

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
GLORYLAND UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of Gloryland United Baptist Church, a congregationally governed body, in order to promote the work of Jesus Christ and His Church, do hereby adopt this Constitution:

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

This Church shall forever be known as the Gloryland United Baptist Church, currently meeting at Shelbyville, Indiana. It shall be a UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH, in fellowship with but independent of all other Baptist Churches of the same faith and order.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

To function as an independent body of Christ, to be governed by the Holy Bible and leadership of the Holy Spirit, to administer the ordinances of the church, contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints, strive to keep the unity of the Spirit and the bonds of peace, strive to win souls to Christ, to worship God and religiously educate our members. (Jude 1:3)

**ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE**

This Church receives the Scriptures as its authority in all matters of faith and practice. God's Holy Scriptures will be our guide.

Life is the very foundation of the plan that God has for mankind. The first thing He did after making man was to breathe into him the breath of life. Life is so important that He wants us to have it eternally. Therefore, we believe that human life begins at conception, and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental and/or physical well-being of the mother are acceptable. Such actions will be cause for exclusion from Church membership. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

After the gift of life God gave the gift of the sacred relationship between a husband and wife. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged

in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sexual intimacy. Especially, there can be no such relationship as a same sex or homosexual "marriage" in the eyes of God. This Church will never accept or allow this abomination to be performed in our building or by any of our preachers. Such behavior will be cause for denial of or exclusion from Church membership. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5-13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

We believe the Bible to teach that Jesus Christ is reigning now and that his Kingdom has already been established and exists on the earth in the form of His Churches. (Dan 2:31-47; Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15, 9:1; Luke 17:20-21; John 18:36)

Consequently, we do not allow any pre- or post-millennial doctrine to be promoted by ANY member, taught or preached in this Church, or promoted by its members in any other places they might attend. Such behavior will be cause for denial of or exclusion from Church membership. (Acts 2:29-36; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Heb 1:3, 8-13, 10:12; Jude 1:25; Rev 3:21)

We condemn all of the above practices and any person or organization that promotes or endorses them and will disassociate ourselves from all such as do.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION I – MEMBERS**

This Church shall consist of Immersed Believers in Jesus Christ who take the Holy Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, wholly agree to the Articles of this Constitution and accept the Articles of Faith and Covenant of this Church as found in the J.M. Pendleton D.D. Baptist Church Manual. (Matthew 3:13-16)

### **SECTION II – RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

Any person upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and giving evidence of a change of heart and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this Church, may by Baptism be received into our membership. (Matthew 3:14-16)

Any person being a member of a sister Church of the same faith and order may, by a letter of recommendation from said Church, be received into our membership.

Any person having been a member of a sister Church of the same faith and order but said Church is no longer in existence may be received into our membership by "statement of a letter". This could also apply to those persons who may have been unjustly excluded from a sister Church of the same faith and order.

When a licensed Minister from a sister Church presents himself to the Church for membership, he or the Pastor shall make public acknowledgement to the Church that he has been licensed.

When an Ordained Minister or Deacon presents himself to the Church for membership, he or the Pastor shall make public acknowledgement to the Church that he has been ordained and supply proof of his ordination if the Church requires. No man that has more than one (1) living wife will be recognized as an Ordained Minister or Deacon.

### SECTION III – DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

A member may be dismissed in one of several ways: by death, by exclusion and by a letter of recommendation to a Sister Church of the same faith and order.

The Church recognizes its God-given authority to deal with its members who fail to live up to their obligations and responsibilities.

Upon a reliable report of misconduct by any member AND in concordance with the process outlined by Christ (Matthew 18:15-17), at least three (3) male members in good Church standing will arrange to visit said member to further establish or refute the validity of the report. The men will report their findings to the Church who will then decide what, if any, action needs to be taken regarding said member. The desired result of these proceedings is the reconciliation of said member with the Church. If reconciliation cannot be established, the Church will have no choice but to exclude said member. If misconduct by a member is judged by the Church to be a “public” offence, which brings reproach upon the Church, no visitation will be conducted. The offending member will be charged and excluded from the Church. (1 Corinthians 5)

A member being absent three (3) months, without a Legitimate Reason shall be considered inactive and have no voting authority.

In order for an inactive member to become an active member again, they must attend at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the services held within a three (3) month period.

A member being absent six (6) months, without a Legitimate Reason shall be automatically excluded without notice at the end of the six (6) month period. (Hebrews 10:25)

Examples of Legitimate Reasons for Absenteeism:

- A. Illness, hospitalization, nursing home
- B. Military service
- C. Mandatory work situations

## **SECTION IV - RESTORATION**

Any member who has been excluded for any offense may be restored by the majority vote of the Church upon evidence of his repentance, reformation and public acknowledgement to the Church.

## **SECTION V – DUTIES OF MEMBERS**

The duties of the members shall be governed by the Covenant of this Church.

## **ARTICLE V – CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **SECTION I – WORSHIP**

The Church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship.

### **SECTION II –THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper shall be observed at such times as shall be decided upon by the Church.

### **SECTION III – BUSINESS**

The Church shall meet for the purpose of the transaction of business on the first Sunday of each month.

A quorum to carry on the business of this Church shall consist of the Pastor, two (2) male members and one (1) more member of either gender. All participating members must be in full and regular standing with the Church.

At any regular meeting for worship, the Church may act upon the reception of members, but no other business can be conducted unless a duly announced special business meeting has been scheduled.

### **SECTION IV – SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The Pastor, or Church Clerk in the absence of the Pastor or in the event of Pastoral vacancy, may call special meetings subject to a majority vote by the Church. Such meetings must be announced from the pulpit two (2) services in advance or give fourteen (14) days' notice.

### **SECTION V – ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual election for officers and teachers will be at the regular business meeting in March.

## **ARTICLE VI – CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

### **SECTION I – CHURCH OFFICERS**

The officers of this Church shall be Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Financial Secretary, and such other officers deemed necessary by the Church for its advancement.

### **SECTION II – PASTOR**

#### **A. TERM OF OFFICE**

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period in accordance with the J.M. Pendleton Manual or whenever a vacancy occurs.

#### **B. QUALIFICATIONS**

He must be a man called of God, ordained according to God's Word, and meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy and Titus. These writings of Paul must not be interpreted to mean that a man MUST be married or have children. When Paul writes "the husband of one wife" he is warning against the practice of polygamy, having multiple wives at the same time. In fact, Paul's advice is for a man not to marry as demonstrated in 1 Corinthians Chapter 7. This can be the only interpretation to reconcile Paul's writings so as not to be contradictory. Also, from an historical perspective, the same J.M. Pendleton whose Church Manual we have adopted wrote in his "Brief Notes on The New Testament" concerning 1 Timothy 3 "Husband of one wife: this does not mean that he must be a married man; but if he is, he must practically condemn polygamy, having but one wife." This also means that if he has been married more than once he cannot have more than one (1) living wife. (1 Corinthians 7; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

#### **C. ELECTION**

His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one (1) week's notice has been given. The Church shall seek out a suitable Pastor with only one man considered at a time. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Church with the understanding that the relationship may be terminated by either the Pastor or the Church upon either party's request (the Pastor's or the Church's).

### **SECTION III – DEACONS**

#### **A. TERM OF OFFICE**

The office of a Deacon must be filled by a man ordained by this Church or by a Sister Church of the same faith and order. It is NOT an elected office. He is ordained a Deacon and carries this appointment to any Church of which he is a member. Any Deacon found not being faithful in his duties to the Church will be asked to resign his office as Deacon and submit his ordination credentials to the Church. (Acts 6:1-6)

## B. QUALIFICATIONS

1 Timothy 3:8-13. Paul's instructions for Deacons concerning "the husbands of one wife" being the same as for Pastors would be subject to the same interpretation including only having one (1) living wife.

## C. DUTIES

The Deacons shall be helpers and advisers of the Pastor in the spiritual interest of the Church. They shall prepare for and assist in the administration of the ordinances.

## SECTION IV- TRUSTEES

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

The Trustees shall consist of five (5) active male Church members.

### B. TERM OF OFFICE

The Trustees, when elected, shall serve for a three (3) year non-concurrent term.

### C. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall have supervision of the properties of the Church and shall direct all maintenance and repairs.

## SECTION V – MODERATOR

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

The Pastor shall serve as moderator of the Church.

### B. PASTORAL ABSENCE OR VACANCY

In the absence of the Pastor, the Church Clerk shall call the Church to order for the transaction of business and to elect a Moderator Pro-Tem.

## SECTION VI – CHURCH CLERK

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

The Clerk shall be an active male member of the Church.

### B. TERM OF OFFICE

The Clerk will be elected annually.

### C. DUTIES OF CHURCH CLERK

The Clerk shall keep a careful and complete record of all official business of the Church. The Clerk shall keep a list of the members of the Church with their addresses, date of admission, dismissal or death, together with the record of the method of admission, etc.

## SECTION VII – FINANCIAL SECRETARY

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

The Financial Secretary shall be an active male member of the Church. (A Deacon if and when possible).

### B. TERM OF OFFICE

The Financial Secretary will be elected annually.

### C. DUTIES OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and make a report at the business meeting of the financial transactions of the Church. The financial records of the Church are subject to audit by the Church at any time of its choosing.

## SECTION VIII – SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

All officers and teachers shall be active members in regular standing, and shall be expected to regularly attend worship services as well as other services designated by the Church.

### B. ELECTION

All officers and teachers must be active members of this Church before elected, and must be present at the time of the elections.

### C. ABSENCES

Should such an occasion arise that a teacher or officer be absent, that person shall notify the superintendent if possible, and seek to obtain a substitute upon approval of the superintendent.

## ARTICLE VII – CHURCH FINANCE

This Church recognizes and adopts the Scriptural method of Tithes and Offerings as its plan of finance.

## **ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SECTION I – ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall go into effect immediately upon its adoption by the Church on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **SECTION II – RULES OF ORDER**

We, the members of Gloryland United Baptist Church, do hereby adopt the J.M. Pendleton D.D. Baptist Church Manual as our Rules of Order.

### **SECTION III - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution shall not be amended in any way except by the majority vote of the members present (that are active and in regular standing) at a business meeting especially called for that purpose. Such call for this meeting must be made not less than 30 days prior at a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Church and must include a written copy of the proposed amendment(s). The call along with the proposed amendment(s) must be read from the pulpit on each Lord's Day preceding the Special Meeting so that every Church member might be notified of the proposed action.

### **SECTION IV – CHURCH DISSOLUTION**

Upon dissolution of this Church, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of this Church, distribute the remaining assets of the Church to another work (e.g. Church, mission) of the same faith and order. No part of the Church treasury or distributed assets shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth hereof.



## Amendment(s)

The entire constitution was reviewed and amended on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

An amendment was made to change the following articles and sections on March 5, 2023.

- Article I amended from “currently meeting in Muncie, Indiana” to “currently meeting in Shelbyville, Indiana.
- Article III amended from “The King James Version of God’s Holy Bible will be our guide.” to “God’s Holy Scriptures will be our guide.”
- Article VI Section IV amended from “The Trustees shall consist of three (3) active male Church members.” To “The Trustees shall consist of five (5) active male Church members.”