

CONSTITUTION
of the
Open Door Baptist Church
of
Columbia, Missouri

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Open Door Baptist Church, in orderly manner do hereby establish the following principles by which we mutually agree to be governed in the affairs of our church.

ARTICLE I -- The Name

The name of this organization as incorporated under the laws of Missouri shall be Open Door Baptist Church of Columbia, Missouri.

ARTICLE II -- Purpose

The Purpose of this local church is to:

1. Evangelize the unsaved through local church outreach, church planting, and missions.
2. Edify and encourage believers through preaching, teaching, worship, counseling, and fellowship.
3. Educate and train servants for the work of the ministry through church-sponsored educational ministry.

The pastor shall have liberty to implement any ministry or activity in keeping with the aforementioned purpose subject to church approval of budget requirement.

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and religious purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE III -- Declaration of Faith

Section 1: The Scriptures

We believe that every word of the sixty-six books of the Bible was given by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16). We believe that the faith was delivered to the saints once and for all (Jude 3). Consequently, we reject all post-apostolic claims to divine revelation. Though no translation is inspired, we have selected the Authorized King James Version for public proclamation because of its accuracy, majesty, time-proven reliability, and widespread familiarity.

Section 2: The Godhead

We believe in one God and Creator of all and a literal interpretation of the Genesis account of creation. We believe God eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (I John 5:7).

- A. *God the Father:* We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, boundless in love, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayers; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ, His Son.
- B. *The Person and work of Christ:* We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal, only-begotten Son of God; equal in nature, yet submissive in duties. Jesus is of virgin birth, sinless life, and substitutionary death for the sins of the whole world. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension, and pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return (John 3:16, Phil. 2:6-7, Luke 1:26-35, II Cor. 5:21, I John 2:2, I Cor. 15:3-4, I Thes. 4:13, Rev. 20:1-10).
- C. *The Person and work of the Holy Spirit:* We believe in the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in our conviction and salvation (John 16:7-11); that He indwells at the moment of salvation (Rom. 8:9); that He fills as we submit our lives to Him (Eph. 5:18); and that the proof of Spirit-filling is the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer, not speaking in tongues (Gal. 5:22-23).

Section 3: The Doctrine Of Salvation

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but by choice fell into sin and death. We believe that the gift of eternal life is bestowed upon the believing sinner totally by God's grace and apart from human works (Eph. 2:8-9). We believe that the inseparable components of repentance and faith are involved in the salvation of the soul, whereby man turns from sin and trusts Christ for salvation (Acts 20:21). We believe in the eternal security of a believer's relationship to God (John 10:27-29). We believe heaven and hell are the respective eternal abodes of the saved and the lost (John 3:36, 5:29, I John 5:12).

Section 4: The Doctrine of the Church

We believe that the local church consists of an assembly of baptized believers who have united together for the express purposes of evangelism, edification, fellowship, discipleship, instruction, and worship. We believe that the officers of the church are scripturally qualified pastors and deacons (I Tim. 3), and the ordinances of baptism and communion (Matt. 28:19, I Cor. 11:26) are memorial and not saving. We believe that church government should be conducted in the form of a theocratic republic (Heb. 13:7, 17), and as spiritual leaders and servants, pastors and deacons are accountable to God, one another, and the local church. We believe the concept of a church being under the authority of a denomination is foreign to scripture.

Section 5: The Standard of Christian Behavior

We believe that as Christians we should seek to become more Christ-like in our manner of life daily. In being like Christ we must learn to abstain from all appearance of evil, avoiding any behavior or activity which would cause a weaker brother to stumble, or to be offended, and at all times seeking to walk worthy of the Christian life to which we have been called (II Pet. 3:11. I Thes. 5:22, Rom. 14:21, Eph. 4:1, II Cor. 5:20).

Section 6: Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan.

Section 7: Church and State

We believe that the church and state are separate God-ordained institutions, having different functions, and should remain free from the dictation or patronage of the other.

ARTICLE IV -- Membership

Section 1: Reception of Members

- A. By profession of faith and baptism.
- B. By letter from another church of like faith and practice.
- C. By statement of faith in Christ and baptism by immersion that was memorial and not sacramental in nature.
- D. By restoration from discipline.

Section 2: Procedure for Membership

- A. Indicate desire for membership.
- B. Relate testimony of salvation and baptism to pastor or designated worker.
- C. Read Declaration of Faith, and Membership Covenant, and declare acceptance.
- D. Be presented for membership publicly in church service.

Section 3: Dismissal from Membership

- A. Death.
- B. Transfer of letter to another church of like faith and practice.
- C. Inactive, i.e. absent from services for six months when not providentially hindered.
- D. Discipline for the following reasons:
 1. Substantial departure from the church's Declaration of Faith.
 2. Immorality that brings reproach to the name of Christ and violates plain teaching of scripture (e.g., fornication, adultery, drunkenness, seeking divorce, murder, theft, etc.)
 3. Sowing discord and division among the membership.

Section 4: Membership Covenant

The church shall provide a copy of the Membership Covenant to all prospective members. The purpose of the Membership Covenant is to establish roles and responsibilities of church leadership and membership.

ARTICLE V -- Organization

Section 1: Officers and their qualifications, duties, selection, tenure, and termination.

- A. Pastor
 1. The qualifications of the pastor are those given in I Tim. 3:1-7, Tit. 1:5-9, and Acts 6:4.
 2. The duty of the pastor shall be the spiritual oversight of the church.
 3. In the event of a vacancy in the pastoral office, the deacons shall organized a pastor search team of deacons and church members to consider those candidates

who meet Biblical qualifications listed in scripture and who are in complete agreement with the church's Declaration of Faith and Constitution. The pastor search team shall interview possible candidates, then unanimously recommend their choice to the deacons. The candidate then must come and speak in all services and fellowship with as many members as possible. The church will then vote in a special business meeting to extend a call by a minimum of 75% of the qualified voters present.

4. The call of a pastor is for an indefinite term. Should he resign, sixty days' notice is required.
5. The church may dismiss the pastor for violation of the Biblical qualifications or doctrinal deviation. The accusation(s) must be presented at a special business meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote shall be taken on whether to dismiss him. The church shall provide a severance period of fourteen days.
6. The church shall authority to call an ordination council for the purpose of ordaining men into full-time pastoral ministry.

B. Pastoral Staff

1. Pastoral staff shall be called and dismissed by the pastor, though the church must approve the budget requirement.
2. The pastor shall provide each staff member with a detailed job description outlining all duties and responsibilities, and oversee their diligence.

C. Deacons

1. The Biblical qualifications for deacons are found in Acts 6:1-7, and I Tim. 3:8-13.
2. The duties of the deacons are to be servants to the pastor and the church, as outlined in their job description.
3. The deacons shall have ministry responsibility delegated to them by the pastor.
4. The trustees of the corporation shall be deacons.
5. Deacons shall be chosen as follows:
 - a. The church shall nominate prospective deacons.
 - b. The pastor will send out a questionnaire to ascertain the basic scriptural qualifications of the prospects.
 - c. The prospective deacons who are scripturally qualified will be administered a deacon training course by the pastor.
 - d. The prospective deacons who successfully complete the training course shall be appointed to a six-month trial term by the pastor.
 - e. At the end of the trial term, the appointees shall be elected to the office of deacon by a three-fourths majority of the church.
 - f. Deacon training course may precede nomination.
6. No man may be nominated to the office of deacon until he has been a member in good standing for at least six months.
7. Deacons are elected for an indefinite term subject to an annual review by the pastor to appraise their continued qualification and desire to remain in the office.
8. A deacon may be dismissed at any time by a decision of the pastor or two-thirds majority vote of the church, for failure to perform his job description.

D. The church clerk, treasurer, and financial secretary shall be appointed by the pastor with the approval of the church, and provided with a job description. This appointment will be

made annually or when vacancies arise. These officers may be dismissed by the pastor or two-thirds majority vote of the church.

Section 2: Meetings

- A. Church service days and times shall be selected by the pastor to best meet the needs of the church.
- B. Regular business meetings shall be held the month following the close of the previous fiscal quarter.
- C. Special business meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacons (when the church is without a pastor), or at the written request of twenty percent of the voting members.
- D. Special services may be scheduled by the pastor.

Section 3: Elections and voting regulations

- A. Those members eighteen years of age and older may vote.
- B. Twenty percent of all resident members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- C. A two-thirds majority of members voting at a meeting shall be necessary to carry action except in extending a call to a pastor where a three-fourths majority is required. In the absence of the necessary majority to carry action, the church will be called to prayer to actively seek God's will in the matter.
- D. Except where it is contrary to the constitution, *Roberts Rules of Order* shall guide the conduct of the business meetings.

Section 4: Committees and Workers

- A. The pastor may appoint a committee for any purpose deemed necessary.
- B. The pastor or his designated staff shall select and appoint all church workers and provide job descriptions and/or training.
- C. The pastor or his designated staff may dismiss a church worker for violation of the worker's covenant or failure to fulfill his job description.

Section 5: Auxiliary Organizations

No auxiliary group shall form without receiving authority from the church.

ARTICLE VI -- Church Finances

While we believe that the church should operate by faith, we also believe that everything must be done decently and in order so as to provide things honest before all men.

Section 1: Annual Budget

An annual budget shall be prepared by the pastor, treasurer, and deacons every year. This budget shall be presented to the church for ratification. This budget shall govern the financial operation of all phases of the church's work for the forthcoming year.

Section 2: Expenditures

All expenditures must be in accordance with the church's "expenditure procedures" sheet.

Section 3: Dispersal of Funds

All moneys contributed to the church ministries and designated by the donor for their dispersal shall be dispersed according to the donor's desires as quickly as possible subject to current tax laws.

Section 4: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall match the calendar year.

Section 5: Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE VII -- Autonomy

This church shall continue to be a Baptist Church independent of any ecclesiastical denomination or hierarchy.

ARTICLE VIII -- Amendments

This constitution may be amended (except for Article III, Declaration of Faith) by a two-thirds majority vote of the qualified members present, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit two weeks in advance of the vote.

Revisions to the CONSTITUTION
of the Open Door Baptist Church
of Columbia, Missouri

Amendment 1

The following sentence was added to ARTICLE II – Purpose:

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and religious purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Amendment 2

ARTICLE VI -- Church Finances, Section 5: Dissolution was replaced by:

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Amendment 3

On August 4, 1996, ARTICLE V – Organization, Section 2: Meetings, B, which had previously read:

B. Regular business meetings shall be held the third Sunday of the month following the close of the previous fiscal quarter. These will occur in January, April, July, and October.

Was replaced by:

B. Regular business meetings shall be held the third Sunday of the month following the close of the previous fiscal quarter. These will occur in February, May, August, and November.

Amendment 4

On May 24, 2004, ARTICLE V -- Organization , Section 3: Elections and Voting Regulations, B, which had previously read:

B. Twenty-five percent of all resident members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Was replaced by:

B. Twenty percent of all resident members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

On May 24, 2004, ARTICLE VI -- Section 4: Fiscal Year, which previously had read:

The fiscal year shall run from February 1 through January 31.

Was replaced by:

The fiscal year shall run from October 1 through September 30.

On May 24, 2004, ARTICLE V – Organization, Section 2: Meetings, B, which previously had read:

B. Regular business meetings shall be held the third Sunday of the month following the close of the previous fiscal quarter. These will occur in February, May, August, and November.

Was replaced by:

B. Business meetings will occur in January, April, July, and October.

Amendment 5

On May 1, 2011, ARTICLE V, Section 1: Officers and their qualifications, duties, selection, tenure, and termination, A3, which previously had read:

A3. In the event of a vacancy in the pastoral office, the deacons shall organize themselves into a pulpit committee to consider those candidates who meet Biblical qualifications listed in scripture and who are in complete agreement with the church's Declaration of Faith and Constitution. The pulpit committee shall interview possible candidates, then unanimously recommend their choice to the church. The candidate then must come and speak in all services and fellowship in as many homes as possible. The church will then vote the following Sunday night in a special business meeting to extend a call by a minimum of 75% of the qualified voters present.

Was replaced by:

A3. In the event of a vacancy in the pastoral office, the deacons shall organized a pastor search team of deacons and church members to consider those candidates who meet Biblical qualifications listed in scripture and who are in complete agreement with the church's Declaration of Faith and Constitution. The pastor search team shall interview possible candidates, then unanimously recommend their choice to the deacons. The candidate then must come and speak in all services and fellowship with as many members

as possible. The church will then vote in a special business meeting to extend a call by a minimum of 75% of the qualified voters present.

Amendment 6

On October 23, 2011, ARTICLE V – Organization, Section 2: Meetings, B, which previously had read:

Business meetings will occur in January, April, July, and October.

Was replaced by:

Regular business meetings shall be held the month following the close of the previous fiscal quarter.

Amendment 7

On October 28, 2012, ARTICLE VI -- Section 4: Fiscal Year, which previously had read:

The fiscal year shall run from October 1 through September 30.

Was replaced by:

The fiscal year shall match the calendar year.