (believer's baptism and the Lord's supper), preside at all prayer meetings and worship services unless other wise provided for, whether such meetings are held on the Lord's Day or during the week. He shall regularly meet with the Board of Deacons and perform such other duties as pertain to his position as shepherd of the Lord's people.

Our Pastor shall permit a background check to ensure the safety of the youth and members entrusted to his care as pastor, to check for history of domestic violence, sexual crimes against other adults, and especially children, and for any evidence of financial impropriety.

Our pastor shall be a member ex officio of all church boards and committees.

After assuming the duties of the pastorate, he shall be received into membership. He shall serve for no specific term. This pastoral relation may be terminated by 90 days' notice from the pastor or the church, sooner by mutual consent.

SECTION 2 - YOUTH PASTOR (S), ASSISTANT PASTOR/DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR (S)

The above person (s) shall be born again believer (s) in the Lord Jesus Christ, stating his belief without mental reservation, believing in the fundamental doctrines of the Bible and must be in complete agreement with this constitution.

This person (s) shall be extended a call to serve in the intended position by a two-thirds vote by ballot of the qualified members present and voting only after being recommended by our Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

The youth Pastor shall permit a background check to ensure the safety of the youth entrusted to his care as youth pastor, to check for history of domestic violence, and sexual crimes against other adults, and especially children.

If not already a member of our congregation and after assuming the duties of the above position, he shall be received into membership.

The Board of Deacons shall establish the duties of this(es)person (s). He shall serve no specific term, and his ministry may be terminated by him or the church with 90 days notice by either, or sooner by mutual consent.

The Youth pastor and or Assistant Pastor shall be an ordained or licensed Baptist minister.

The Christian Education Director may be either a man or woman.

SECTION 3 CHURCH OFFICERS

The stated officers of the church (Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Treasurer of Missions, Sunday School Superintendent, Director of Music, Librarian, Director of Preschool Program, and members of the Board of Christian Education) Shall be active members of this church in Good standing for at least one year prior to being elected to office.

DEACONS

Deacons shall be chosen as nearly as possible for their spiritual life as defined in the Scriptural qualifications in (I Timothy 3:8-13) for Deacons. The church shall elect Deacons only from the recommendation of the Nominating Committee by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting.

There shall be up to six Deacons elected, two each year with a term of office for three years. Each Deacon shall serve until his successor has been duly elected at the annual meeting. In the event of the death or resignation of a Deacon, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

The Deacons shall faithfully attend the stated meetings of the church, and be loyal to the pastor and the ministry. They with the Pastor shall instruct candidates for baptism and membership, assist in the baptismal services, and are responsible for the preparation and distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.

The Deacons shall elect a Chairman having no less than one year's experience as a Deacon in this church, and a Secretary/Treasurer without delay after the annual meeting. At their discretion and according to the needs of the church body, the Deacons shall appoint annually a church organist, flower chairman, head usher (chairman of usher services), supervisor of children's church, and church host and hostess; and from their membership, the deacons shall appoint two members of the board of Christian education, a member of the missionary committee, a member of the nominating committee, and a member of the audit committee. The Deacons shall receive and disburse a fund for the relief of the needed in the church and the community. The Deacons shall be responsible for pulpit supply in the absence of the pastor. The Deacons shall be responsible to approve any Sunday school teachers and the heads of ministry. 09 November, 2000

TRUSTEES

Trustees should have knowledge of the Bible as it pertains to the mission of the church. Other qualities to be desired in a trustee are spiritual sensitivity and vision, teamwork capabilities, flexibility and some skills in property and financial matters. There shall be up to six trustees elected, two each year with a term of office of three years. The members shall elect trustees by a simple majority vote. Without delay after the annual meeting, the board of trustees shall elect a chairman having no less than one years experience as a trustee in this church and a Secretary.

Trustees shall receive, hold in trust and manage the use of the church and all property, bond, mortgages, investments, legacies, and gifts. They shall keep all church property in good repair and maintain adequate insurance. They shall act as the legal representatives of the church and execute legal documents.

As necessary, the board of trustees shall employ and discharge members of the custodial and secretarial staffs, and set the rates of compensation and provide needed supplies. Concerning the work of maintenance and repair, the board shall designate that which is the responsibility of the custodial staff, that which should be done by outside contractors and that which can be done by volunteers.

The board of trustees shall institute and maintain a system of finance consistent with the scriptures, Malachi 3:8-10 and I Corinthians 16: 2. The church has instituted for convenience in brining tithes and offerings into the storehouse on the first day of the week, the duplex envelope system. There shall be no form of commercialism in the church in any department.

The board of trustees shall recommend an annual church budget at the annual meeting, after jointly preparing the budget with the financial committee. The trustees shall incur no financial obligations in excess of the designated amounts for any category in the annual budget, except by express authority conveyed through a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a constitutionally called congregational meeting.

CLERK

The Clerk's term shall be one year. The Clerk shall keep up to date minutes of all church meetings. The Clerk shall notify members concerning the Annual Meeting by written notice in the church bulletin two weeks in advance. This notice is to be read from the pulpit both Sundays immediately prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Clerk shall keep a record of church membership with the dates of Baptism, Reception, and removal. The Clerk shall issue letters of transfer as voted by the church members, and preserve on file all related communications, documents, and official reports. The Clerk shall preserve on file all necessary correspondence resulting from any church business meeting.

The Clerk shall be responsible for publishing the minutes of the Annual Meeting within 30 days of the meeting, and to make them available to the membership.

TREASURER

The Treasurer's term is three years, and shall include the following responsibilities. The Treasurer shall pay promptly all bills of regular expense of the church previously approved by the Board of Trustees, and attend meetings of the Trustees at their request. The Treasurer shall keep a correct book of accounts and give a written report quarterly to the church. The Treasurer's book of accounts and records shall be audited annually by the Audit Committee, prior to the Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary's term is three years, and shall include the following responsibilities. Receiving and counting all offerings for both the General and Mission Funds and depositing these funds immediately in the Bank after counting. Provide the Church Treasurer and the Treasurer of Missions with weekly reports, including an itemized calculation of the moneys received for the respective Funds. The selection of church members to serve on three or four counting teams subject to the approval of the Board of trustees. The supervision of the counting teams comprised of a least two members (one of which may be a trustee), which for purposes of confidentiality should serve on a rotating schedule. The Financial Secretary shall keep confidential records of the money received and issue a written statement to each contributor of record at the end of the calendar year.

TREASURER OF MISSIONS

The Treasurer of Mission's term is three years, and shall include the following responsibilities. The Treasurer of Missions shall send money each month and any money as instructed by the missionary budget accepted by the church at the Annual Meeting and any money designated for church supported / guest missionaries or approved ministries. The Treasurer of Missions shall keep a correct book of accounts, and give a written report quarterly to the church. The Treasurer of Mission's book of accounts and records shall be audited annually by the Audit Committee, prior to the Annual Meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Sunday School Superintendent's term shall be three years. The Superintendent shall be a member in good standing of the church and Sunday School. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to direct and oversee the activities of the Sunday School.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Music Director's term shall be one year. The Music Director shall oversee all music, choirs, musical programs of the church and meet with the pastor as necessary to coordinate this ministry. The Music Director can be, but is not required to be, a choir director.

LIBRARIAN

The Librarian's term shall be one year. The Librarian shall maintain and promote the church library.

SECTION 4 - MODERATOR

The Moderator will serve a term of one year commencing immediately after the Annual Meeting and will preside over all Business meetings of the church. The Moderator will call all business meetings other than the Annual Meeting. The responsibility for appointing the moderator will alternate yearly between the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5 - BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Christian Education shall consist of the Pastor, Assistant Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries, Sunday School Superintendent, two deacons, and two members of the church elected at the Annual Meeting who will serve a two-year term.

II RESPONSIBILITIES

- Approve and review annually the curriculum to be used in the Preschool program of the Cornerstone Baptist Church of East Durham. Meet with the Preschool Director prior to the beginning of and at the end of the school year and meet with any parents who may wish to express concerns to the board.
- Meet as necessary with the leaders of the various teaching ministries and provide minutes of all meetings to the Board of Deacons.
- The Board shall approve all teachers and assistant teachers of the Sunday School.
- Approve the assignment of all individuals who will be teaching in the various ministries within the church.
- Approve all materials used for teaching in Sunday School, Pioneer Clubs, Christian Service Brigade, Children's Church, Tot Church, Super Pals, Vacation Bible School, Teen Programs, and any other Church-sponsored teaching program(s).
- Evaluate annually each education ministry, and make recommendations for improvement or other modifications including new ministries and new materials.
- Elect a Chairperson and Secretary at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting and meet at least four times per year.
- Recruit new teachers and substitute teacher.
- Promote the importance of youth Christian activities, evangelism and education.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

The Missionary Committee shall consist of the Pastor, Treasurer of Missions, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Pastor, one Deacon, and the presiding church member of all other Missionary organizations of the church. In addition the committee shall of four church members to serve two-year terms, electing two members each consist year.

The Committee shall:

- Recommend a missionary budget to the church for adoption at the Annual Meeting.
- Plan and present an annual missionary conference.
- Maintain contact with our missionary family and inform the congregation of their spiritual and physical needs.
- Propose Faith Promise Projects to be approved by the congregation.
- Arrange for our Missionaries to share their ministry with our congregation whenever possible so that we can effectively pray for and support them.

- Encourage and arrange short-term missionary projects.
- Inform the Board of Deacons of planned activities before implementation.

PULPIT COMMITTEE

When notified of the Pastor's termination the Moderator shall call a special meeting to elect a Pulpit Committee. The church members shall select seven active church members: one Deacon, one Trustee, and five members from the church at large one of which shall be a young person between the ages of 15 and 18 who is an active member of the youth group. Nominations may be made prior to and during the meeting with the consent of the nominee.

The Pulpit Committee shall make a careful and diligent inquiry concerning possible candidates for the pulpit. When this Committee has unanimously agreed upon a candidate, the Committee may ask him to preach at any of the regular worship services of the church. No candidate shall be presented by this Committee until final action has been taken upon each former candidate. A two-thirds vote by ballot of the qualified members present and voting shall be necessary for the call. When the church has secured a new pastor the Pulpit Committee shall be dissolved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members:

- One Deacon,
- One Trustee (each chosen by the respective Boards) and
- One adult member of the church elected at the Annual Meeting, and will serve a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee shall:

- Secure a current list of church members from the Church Clerk.
- Consult with the Board of Deacons concerning prospective nominees for each office.
- Inform each candidate in writing of the responsibility of the office being considered.
- Obtain from each candidate prior to the Annual Meeting written agreement to accept the office if elected.
- Present a slate of candidates to the membership at the Annual Meeting. This slate shall consist of two nominees (when possible) for each office.

The Nominating Committee shall act upon any vacancy (other than the Board of Deacons), which occurs during the year. This committee shall appoint an officer to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. The congregation is invited to suggest names for candidates to the Nominating Committee for their consideration at least eight weeks before the Annual Meeting.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee shall consist of one Deacon, one Trustee, and one church member elected at the Annual Meeting. This Committee will serve a term of one year.

The Audit Committee shall provide the congregation with a written report of each audit at the Annual Meeting or at such other times as may be necessary.

The church may appoint such other committees as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the church.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

The stated meetings of the church shall be Sunday School, Sunday Morning Worship Service, Sunday Evening Service, Weekly Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.

Qualified voters at Church Corporate, and special meetings shall be members of the church as referenced in Article VI, Section 5. A quorum for all meetings shall consist of *15%* of the qualified voting members.

Any special business to come before the church shall be announced from the pulpit for two Sundays in advance of the special business meeting. Annual Church Corporate Meeting shall be held at the church in January.

Covenant meetings, if necessary, are to be held after the evening service on the First Sunday of the even numbered months of the year: February, April, June, August, October and December. Regular business may also be transacted at these meetings.

Communion Service is to be observed the First Sunday in every month, or other times at the discretion of the Deacons.

Such other meetings, including evangelistic meetings, shall be held as the Pastor and Deacons may feel led to recommend to the church.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

No part of the net assets of the corporation shall ever be used to the benefit of any donor, member, officer of the corporation, or any private individual. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation any assets after full payment of all debts and obligations of the corporation, shall be distributed among the "missionaries or mission organizations" supported by the corporation. The amount given to each shall be in percentage proportion to the yearly amount budgeted to each in relation to the total amount budgeted for that year as recorded in the most recent annual report. If these missionaries or mission organizations no longer exist, then the assets shall be distributed to any organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as organized exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes.

ARTICLE XII - ORDINATION

When in the judgment of The Board of Deacons a man is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Board of Deacons to call a council consisting of ministers and brethren to examine the qualifications of the candidate and to advise the church as to the suitability of the candidate for public ordination. The church shall then vote as to whether to proceed with the ordination. The Board of Deacons shall have the power to discipline, even to the revocation of the ordination credentials, any minister ordained under the constitution, who after a fair and impartial trial, is found guilty of heresy or sinful practices clearly forbidden by the Word of God and this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members present and voting at any Annual Meeting of the church, or at a meeting especially called for that purpose. The proposed amendment shall be inserted in the call, but no change shall be made in **ARTICLES II** and **III**.

The proposed change is to be placed before the church in writing at a business meeting at least one month before the date of the proposed action and read from the pulpit on the Lord's Day following that business meeting.

This Constitution as presently adopted shall be understood as setting aside and making null and void all former acts relating to the government of this church.

ARTICLE XIV - LEGAL DISCLAIMER

For legal purposes, this constitution and the whole New Testament of the Holy Bible shall serve as the by laws of this corporation.

Amendments

Mission Committee:

Passed on 2/8/2004

All mission funding requests must be submitted in writing with the parent organization listed with address and phone number for requests of their yearly financial statement.

All mission funding requests must be verified as a Christian mission with at least 80% of all funds going to the mission. Organizations will make available their mission and financial statements.

Mission requests must have a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church sponsor them and be able to give a testimony about the organization and why we should support it. Mission requests need 2/3 vote from the committee to accept a new mission.

Before any funds are taken from the mission account a request must be presented to the committee for approval.

Mission guests will be paid a visitation gift of \$25.00 from the missions account, if he/she will also be presenting the morning message they will be paid the pulpit fee from the general account. Any extra amount will be voted on by the committee.

For existing missions, support will continue for the contracted time. When on completion of the mission any further support will need to be re-evaluated.

A review of support amounts will take place yearly (Jan). Any support solicited above the budgeted amount must be voted on by the committee with 2/3 vote in favor to pass.

Qualifications:

Passed on 4/9/2006

If an individual seeking active membership has a medical condition which prevents full immersion baptism that individual may request from the Deacon's board to undergo an alternative baptism such as Effusion or Aspersion.