

CONSTITUTION

1/27/2016

Hilltop Bible Fellowship, Inc.

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this Constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the Church in an orderly manner while pursuing its ministry. This constitution will guide this Church in conduction His ministry locally, nationally or across all borders as He leads.

I – NAME AND ORGANIZATION

This Church shall be known as the Hilltop Bible Fellowship. Meetings began on November 5, 2006, with services held in the Ben Lomond Methodist Church. On February 4, 2007, the Church was organized as a nondenominational, evangelical Christian church. On February 11, 2007, Hilltop Bible Fellowship became the official name. On April 4, 2008, Hilltop Bible Fellowship, Inc. was incorporated in the State of Arkansas as a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation, document number 8753290002, and meets all the requirements of the State of Arkansas and the Internal Revenue Code to be exempt from all state and federal taxes. On April 6, 2008, the Church held its first service at 435 North Park Avenue, Ashdown, Arkansas.

II – OBJECTIVES

This Church shall have the following objectives:

- (1) To teach the Bible as the inspired, authoritative Word of God, which is to be literally interpreted from the creation in Genesis to the end of time in Revelations.
- (2) To be a dynamic, unified spiritual body of one accord, empowered by the Holy Spirit to teach, baptize, disciple, and lead as many people as possible, to a personal relationship with God. (Matt 28:18-20).
- (3) To help members realize their spiritual gifts and encourage them to use these gifts in the sharing of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).
- (4) To be a Church whose purpose is to be Christ like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment to the lordship of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2: 1-13).
- (5) To help members grow in the knowledge of God and man through Church programs of Bible teaching, training, and education (Acts 2:42-47).
- (6) To be a Church that believes, observes and obeys the commandments, statues, and teaching of Jesus Christ.
- (7) To encourage members to support Christ's ministry through personal stewardship (Luke 6:38).

III - STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. We firmly believe in a literal interpretation of the entire Word of God. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 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 and to minister to all. The ordinances of the Church are Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Our desire is to better know and understand God, through an intimate, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are governed by our members and not by an outside organization. The eight basic core beliefs of the membership of the Church are:

- (1) The Bible is the infallible, inspired, authoritative Word of God.
- (2) There is only one God and He eternally exists in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- (3) Jesus Christ was virgin born. He was all God and all man. He lived a sinless life. He died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins. He redeemed us through His shed blood. He was bodily resurrected and now sits at the right hand of the Father. He is personally coming again very soon to earth to rule and reign.
- (4) All are born into sin and naturally separated from God. To be accepted by God (born again or saved), there must be a belief in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection; a repentance of sins; and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Salvation is the results of faith in Jesus and His death on the cross. It is by God's grace (not our works) that one receives the gift of eternal life. Jesus shed His blood on the cross and died in our place as payment for one's sin debt and whereby a person has right standing with God. Salvation is by Faith through Grace.
- (5) The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner and indwells all born again believers to give power, direction, and instruction to live a godly life in accordance with the Word of God.
- (6) The Church, ordained by God, is here to reach the lost; train and educate believers; and minister to people's physical and spiritual needs. Each member has a place and function in the body and a responsibility to use their God-given gift;
- (7) Marriage was instituted and ordained by God. Marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Scriptures. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity, as defined in the Scriptures, be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality (as defined in the Scriptures) and cohabitation (living together outside of marriage) is a sin and an offensive lifestyle to God. Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and God. From this union should come a family that honors and obeys God. This Church only recognizes marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. The Church's ordained ministers shall only officiate in weddings between one man and one woman. The facilities of the Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman, of which one must be an Active Member.
- (8) There is a resurrection of the saved and the lost. The saved will dwell eternally with God the Father and Christ in Heaven and on earth. This is the gift of Eternal Life. The lost is eternally separated from God for rejecting God's only remedy for sin – His Son, Jesus Christ - as their personal Lord and Savior. This is known as the Second Death when the lost is cast into Hell.

To preserve this Church, we believe that unity and single-mindedness of all Members are essential for the fulfillment of the objectives of our Church. It is necessary that all Members of the Church initially and continually agree with and adhere to all elements of our Statement of Beliefs, the Bylaws and the Constitution of the Church.

IV - 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 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, as God has prospered us, toward its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through the world. In case of difference of opinion in the Church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to study diligently the word of God; to religiously educate our children; to see 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; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith. We pledge as a Church and to each other to take a stand against deeds of the flesh and to live according to the fruits of the spirit according to Galatians 5:19-26.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to exhort and encourage each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys; 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 and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay; to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. 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 this spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

V - POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership (see the Bylaws). 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. This Church is not subject to the control of an ecclesiastical body.

VI – AMENDMENTS AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Changes in the Constitution may be made at any business meeting of the Church provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting and copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting or upon request. Amendments to the Constitution or a restatement of the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of the Active Members of the Church. Various Church Policies and Procedures may become enacted from time to time and are in effect upon the entire Church membership. There will always be a Building Use Policy in effect approved and enforced by the Trustees. Other policies and procedures will be added as needed and copies of them included in the records of the business meeting minutes, constitution, and bylaws by the Secretary.