



Cedar Valley Baptist Church

Elgin, Texas

Corner of FM1704 and FM 969
Bastrop County

CONSTITUTION

**ADOPTED ON 2-28-16
REVISED MARCH 2018
REVISED OCTOBER 2020**

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

I. NAME, LOCATION and AFFILIATION

The body shall be known as the Cedar Valley Baptist Church, (CVBC) 1905 FM 969, Elgin, Texas 78621, located on the corner of FM 969 at FM 1704, Bastrop County. CVBC was formally organized as a self-governing body of believers on August 16, 1992.

CVBC is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and as such is subject to Group Ruling #1703 providing exemption from Federal Income Tax under the provisions of IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3).

II. OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic spiritual body empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfil the Great Commission by sharing Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world. To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership. To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers. To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man. To be a church which ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world in Jesus' name. To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality and possessions to the lordship of Christ. To cooperate heartily by prayer, gift and service in the effort to invite people into the kingdom of Christ throughout the world. To promote systematic Bible study and training for Christian service and to encourage in every possible way life enlistment in some form of Christian activity .

III. STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired written word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention of 2000. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind

IV. STATEMENT OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS:

ON MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, CVBC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors/ministers and staff of CVBC shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of CVBC shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of CVBC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to CVBC members

and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by CVBC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of CVBC.

V. STATEMENT ON HUMAN LIFE

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. It is imperative that all persons employed by CVBC in any capacity, or serve as a volunteer, agree to and abide by this statement on human life.

VI. STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY FOR MATTERS OF FAITH AND CONDUCT

The statements of faith do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of CVBC's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Senior Pastor is CVBC's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. If the Senior Pastor position is vacant, the CVBC Deacon Body through its Chairman will be the final interpretive authority.

VII. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord

Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, 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, doctrines, and discipline; 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 nations.

We also engage to maintain family devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. We shall avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and abuse of intoxicating drinks; and illegal drugs; to use our influence to combat the abuse of illegal drugs and the spread of pornography.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation without delay. (Matt 5:23-26)

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the principles of God's Word.

VIII. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it, who shall depend mightily upon the leadership of our Lord, the head of this body. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

All internal groups, created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action. Any other group that associates itself with CVBC shall have no authority unless empowered by a vote at a CVBC business meeting.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. In so far *as* is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Austin Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.