

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF

Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run located at
415 Mennonite Road,
Altoona, PA 16601

THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run.

ARTICLE II

Statement of Purpose for Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run

The object of this Church is the glorification of God. The church is the chosen vessel to proclaim God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary and His bodily resurrection to the world.

The church accomplishes this end through ministry in Word and Deed through:

1. **Evangelism** for the saving of lost souls
2. **Discipleship** of these lost souls by gathering men and women out of the world and into lifelong process of growing grace and holiness within themselves, as well as compassion for the lost according to the teaching of God's Holy infallible Word the Bible.
3. **Worship** in Spirit and in Truth, both corporately, and through a life of self-sacrifice.
4. **Preservation** of the true church free from apostasy and compromise.
5. **Outreach** of the body of Christ into the world with compassion and love, armed with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. **Promoting** and **Teaching** an earnest defense of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again

ARTICLE III

DOCTRINE

SECTION I. Articles of Faith. We declare complete subjection and obedience to the Word of God delivered to us in the Holy Scripture. We also affirm that the Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed,

The Following articles further express our common beliefs.

A. The Holy Scriptures.

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writing. We also believe that they are infallible, and are of supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith and life. (II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3:16-17)

2. We believe that believers should use translations that preserve the word choice and meaning of the original languages.

B. The Godhead. We believe in one God eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:1; Col. 2:9; John 10:30; Matt 28:19)

C. The Virgin Birth. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. (Isa. 7:14; Matt.1:18-23; I Tim.3:16)

D. Man. We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in word and thought and deed. (Gen. 1:27; 2:17; Rom. 5:12-21; 3:23; 6:23; I Cor. 15:22; 2:14; Psalm 51:5; Jer. 17:9)

E. The Person and Work of Christ.

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as the once and forever perfect representative and substitutionary sacrifice and atonement for sin on the cross. (Luke 24:44-47, Rom. 3:25, 1 Cor. 15:3-4, Hebrews 9:25-29)

2. We believe, based upon Christ's sinless life, substitutionary death, and resurrection that all who believe in Him by faith alone are justified through the exchange of our sins to Him and the imputation of God's righteousness to us. The work of Christ, through this great exchange is absolutely necessary, to incur salvation and avert the justified wrath of God as the penalty for sin. (John 3:14-21, Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 4:1-7, 25; Gal. 2:16)

3. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Luke 24:1-43; Acts 2:24-33; Heb. 7:25, 9:24-25; I John 2:1; Rom. 8:11; Phil. 3:20-21)

4. We believe in the blessed hope, and the personal, bodily, visible, return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. From which He has come to establish His kingdom forever. He shall also come to judge the living and the dead. The faithful will experience a bodily resurrection into eternal life and paradise with God himself in the New Jerusalem. The unregenerate will experience a bodily resurrection into eternal punishment. (Isa. 9:6-7; 65:17-21; 11:6-9; Micah 4:3-4; Hosea 2:18, Acts 1:9-11; II Thess. 1:7-10; I Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Jude 14-15; Rev. 20)

F. Salvation. We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. This regeneration occurs as the Holy Spirit softens the heart of the unbeliever who then becomes convicted of his own sinfulness and sees the complete spiritual depravity of his heart, thoughts and actions. Then, driven by this conviction, we seek repentance of our sins and salvation through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that all who confess by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and King of their lives, having already experienced this inward regeneration of the heart. Also this inward regeneration results in being born again of the Holy Spirit, reconciled to God and averts his justified wrath for sin. We believe all who are saved are preserved unto the day of redemption. We believe this salvation is offered according to God's unconditional grace, mercy and love alone. (John 3:3-8; 10:28; I Peter 1:23; Rom. 3:20-24, 5:10, 8:35-39; Eph. 1:11-14, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:14)

G. Sacraments. We believe Jesus Christ instituted two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper which are to be routinely performed as humble acts of remembrance and spiritual recognition of the atoning work of Christ.

1. Baptism. We believe that for the believer, baptism by immersion, sprinkling, or pouring is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, signifies engrafting into Christ and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace. Thus baptism symbolizes outwardly, the inward baptism of the Holy Spirit which enjoined us into Christ's death, and resurrection as we died to our old selves and are raised up as a new creation. Children of believing parents are to be dedicated as an act by the parents of their dedication to raise their child to model Christ in their life within His church. (Matt. 28:19, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:1-6)

2. Lord's Supper (Communion). We believe Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes again. In this act the bread spiritually represents his body, broken, and pierced on the cross. The grape juice spiritually represents His blood which was shed. Thus both spiritually represent the sacrifice and suffering of Christ on the cross for the atonement of sin, and making possible the gift of salvation and life everlasting. Christ himself, the night before He was crucified, commissioned the regular observance of this Last Supper to all who are His disciples (Psalm 22:14-19; Isaiah 53:3-4; Acts 2:38-39; I Cor. 11:23-27; Col. 1:19-20)

H. The Eternal State of the Saved and Unsaved. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the just into everlasting blessedness and the unjust into everlasting punishment. (John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:4-5; Dan. 12:2; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31)

I. Separation. We believe that all the saved are called into a life of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and from apostasy, and are under obligation to all the world by life and word to the truth and proclamation of the Gospel. (Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 5:14-18; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:14-16; II Cor. 6:14-18; II Tim.3:1-5; II John 9-11; Rev. 18:1-5)

J. The Personality and Work of Satan. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan as the enemy of God and His chosen people. We believe he is a fallen angel who was banished from heaven along with a third of the angels because of pride and rebellion wanting to overthrow God

himself. We believe Satan is a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies. He is the accuser and deceiver of the world who seeks to steal, kill and destroy mankind. We believe he is a foe whose final defeat is guaranteed. (Job 1:8-9; Isaiah 14:12-15, John 8:21-45, 10:10; I Peter 5:8; II Cor.2:11, Rev. 12:5-12)

K. The Church. We believe that the church in its invisible form is universal Kingdom of God with Christ as its head and King. We believe the Church is the true body of Christ and that all who are born again are members regardless of organizational affiliation. We believe the primary mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, baptize, and make disciples drawn out of all the nations of the world. We are called into fellowship with one another as the body of Christ being unified with love and peace, by the Holy Spirit, according to our common faith. We believe every member of the church has different spiritual gifts to build each other up. Each member also is called to a life of obedience, self-denial, holiness, and good works as we all are being prepared to be the bride of Christ. (Luke 11:19-20 John 18:36-37; Matt 28:18-20; I Cor. 12:13; Eph.1:22-23; 4:4-13, 5:21-23; Titus 2:14)

L. The Local Church. We believe the local church is the visible representation of the invisible, universal Kingdom of God. We believe in the freedom of the local church to determine its own secondary doctrinal positions, and in its responsibility to uphold these doctrines and practices. We also believe it's the mission and primary responsibility of the local Church to effectively proclaim the Gospel, to evangelize the lost, and disciple the body of Christ toward holiness and grace as well as equipping the saints gathered there for works of service.

(Matt 16:19; Acts 20:17-35; I Cor. 5; 6:1-5)

M. Marriage

1. We, as a church body, affirm that God has ordained and established marriage to be between one man and one woman. We affirm that God's design for marriage is for life. We also affirm that God has ordained marriage as the only proper and legitimate place for sexual intimacy and expression. (Genesis 2:18, 23-24; Exodus 20:14; 1 Cor. 6:9-10;)

2. We recognize any sexual relationship outside of the bonds of marriage as sinful. These include, but are not limited to: premarital sexual relations, extramarital sexual relations, homosexuality, pornography, bestiality, polygamy and pedophilia. We also see any effort to reassign or redefine the gender of birth as sinful. However, we see all of these sins as forgivable through Christ and believe that repentance of sin and faith in Christ should be preached to those under such sin. (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Romans 1:26-28)

3. We shall have no hatred toward anyone because of their sinful sexual choices. We recognize them as sinners just as we were and continue to be, and would remain condemned for our sins had it not been for the grace of God made manifest to us in Christ Jesus. We have concern for all who are living in sexually permissive lifestyles, as their disregard for the law of God puts their soul in peril. (Exodus 20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Romans 3:20-24, 6:23)

N. Human Life. We believe that human life begins at conception and precious in the sight of God. As such, abortion and euthanasia/assisted suicide are violations of God's command "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-14)

SECTION 2. In subscribing to these Articles of Faith we by no means set aside, or undervalue, and of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, all of which we believe to be God's own written Word, given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but the knowledge and belief of the truth as stated in our Articles of Faith we deem necessary to sound doctrine and therefore requisite for Christian fellowship.

SECTION 3. The provisions of Article III shall be considered as fundamental, the basis upon which this Church is founded, and shall only be amended under serious consideration and with much prayer and wise counsel. All such amendments to Article III must be in accord with a unanimous vote of the leadership team of Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

SECTION 1. Application. Any person desiring to unite with this Church shall make an application for such purpose to the Pastor or a member of the Leadership team. Such applicant shall agree to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Church and the applicant's personal acceptance shall be affirmed upon completion of the new member class, and interview by the leadership team as described in the By-Laws. If the new applicant has never received baptism, during infancy or as a believer, in an orthodox Bible believing Church, such arrangements shall be made for the baptism of the applicant upon a profession of faith to the leadership team, and successful completion of the new member class. This baptism will then be performed before the church body just prior to formal acceptance of the applicant into Church membership.

SECTION 2. Reaffirmation. Any person desiring to unite with this Church into membership, who was at one time a previous member can do so by Reaffirmation for membership. The Pastor or leadership team shall fix a time and place for a meeting with the applicant, who shall be interviewed to discern the applicant's assurance of salvation, doctrinal belief, and Christian experience.

SECTION 3. Letter of Recommendation/Transfer. Any person desiring to unite with this church upon Letter of Recommendation or Letter of Transfer from another church, shall present such letter in person to the Pastor or member of the Leadership team for membership as provided for in Section 1 hereof, and shall be examined concerning his assurance of salvation, doctrinal belief, and Christian experience by the Pastor and members of the leadership team. They shall then be affirmed into membership after a shortened version of the new member's class as deemed necessary by the pastor and leadership team.

SECTION 4. Invalids. An invalid who is unable to attend the public services may be granted membership in this Church. Such applicant for membership shall be interviewed by the Pastor and one or more members of the Leadership team as to his assurance of salvation, doctrinal belief, and Christian experience. Upon their recommendation the Leadership team shall vote upon his application.

****Rebaptism.** If the applicant has received baptism, during infancy or as a believer in an orthodox church, the applicant shall be informed re-baptism is unnecessary. If the applicant desires to still undergo baptism as a symbolic act of rededication of their life to Christ and His Church, and the pastor feels no conscientious objection to it, the baptism shall be performed as a rededication.

SECTION 6. Procedure in Accepting New Members.

A. When the leadership team is satisfied that an applicant is a Christian and has met the requirements for membership as provided in Article IV, Section 1-5 of this Constitution, the leadership team may then accept such person as a member of this Church, provided that such action by the leadership team shall be unanimous, a quorum being present, at the particular Leadership team meeting.

B. A new member, having complied with Sections 1-5 of Article IV, shall be publicly welcomed at a regular Lord's Day Service by the members of the church.

(Optional Use)

C. The following Covenant shall be used for the purpose of publicly welcoming new members into the congregation:

The Pastor shall propose to the new member or members, in the presence of the congregation, the following questions, and as the new member(s) to respond in the affirmative if they agree:

1. Do you receive the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
2. Have you experienced that you were a condemned and helpless sinner, and, so far as you know in your heart, you believed in Christ as an all-sufficient Savior, realizing that God, for Christ's sake, has pardoned your sins?
3. Will you earnestly strive to avoid the vices of this world, to increase in knowledge, to grow in grace, and to live your life for Christ?
4. Do you sincerely agree to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Church so long as you may be a member thereof; to be faithful in your attendance of the services of the Church unless providential hindered, as long as God may give you health and strength; and to faithful support of the church?
5. Will you endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, love your brethren in the Lord; to act toward them with kindness, truth, love and peace?
6. **(Asked of the congregation)** Do you welcome (person(s) name) as a brother/sister(s) in the congregation and church family as companions seeking the way of Christ, promising to bear one another's burdens, and share our gifts with the world?

The new member(s), having answered these questions in the affirmative, the Pastor shall lead the congregation in the following covenant: (shortened version used if need be)

These new member(s), having answered these questions in the affirmative, We, then, the members of this Church, do affectionately welcome you to this fellowship and family* (congratulations) with us in the blessing of the Gospel, and covenant together, God helping us, that as strangers and pilgrims we will abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 1.

that we will put away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us; 2. that as we have opportunity, we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith; 3. that we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God; 4. and we will give as God hath prospered us; 5. not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (I Peter 2:11; Eph. 4:31-32; Gal. 6:10; Heb. 13:7; I Cor 16:2; II Cor. 9:7.)

(Then the Pastor shall give the right hand of fellowship to the new members.)

SECTION 7. Terminations of Membership. Membership in this church may be terminated by:

A. Transfer. A Letter of Transfer shall be granted to any member who applies for it, provided that member is in good standing and not subject to or under discipline at the time of the application. When such a letter has been granted, the relationship of the member to this Church shall be considered terminated. A Letter of Transfer shall be granted at the discretion of the leadership team.

B. Exclusion. If a member is habitually absent from the Communion and other gatherings for worship and fails to communicate with the Church for a period of one year and fail to reply to communications, that member will be suspended and properly notified; if at the end of the second year he fails to reinstate himself, he shall again be notified and if by the end of the third year and after two admonitions he fails to reinstate himself, he shall then be automatically place on a Permanent Inactive List. These individuals may become members in good standing again only by vote of the leadership team after taking the regular new member class and giving their testimony before the leadership team.

C. Excommunication. (See Article IV, Section 3 of this constitution.) IT is right and in harmony with the Scriptures to exclude from this fellowship any person who holds false and heretical doctrine or who live inconsistently with a Christian profession; or who violates the law of public morals; and who disturbs the unity and peace of the church.

D. Request. Any member, upon written request, may have his name removed from the Church roll.

ARTICLE V

Conduct

SECTION 1. All public and private means of grace, such as regular attendance at the services of God's House (including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper), the daily reading of the Bible, private and family prayer, personal and public testimony, and the winning of others to Christ, shall be urged upon the membership. – (Eph 2:21,22;p 4:12,13; II Peter 1:5,8; 3:18)

SECTION 2. Proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures (Mal. 3:8-11). The membership is urged to contribute cheerfully and regularly toward the support of the Church of such proportion of its income as required in the Word of God. – (Luke 6:38; Prov. 3:9,10; Matt. 23:23; I Cor 16:2)

SECTION 3. The place of each member as a necessary vital part of the Church as set forth in I Cor. 12:12-27 should be clearly understood. Each member has a ministry or service to God and others and should function in accordance with the overall function and mission of the church to preach the gospel and make disciples. Only by obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ can a member grow spiritually and his talents be used for the glory of God. In order for the body of Christ to function, each member must regularly exercise his gifts according to the grace given. Therefore a member to be considered in good standing shall attend services regularly, commune at least once each year and contribute of his finances and talents according to his means.

ARTICLE VI

Church Discipline

SECTION 1. The discipline of the Church shall be entirely entrusted to the Pastor and the leadership team. All members of the Church are subject to its doctrine, government and discipline.

SECTION 2. Corrective (Redemptive) Discipline. Corrective discipline has for its aim the glory of God, the welfare and purity of the Church as we mutually hold each other accountable and spur on one another toward holiness. More specifically is not for condemnation of the accused, but instead is to bring about repentance, reconciliation and peace with God, and the church as well as restoration back into God's covenant community. Corrective discipline implies imperfection and a tendency to sin and to cause offense. The offense, in the judgment of the leadership team, may be suspension for a period from the Lord's Table, erasure from the roll, or excommunication. Every effort shall first be made to clear up difficulties and remove offenses before church action is taken. No offense should be brought before the Church until the instructions of Christ has first been followed. (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-18, Eph. 4:15)

Section 3. Process of Corrective Church Discipline:

1. The first step of church discipline is and always shall be if one church member has been offended or sin against, the offended party shall make every reasonable effort possible to bring the sin up to the accused party as quickly as possible speaking the truth in love to make peace between the two parties. If the confrontation brings about repentance, and/or makes peace between both parties the process of discipline is stopped.

2. If the offended party has made every effort to confront the offending party, and either is unable to contact them or the confrontation does not result in repentance and/or makes peace between both parties, then at least two members of the leadership team shall be contacted. A meeting shall be held between both parties and one or more leadership team members in order to substantiate the claim. If the accusation is substantiated of the accused party, repentance will be necessary by the accused party in order to prevent from continuing the process of corrective discipline. If genuine repentance is made and peace established the process of discipline is stopped.

3. If the offended party still fails to repent after the accusation has been substantiated by at least two leadership team members the matter shall be taken before the congregation at a special meeting declared by the involved leadership team members for the process of excommunication.

SECTION 3. Excommunication. In all cases of outward disorderly conduct or heretical doctrine so opposed to the Church's life and faith as to destroy the possibility of fellowship, the procedure shall be as follows: The accused person shall first be confronted as directed in Matt. 18:15-18. The accused person shall be notified of the special meeting at least two weeks prior. The purpose of this special meeting will be for the church body and leadership together with one voice asking for the repentance and return to right fellowship of the accused member. If the accused member still denies the need for repentance. There shall be a congregational vote held. After this time a vote of the leadership team and congregation shall be taken requiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarter) majority to find the accused guilty. If a majority find the accused guilty then the person's name shall be stricken from the church role.

SECTION 4. Restoration of Excluded Members. The right to exclude persons or the withdrawal of fellowship (II Thess. 3:6) is in harmony with the teaching of the New Testament (Matt 18:16,17) The Apostolic Church had also the right to restore excluded members who gave satisfactory evidence for being repentant (II Cor 2:6-8). The object of the exclusion or suspension having been accomplished, the leadership team shall have the right to restore the repentant member to full membership by a unanimous vote.

ARTICLE VIII

Church Government

SECTION 1. This Church acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head; the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, discipline and order; the Holy Spirit as its Teacher; and the autonomy of the local church to govern, discipline, and determine secondary doctrinal positions by its own action.

SECTION 2. The government of the Church, the conduct of business, the management and control of all its property, real and personally, the supervision of its general work, its organizations, and branch works shall, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, be vested in the leadership team, which shall consist of the Elders, Deacons and the Pastor who shall be elected by the congregation into position as provided for in the By-Laws of the Church. The Elders, Deacons, and Pastor shall be considered the leadership team. They shall be voted into position and shall not need any further vote to continue in service unless deemed necessary by either the leadership team member themselves or special consideration due to discipline by the congregation.

SECTION 3. The necessary quorum and manner in which the leadership team shall be convened shall be provided for in the By-Laws; but no meeting of the leadership team shall ever be called during the absence of the Pastor without his knowledge; except that in cases of emergency in the Pastor's absence, the leadership team may act, but only by the consent of at least four-fifths (4/5)

of the leadership team present and voting at such meeting. The necessary quorum for a leadership team meeting having less than the four fifths (4/5) if the absent member gives consent to have the meeting without their presence.

SECTION 4. The leadership team shall have the power to delegate to either individuals or committees the right to transact any of its business or exercise of such powers. The transaction of such business or the exercise of such powers, however, shall be subject at all times to the supervision and control of the Leadership team.

SECTION 5. Without in any manner limiting the authority of the leadership team but solely for the purpose of enumerating some of its powers, the leadership team shall have power to:

A. Call congregational meetings for any purpose which it deems to be necessary or proper, provided that proper notice of such a meeting shall be given as provided in the By-Laws.

B. Receive, consider, and dispose of any grievances, suggestions, or recommendation by any member or organization of the Church.

C. Accept persons into Church membership, discipline them and terminate their Church membership in the manner herein provided in the by-laws.

D. Exercise all powers and duties which belong to the sole governing body of the Church, congregation and corporation, which includes the oversight of all auxiliary organizations, fellowship groups, etc., but shall at all times be subject to the two-thirds (3/4) vote of the congregation present and voting at a special meeting as described in the by-laws.

SECTION 7. When the Church is without a pastor, it shall be the duty of the leadership team (or Joint leadership team) to supply the pulpit with men whose Christian character and teaching are in accord with the Object and Articles of Faith of this Church, and who will subscribe to these without mental reservation.

ARTICLE IX

Finances

SECTION 1. The leadership team shall not encumber with loan, or transfer, or sell or purchase any real estate for the Church except by the express authorization conveyed through a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the membership present and voting at a constitutionally called congregational meeting. No obligation shall be incurred to spend over one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500) on any one item without special vote of the congregation, unless aid item appears in the adopted budget and approved at the annual congregational meeting and approved with a three quarter (3/4) vote.

SECTION 2. All auxiliary organizations, fellowship groups, etc., are responsible to, and under the jurisdiction of, the Church through the Leadership team.

ARTICLE X

Officers

Elders

SECTION 1. Elders to be elected by the Church shall normally be at least two (2) in number. Should no suitable and/or available men be found to fill the office of elder, the leadership team may operate at a deficiency or surplus, but should never function without elders.

SECTION 2. Any vacancy in the office of Elder may be filled by appointment of the leadership team until the next annual congregational election, at which time the Congregation may elect an Elder to serve the unexpired term.

SECTION 3. Elders shall be elected by the congregation upon approval and acceptance by the leadership team. The congregational vote shall require a three-quarter vote (3/4) for the prospective elder to assume the position. The office shall be held upon the elder himself or congregation by means of discipline votes to have him removed from office.

SECTION 4. Elders shall be men who are regular members in full communion of the Church, of mature judgment and unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual welfare of the Church. (I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9)

(optional use)

After they have been elected, but before they may assume office, they shall be ordained and installed as Ruling Elders in the following manner. They shall receive instruction from the Pastor, and then appear before the congregation and respond affirmatively to the following questions:

A. Do you believe the Scriptures as written in the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and accept them as the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

B. Have you accepted the Object, Doctrine, practice and rule of this church?

C. Will you be cheerfully governed by the Constitution and By-Laws of this church, and promise to study its purity, unity, and peace?

D. Do you accept the office of Ruling Elder (or Deacon) and Promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the Office according to the Word of God?

(Then the question shall be put to the congregation as follows:)

Do you, the members of this Church, acknowledge and receive these brethren as Ruling Elders and Deacons, and do you promise to pray for them that they may be Spirit-filled and Spirit-guided men, and will you yield to them that honor obedience in the Lord to which they are entitled according to the Word of God and the Constitution of the Church?

(The members will answer in the affirmative by raising their right hands, and the Pastor shall proceed to consecrate the candidates to their office, by prayer, as the Elders-elect devoutly kneel.)

Those who have not previously been ordained to office shall be ordained by the minister laying his right hand on the head of each one in succession and saying, "Take thou the authority to execute the office of (Elder or Deacon) in the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord, which office I now solemnly commit unto thee in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen"

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Lord Jesus Christ, I hereby declare you to be regularly elected and duly ordained and installed an elder of Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run

SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the Elders to be diligent and faithful in attendance at the Leadership team meetings and at the regular service of the Church; they shall assist the Pastor at the Lord's Table and in the ministry of visitation among members of the congregation; they shall provide the elements for the Lord's Supper when requested to do so; they shall pray for and encourage the Pastor and assist him in the spiritual oversight of the Church.

Deacons

SECTION 7. Sections 1-4 of Article X of the Constitution shall also apply to Deacons. Their particular responsibility shall be to look after the Physical needs of the members of our Church, and the church building itself as provided for in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Tim. 3:1-13; and they shall hold themselves in readiness for church visitation, ushering, and other duties, when requested to do so.

SECTION 8. Deacons shall be elected and installed in the same manner as Elders, as provided for in Sections 1-4 of Article X of the Constitution and in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI

Pastors

SECTION 1. The Pastor of the Church shall be chosen by the congregation (or congregations) for an indefinite period, by ballot, upon the recommendation of the leadership team after prayerful investigation and consideration. Only such men shall be recommended who can and will conscientiously affirm and subscribe without mental reservation, to the Doctrinal Subscription stated in Article XII. The selection of the Pastor shall be voted upon at a meeting of the congregation specially called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be given at the morning Church Service on the two consecutive Lord's Days preceding the meeting called for such election. A majority of at least ninety percent (9/10) of the voting membership present and voting shall be necessary to elect a pastor.

SECTION 2. The Pastor shall perform all duties of the ministry, and shall, with the prayerful support of the Leadership team, have control of all meetings and spiritual affairs of the Church.

SECTION 3. The Pastor and the Leadership team shall consider and decide upon all pulpit supplies and special pulpit features.

SECTION 4. If at any time the Pastor shall make application to be released from the pastorate, or if the relations between the Pastor and the congregation become such as to be detrimental to the welfare of the Church, the relationship may be terminated by the congregation in ninety days from the date of the notice of intention, or in a shorter period of time, if it be mutually agreed upon. The Leadership team shall have authority to consider matter and make recommendations to the congregation, but it shall require a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the membership present and voting at a constitutionally called congregational meeting to dismiss the Pastor.

ARTICLE XII

Doctrinal Subscription

The Pastor, Elders, Deacons, and Adult and Children's Ministry Coordinators shall be regular members in full communion of the Church. They, together with all of the teachers and/or assistants in any other aspect of adult and/or children's ministry, outreach event, or worship team performance etc. need not be members of the Church but must be willing to align themselves to doctrinal positions of the church, and not teach or practice anything in direct violation of those beliefs as stated in the church constitution.

Also they must be willing to submit to the discipline of the Church, as outlined in the corrective (redemptive) discipline policy, if there is a willful outright violation of any those beliefs in which their conduct would undermine the unity of the church in part or as a whole. Any person in such positions must be of mature judgment and Christian character, loyal to the Word of God and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual welfare of the Church.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the congregation present and voting at any regular congregational meeting or special meeting called for the purpose, providing in either case, that such amendment shall be distributed in written form to the membership at least two weeks prior to such congregational meeting. Article III shall only be amended under serious consideration and with much prayer and wise counsel. All such amendments to Article III must be in accord with the purpose and vision of Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run as stated earlier.

THE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Meetings

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of the Church shall run from January 1st to December 31st.

SECTION 2. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be announced on two successive Sundays prior to the meeting, and shall be held during the first week of February, in the Church building, for the approval of the budget, outlining the year's ministry agenda, and for the transaction of such business as may be properly brought before the meeting. The treasurer shall inform the congregation of the budget, and pastor shall inform of the upcoming years ministry agenda.

SECTION 3. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Leadership team at any time, provided that notice of the time, place, and purpose thereof, shall be given at the morning service on two consecutive Lord's Days immediately preceding such meeting.

SECTION 4. Special meetings shall be called by the Leadership team, or if they fail to act, then by the Pastor, when such a meeting is required under the provision of the Constitution and by-Laws, or when written request to call such a meeting shall be signed by two-thirds (2/3)% of the members of the Church in good standing. Notice of such meeting shall be given in accordance with the provision of Section 3 hereof. Only matters for which such a meeting is called may be discussed or considered.

SECTION 5. The Leadership team shall arrange all the details of all congregational meetings and see that all possible preparation for their successful conduct is made.

SECTION 6. Any person whose name appears on the roll of the Church, who is not under discipline, shall be presumed to be a member in good and regular standing.

SECTION 7. Any member of the Church in good and regular standing shall have the right to vote on all questions properly brought before any congregational meeting. The Leadership team members shall have the right to vote on any matter as individuals, even when their action on the Leadership team has been called in question.

SECTION 8. At any congregational meeting called in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws, 25% of the membership shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE II

The Leadership Team

SECTION 1. It is recommended that the leadership team hold at least one meeting every three months.

SECTION 2. The quorum of the leadership team shall be the Pastor and at least half of the leadership team members. When the church is without a pastor, the quorum of at least one-half (1/2) of the total number of the Leadership team members. The Leadership team shall meet at the call of the chair or at the request of one-third (1/3) of the Leadership team.

SECTION 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all business transacted at the congregational and Leadership team meetings, keep an accurate record of the membership, and carry on all necessary correspondence for the Leadership team and the congregation. If no recording secretary is present, then one leadership team member shall assume such responsibility.

SECTION 4. The Treasurer shall deposit all church funds in a bank account, or accounts, as instructed by the Leadership team, which shall be opened and maintained in the name of the Church, and shall disburse the same at the direction of the Leadership team. He shall make a quarterly written report to the Leadership team and an annual report to the congregation. He shall submit his books for an annual audit prior to the congregational meeting and at such other time or times as shall be directed by the Leadership team. He shall also count and keep a record of all regular offerings of the Church in the presence of the Financial Secretary or some other member of the Leadership team. In his absence, another member of the leadership team shall perform the same duties.

SECTION 5. All persons who handle funds of the Church and its organizations shall, if so required by the Leadership team, furnish a bond in the amount required by the Leadership team, the cost of which shall be paid by the church.

SECTION 6. All persons who handle funds of the Church and its organizations shall, when so required by the Leadership team, furnish their books, legible and balanced, for inspection or audit.

SECTION 7. Any member or non-member desiring to be up front and leading/participating in the order of the service (ex. Worship team member, corporate prayer, special music etc.) needs to have permission prior to the service by the pastor, or member(s) of the leadership team. Also any person participating/leading any part of the order of the service must do so with the proper respect toward an atmosphere of worship, and not detract from it. Children under the age of may worship in a respectful way upfront as long as they are under direct supervision and they do not detract from any worship team member's ability to lead the congregation in worship.

ARTICLE III

Children and Adult Ministry Committee

SECTION 1. Purpose and Powers. The Children and Adult Ministry Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of providing and directing an effective children's and adults ministry for Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run. The overall purpose of the Children's and adult's ministry is to glorify the Lord by providing spiritual training for the adults and children of the church.

Its goals will be twofold:

1. first to reach out to the unsaved of the church and community with the life-giving message of Jesus' atonement for sin and so to bring them to a place of personal faith and salvation;
2. second, the children's and adult ministries shall design appropriate programs of instruction to provide discipleship and training in the things of God with the hope that our people might grow into maturity in Christ. Since the Bible is God's Word to mankind, the each part of either the children's or adult's ministries' shall endeavor to equip each student with the Bible knowledge and skills necessary for deepening a lifetime relationship with the Savior.

SECTION 2: Responsibilities. The Children's and Adult's ministries shall be responsible for conducting the children's and adults Sunday School, Children's Church, Awanas and all activities directly related to it.

Among its various responsibilities it shall:

1. Fill vacancies in the ranks of the teachers from those spiritually, emotionally and educationally qualified to serve in these areas;
2. Purchase such standard teaching materials and aids as it deems best;
3. Adopt a missions program for the Sunday School and a Scripture memory program to help our children attend camp; ad any other program that shall be helpful in fulfilling its purpose.
4. All actions of the Association shall be reported to the Leadership team and be subject to its review for support, encouragement and accountability to teach according to the churches doctrinal standards as well as conducting themselves in a manner that is positive, encouraging, and fosters building up and unifying the church body as a whole.

SECTION 2. Membership. This committee shall be composed of the Children's Coordinator, Adult's Coordinator, Teachers for Sunday school, children's church, Awanas and any other discipleship group that may form.

SECTION 3. Meetings. It shall meet at least once every four months at the call of the coordinators, or the pastor to discuss and decide business properly and to plan and pray for the furtherance of the ministry of the children's and adult ministries and to evaluate its current

success at fulfilling its purpose. It is important that all members attend these meetings and so a quorum shall be three-fourths (3/4) of the members. The pastor or at least one other member of the leadership team shall be required also to attend the meetings.

SECTION 4. Officers. Adult's ministry coordinator, Children's ministry coordinator, treasurer and secretary shall be officers. Each coordinator shall be a member in good standing that has been approved by the leadership team with a three quarter (3/4) vote. Each coordinator shall be responsible for the week to week running of the children's and adult ministry of the church and shall insure that each class is being conducted in a way that glorifies the Lord. Each coordinator shall serve as a liaison between the Association and the Leadership team. A leadership team member shall fulfill the duties of a coordinator in their absence unless the leadership team member delegates such responsibility to a teacher who is also a church member in good standing. The Treasurer shall count and keep all funds of the Sunday School and shall disburse them at the direction of the Association. The association treasurer shall keep his books legible and clear and shall have them audited by the Church treasurer before the annual congregational meeting each year. The Secretary shall keep records of attendance in each class and keep the minutes of the Association meetings. If any vacancy occurs it shall be filled by the respective coordinator and approved by the leadership team.

SECTION 4. Teachers. Teachers are the most important part of children's and adult ministry. They must be godly men and women who have burden to serve their students in the things of Christ. The teacher must be faithful in prayer for their teaching and their pupils. *If a teacher must be absent from their class they shall endeavor to get a worthy substitute and notify the Children's ministry coordinator, or adult ministry coordinator as soon as possible.*

ARTICLE IV

Outreach

SECTION 1 Purpose. As a right and necessary part of the overall purpose of the church, every effort shall be made to go out into the world in word and deed to save lost souls from eternal damnation with the life saving grace and hope through salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Also each outreach/evangelistic effort will be designed and carried out in such a way as to plug new believers into the appropriate child or adult discipleship ministry.

SECTION 2 Structure. Each outreach shall fall under one of two categories: Word or Deed or a combination thereof.

1. **Word outreaches** in which will proclaim the saving gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. **Deed outreaches** seek to meet some physical, emotional, intellectual need in the community.
3. **Word and Deed** Outreaches which include any combination of the previous two.

No outreach shall be done to incur a profit for the sake of offering the message of the gospel. As Matthew 10:8 (ESV) says, "*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.*"

SECTION 3 Membership. Any member or non-member who is willing align with the doctrinal statements of this church, and under the discipline of the leadership team is warmly invited to perform an outreach that follows the Purpose and Structure of an outreach as listed in section 2. Also any outreach must be submitted and approved by the leadership team prior to its beginning.

Ad hoc (as needed) outreaches committees will be formed, structured and carried out for the duration of the planning and carrying out of any given event with the direct oversight of the pastor or leadership team member and will be dissolved afterward. Every member should make every effort possible to assist in “church wide” outreach efforts as it is a scriptural mandate to every believer to evangelize in some way in word and/or deed.

Article V

Deacon’s Fund

The Deacon’s Fund shall be composed of all monies specifically designated for it. Any expenditure from these funds shall require the approval of at least two members of the leadership team. When possible, payments should be in form of gift certificates (from places like grocery stores) rather than giving cash money to people. Priority should be given to members of the local community who are in need over strangers who are passing through when determining to whom gifts are to be given.

ARTICLE VI

Special considerations for Weddings and Marriages

SECTION 1. We reject any definition of marriage that is anything other than the union of one man by birth and one woman by birth, and recognize that such arrangements which deviate from this order are sinful. Weddings failing to meet these criteria will not be performed at Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run or by its pastor(s).

SECTION 2. All forms of sexual sin shall be taught as violations of God’s law by the pastor(s) and teachers of Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run.

SECTION 3. We will deal with sexual sin with love, the declaration of the law, and the preaching of the gospel, and in some cases church discipline. Aggressive and violent actions toward those involved in sexually sinful lifestyles shall not be tolerated.

SECTION 4. The pastor(s) and/or the leadership team have the right to refuse to perform any wedding ceremony, or hold any wedding at Cornerstone Fellowship of Mill Run.

ARTICLE VI

Dissolution of the Church

SECTION 1. In case of dissolution of the local church, the entire residue of money in the treasury will be disbursed among fundamental missions at the direction of the last officers.

SECTION 2. These by-laws may amended by a three-quarters vote of the Congregation present and voting at any regular congregational meeting or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that such amendment shall be distributed in written form to the church membership at least two weeks prior to such meeting.