

# **Constitution of Christ Proclamation Church**



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Christ Proclamation Church  
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# **Constitution of Christ Proclamation Church**

By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, we have gathered together to plant a gospel-centered church in Greater Hartford. We were called to unite here on Sunday, October 5, 2014 under the name of Christ Proclamation Church of Windsor, CT in order to worship our great God and spread the gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Since God has graciously seen to prosper this work to the present day and having searched the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we recognize the need to constitute ourselves. We do this in order to conform more closely to His will for the church in this present age and to prepare ourselves for greater future efforts, all for the glory of His great name.

Now therefore, we do hereby organize ourselves in accordance with the Connecticut Secretary of State and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to God, as revealed in the pages of Scripture and articulated in the Affirmation of Faith and the Covenant of this church.

## **A. NAME**

The name of this church is “Christ Proclamation Church,” which is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and Converge Worldwide, formerly known as the Baptist General Conference (BGC), and hereafter referred to at times as “Proclamation.” The name communicates the purpose for organizing and the reason for meeting, as follows:

1. Christ – the promised Messiah whose finished work on the cross is the foundation of our faith. He is the beginning and the end and the very center of all of history, Christianity, and the church. That's why Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is about Jesus. Christ holds first place in everything, including the name of this church.
2. Proclamation – the outworking of our faith in Jesus Christ is the declaration of that reality to others. When you truly experience salvation, there's nothing you want more than for others to know the joy of eternal life. Our passion for gospel proclamation is captured in our vision statement, “Knowing Christ and making Christ known.” Proclamation is at the center of our name because it's at the center of who we are as a church.
3. Church – the assembly of God's people who have repented of their sin and have trusted in Christ alone for their salvation. It's a local expression of those who love and follow Christ and desire to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel. Therefore, the church is not a physical building or a dead institution. Instead, it's the people of God who willingly and joyfully come together to worship Him to the praise of His holy name.

Thus, Christ Proclamation Church is the gathering of God’s people, that is, those who have been born of God’s Spirit through faith in God’s Son, which meets in order to remember, study, share, worship, proclaim and adore their great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who loved them and gave Himself up to death for them. We also gather in order to proclaim that glorious message to the community, state, and world in which we live.

## **B. MISSION**

### **1. Statement of Vision**

To see God display His power by saving sinners and sanctifying saints through the faithful proclamation of the gospel by all of its members to His eternal glory (1 Corinthians 2:1-5). Stated briefly, our vision is “Knowing Christ and making Christ Known.”

### **2. Statement of Goals**

- A. To grow a gospel-driven church, in both quantity and quality, in the region between Hartford, Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts that has a passion to minister the historic, biblical gospel to the people of Greater Hartford.
- B. To facilitate the growth of gospel-driven churches, in both quantity and quality, in the Connecticut River Valley through assisting or revitalizing existing churches, as well as planting new churches in strategic locations like college towns, places of economic and social vitality, and areas with solid population bases.

### **3. Statement of Objectives**

- A. To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in all contexts, to all people, believers and unbelievers, and from all of Scripture, since the entire Bible speaks of Christ, who through the work of the Holy Spirit converts and renews the soul, thereby building the church (Matthew 16:13-19, Luke 24:13-49, John 5:39-46, Romans 1:14-17).
- B. To shepherd the flock of God so that each individual member contributes to the edification of the body until we all grow up fully into Christ (Ephesians 4:7-16).
- C. To facilitate biblical tolerance toward one another in all areas neither addressed nor mandated by Scripture so that the gospel and its proclamation will remain primary (Romans 14:1-23, 15:1-7).
- D. To love one another in a way that points to Christ’s love for the church, validates our conversion, and demonstrates the reality of Christ to the world (John 13:34-35, 17:20-21, Acts 2:42-47, 1 John 3:10-23).

- E. To teach the gospel from all of Scripture so the mind and the heart are instructed and moved to a deeper love, adoration and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 1 Peter 1:3-12).
- F. To love and care for the people of Greater Hartford by serving them in very real and practical ways, with the ultimate goal being the proclamation of the gospel, since that addresses their greatest need (Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 10:25-37, 1 Peter 2:11-17).
- G. To carry out the Great Commission by supporting, praying, and partnering with other gospel-driven organizations to advance the Kingdom of God worldwide (Matthew 28:18-20).

### **C. DOCTRINE**

#### **1. Converge Worldwide Doctrinal Distinctives**

Christ Proclamation Church has adopted the Converge Worldwide Affirmation of Faith. This affirmation, being an appropriate summary of biblical teaching, provides the basic doctrinal standard at Proclamation. In agreement with these doctrines, we want to be explicit that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The specific tenets are as follows.

- A. **The Word of God**  
We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- B. **The Trinity**  
We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons (Father, Son & Holy Spirit), that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.
- C. **God the Father**  
We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
- D. **Jesus Christ**  
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

- E. Holy Spirit  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.
- F. Regeneration  
We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
- G. The Church  
We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
- H. Christian Conduct  
We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others, that their conduct should be blameless before the world, that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions, and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.
- I. The Ordinances  
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for the commemoration of his death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- J. Religious Liberty  
We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.
- K. Church Cooperation  
We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational

organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at anytime. Churches may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary basis.

#### L. The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

### 2. Christ Proclamation Church Doctrinal Distinctives

In addition to the Converge Worldwide Doctrinal Distinctives, Christ Proclamation Church has adopted the 1646 Edition of “The First London Confession of Faith.” This historic confession represents an excellent creedal synthesis of the faith, not only for its strong definition of the church, but also for its roots in the Protestant Reformation and unashamed declaration of the sovereign grace of God in salvation. Agreement to this creed is not required for membership; however, it’s a helpful historic document to understand the core values of this church.

## D. LEADERSHIP

Christ Proclamation Church believes that there are two offices prescribed by Scripture, that of elder (bishop, overseer, presbyter) and that of deacon. We believe the church is to be managed by elders and appropriate authority has been vested in them (as a group, not individually) by God to carry out this responsibility (1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:17). This authority is not a license for lording it over the flock (1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 20:26-28), but rather, the elders are to lead as servants and examples. Deacons serve the church by relieving the elders of certain responsibilities so that they can more fully devote themselves to the ministry of the word and to prayer (Acts 6:1-6).

#### 1. Pastor

Based on Ephesians 4:7, we believe that pastor/teacher is a gift, not an office. Therefore, the qualifications and responsibilities of a pastor are identical to that of an elder. That being said, we do believe it is advantageous to have one or more full-time elders who work especially hard at teaching and preaching, and whose regular occupation is to serve and lead the church. As such, Christ Proclamation Church will compensate them with a competitive wage since the laborer is worthy of his wages (1 Timothy 5:17-18). Because the position of pastor is a paid position, the selection and removal process will be handled on an individual basis, guided by the elders with significant input from the congregation.

## 2. Elder

An elder is a man of exemplary, Christ-like character who is able to lead God's people by teaching them God's Word in a way that profits them spiritually. The consistent pattern of the New Testament is a plurality of elders in each individual local church. Therefore, a plurality of elders will be the spiritual leaders of Christ Proclamation Church.

### A. Qualifications

The qualifications for elder, aside from being a member in good standing of Christ Proclamation Church, are listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. We believe that elders must be men (1 Timothy 2:12 and 3:2), but may be single or married. Therefore, elders must be above reproach in their character and able to faithfully teach the Word of God.

### B. Responsibilities

The elders will, in keeping with the principles set forth in Scripture (Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 5:17, James 5:14, and 1 Peter 5:1-4), undertake the responsibility of shepherding God's flock by devoting themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word. They shall have particular authority to oversee worship services and the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. They will also interview potential members, oversee church discipline, interview and recommend candidates for all offices and positions, manage the work of deacons and other agents of the church, hire, oversee, evaluate, and when necessary, terminate paid church staff, and take any other action which is necessary and proper in order to faithfully shepherd the people of God at Proclamation.

### C. Officer Appointment

In keeping with the incorporation requirements of the Connecticut Secretary of State, the elder board will appoint a church President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who are to be considered officers or directors of Christ Proclamation Church. The treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the church, including the collection of revenues and settlement of expenses. However, if possible, the bookkeeping function, including the disbursement of funds, will be separated from the physical handling of the assets, including the collection and receipt of all funds. No paid pastoral staff will hold the office of treasurer or have any access to the books or the physical assets themselves.

### D. Personnel Decisions

Whether hiring pastoral or non-pastoral staff, the elders will determine a process that may or may not include the establishment of a separate committee. Regardless of the specifics, the congregation will always be informed of the process and their input solicited. The elders will also be responsible for determining and releasing any paid church staff. Again, congregational input will be solicited and appreciated in all cases where appropriate.

## E. Term of Service

An elder's term of service will be at least three years, assuming that he continues to be qualified for and desire the office of elder. With the exception of pastors, elders will be required to go through the evaluation process after each three-year term. After serving two consecutive terms, they will be encouraged to take a one-year sabbatical from the elder board. After the sabbatical year, the elder will be required to go through the evaluation process to be added back onto the elder board. General wisdom will dictate the number of elders, although less than three seems imprudent.

## F. Selection Process

### 1.) Recommendation

Although anyone in the church may recommend someone to be an elder at any time; at least once a year, typically at the Annual Meeting, the elder board will initiate the nomination process by asking for recommendations from the congregation. Those recommendations will be given to the elders in a private manner and not publicly.

### 2.) Interview

The elders will give due consideration to any recommendation received. If the candidate being recommended is in good standing at Proclamation and aspires to the office of elder (1 Timothy 3:1), an interview will take place between the person being recommended, his wife if he's married, and at least two representatives from the elder board.

### 3.) Evaluation

As a result of the interview process, the elder board will present to the church a list of qualified nominees to the office of elder. For a minimum period of two weeks, each Proclamation member will be given the opportunity to express excitement or concern about the nominees through an elder survey. On the basis of that feedback, the elder board may remove names from the list of nominees.

### 4.) Determination

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the elder board will present the new elders to the church at the next regularly scheduled members meeting.

## G. Removal Process

### 1.) Voluntary Sabbatical

Although the commitment to the office of elder is typically three years, an elder may remove themselves from the office at any point in time for personal or family reasons. This will be considered a voluntary sabbatical. In the event the sabbatical extends beyond

one year, the elder will be required to go through the evaluation process again to be added back onto the elder board.

## 2.) Involuntary Removal

In the event that a charge is made against an elder by two or three witnesses and confirmed to be true or there is some other significant reason that merits the concern and wellbeing of the church or her reputation, that elder may be removed from office upon the super majority vote of three-quarters of the rest of the elder board. Any such action will be done in accordance with Jesus' instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

## 3. Deacon

Deacons serve to care for the physical and financial needs of the church, and they do so in a way that heals divisions, brings unity to the body of believers, and supports the leadership of the elders. With the practical service of deacons, the elders are free to devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-7)

### A. Qualifications

The qualifications for deacon, aside from being a member in good standing of Christ Proclamation Church, are listed in 1 Timothy 3:7-13. We believe that deacons may be men or women, single or married.

### B. Responsibilities

The specific responsibilities of deacons will be determined by the needs of the church. In summary, they are practical duties that are done physically so the elders are free to lead the church spiritually.

### C. Term of Service

A deacon's term of service will be directly related to the needs of the church. In the case of an on-going need, the deacon's term of service will be at least three years, assuming he or she continues to be qualified for and desire the office. Deacons will be re-affirmed by the elders after three years of service. After serving two consecutive terms, they will be encouraged to take a sabbatical.

### D. Selection Process

#### 1.) Recommendation

Although anyone in the church may recommend someone to be a deacon at any time; at least once a year, typically at the Annual Meeting, the elders will initiate the nomination process by asking for recommendations from the congregation. Those recommendations will be given to the elders in private and not publicly.

2.) Interview

The elders will give due consideration to any recommendation received. In the event that the candidate being recommended is in good standing at Proclamation and desires to be a deacon, an interview will take place between the person, their spouse, and at least two representatives from the elder board.

3.) Evaluation

As a result of the interview process, the elders will present to the church a list of qualified nominees to the office of deacon. For a minimum period of two weeks, each Proclamation member will be given the opportunity to express excitement or concern about the nominees through a deacon survey. On the basis of that feedback, the elders may remove names from the list of nominees.

4.) Determination

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the elders will present the new deacons to the church at the next regularly scheduled members meeting.

E. Removal Process

1.) Voluntary Sabbatical

A deacon may remove themselves from the office at any point in time for personal or family reasons. This will be considered a voluntary sabbatical. In the event that the sabbatical extends beyond one year, the deacon will be required to go through the evaluation process again in order to serve as a deacon.

2.) Involuntary Removal

In the event that there is some significant reason that merits the concern and wellbeing of the church or her reputation, a deacon may be removed from office upon the super majority vote of three-quarters of the elder board.

## **E. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Membership Definition

All who have joined themselves to Jesus Christ through faith and repentance are members of the universal church of Jesus Christ. And all who are members of the universal church are members of Christ Proclamation Church when they meet the following qualifications, make the four stated commitments, and carry out the process for membership.

A. Qualifications of Membership

Any person who has expressed a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, has been baptized as a believer, and is committed to

actively following Jesus Christ and walking in a manner worthy of the gospel may request church membership.

## B. Commitments of Membership

### 1.) Commitment to the People of this Church

As a member of Proclamation, a person is committed to this local gathering of the people of God, which includes consistent weekly attendance and participation in Sunday morning worship as well as serving the body of believers and guests by participating in the different weekly responsibilities of the church. In addition to Sunday morning, that commitment includes being devoted to one another in prayer, fellowship, service, godly living, and love (Acts 2:42-46, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Galatians 5:13).

### 2.) Commitment to the Finances of this Church

As a member of Proclamation, a person is committed to the financial wellbeing of this local church, which includes giving systematically, sacrificially, joyfully, and primarily to this body of believers (Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Hebrews 13:5).

### 3.) Commitment to the Leadership of this Church

As a member of Proclamation, a person is committed to following the leadership of the elder board of this church, which includes praying for the elders regularly and joyfully following their leadership while giving consistent and constructive input (1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 13:7, 17).

### 4.) Commitment to the Mission of this Church

As a member of Proclamation, a person is committed to the mission of this particular local church, which includes substantial genuine agreement with this constitution, including the Affirmation of Faith, and the church's passion to facilitate the growth of gospel-driven churches (Acts 2:42, Philippians 1:27-2:2, Ephesians 4:1-6).

## 2. Associate Membership Definition

Associate members affirm the commitments of membership; however, due to one or more of the categories listed below, are not able at this time to assume full membership at Christ Proclamation Church.

### A. Categories of Associate Members

1.) Temporary residents (college students, snow birds, etc.) who wish to maintain their membership at another church where they regularly attend are encouraged to become associate members at Proclamation and will not be required to relinquish their membership in their home church. An associate member may

change their status to regular membership at any time by relinquishing membership in their other church and informing the elders of Proclamation.

- 2.) In light of Baptist tradition, Converge Worldwide, and the Southern Baptist Convention position on baptism, those believers who hold with conviction a Protestant paedobaptist view on baptism and are able to hold that view without tension or argument are encouraged to become associate members.

#### B. Stipulations for Associate Membership

- 1.) Associate members have all the rights and responsibilities of members but are not eligible to serve as an elder or have any formal role with either denomination.
- 2.) With regard to teaching and preaching opportunities, associate members agree to teach consistent with the doctrinal distinctives of Christ Proclamation Church.
- 3.) In congregational decision making, associate members' views and opinions are welcomed and encouraged on subjects that are not related to the reasons for which they are associate members. Their votes are also welcomed and accepted.

### 3. Membership Responsibility

The members of Proclamation have the responsibility and authority to approve members, remove members, exercise church discipline, and determine the annual budget of the church. These decisions will take place at regularly scheduled members meetings or at the annual meeting by a super majority vote of three-quarters of the members present. In order for the vote to be binding, a simple majority of the members of Christ Proclamation Church must be gathered at that meeting.

#### A. Meeting Notification

Members meetings will be announced publicly during Sunday morning services, typically two weeks in advance, although there may be exceptions for special meetings. Anyone can request a meeting, but only the elder board can call a members meeting.

#### B. Annual Meeting

Proclamation will have one congregational meeting at the beginning of each year. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the upcoming year, propose constitutional amendments, and conduct any other business that affects the church. The congregation will vote on the proposed annual budget. In order to pass the budget, a vote of three-quarters of the members present is required.

### C. Other Meetings

Members are strongly encouraged to attend all regularly scheduled members meetings. In the event that the elders schedule a members-only meeting, all members are required to attend due to the significant nature of the content being discussed.

## 4. Membership Process

- A. Contact or be contacted by elders regarding membership.
- B. Attend and complete a membership class.
- C. Submit a written copy of your testimony to the elders.
- D. Be interviewed by two or more elders of the elder board.
- E. Commit to the church body by signing our church covenant.
- F. Congregational approval at a regularly scheduled members meeting by a super majority vote of three-quarters of the members present. In order for the vote to be binding, a simple majority of the members of Christ Proclamation Church must be gathered at that meeting.

## 5. Membership Removal

- A. People may remove themselves from membership simply by notifying the elder board in writing. This, however, takes place after a private exit interview with two or more elders so they can understand and discuss the person's reasons for removing themselves from membership. A person with whom church discipline or a discipline investigation has been initiated may not remove themselves from membership.
- B. People will be automatically removed from membership for geographical relocation.
- C. People will be automatically removed from membership if they have reached the final step of the church discipline process as outlined in the Conflict Resolution section below. As soon as repentance has been demonstrated and observed, the church will enthusiastically restore them to full membership.

## **F. CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### 1. Reconciliation Requirement

The Scriptures are clear that love for the brethren is the litmus test for true saving faith (Matthew 25:31-46, John 13:34-35, Romans 13:8-10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John). Obviously, though true believers are marked by a fervent love for one another, such love will never be absent of conflict. In all conflicts, our duty to one another includes forgiveness of sin, repentance from sin, forbearance toward weakness or differences, and restraint from judging (Ephesians 4:32, Romans 14:1-15:7,

Matthew 7:1-5). In addition, God has outlined clear guidelines for healthy resolution.

## 2. Reconciliation Responsibility

### A. Offending Party

According to Jesus' statement in Matthew 5:23-34, it is the responsibility of the offending party to initiate the process of reconciliation as soon as he or she becomes aware that a brother or sister has something against them.

### B. Offended Party

According to Jesus' statement in Matthew 18:15-17, it is also the responsibility of the offended party to initiate the process of reconciliation as soon as he or she becomes aware that a brother or sister has sinned against them.

## 3. Reconciliation Process

### A. Church Discipline

Jesus' statement in Matthew 18:15-17 also provides a clear and systematic process by which church discipline can and should take place. The orientation and goal of this process at every step is love, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration.

- 1.) When a member of Proclamation is offended by or aware of the sin of another member, the one offended or aware is to go privately and tell them their fault with the goal of bringing about their repentance (Matthew 18:15).
- 2.) If the offender does not repent, the one offended is to take one or two members as witnesses to confirm the facts. In order to protect the process and the reputations of everyone involved, at least one of these witnesses should be an elder in the church. Upon confirmation of the facts, the one offended along with the one or two witnesses are to continue to call the offender to repentance (Matthew 18:16).
- 3.) Assuming the offender does not repent, the entire elder board must be informed and their approval required before proceeding. Upon approval, the elders will bring all the relevant and appropriate details of the situation before the church according to Matthew 18:17. If the offender refuses to listen even to the church and repent of their sin, the one offended and the entire church is called to treat them as an unbeliever. Now, even this radical step of church discipline and membership removal is to be done in accordance with love. The church is declaring as clearly as possible they are concerned about the offender's eternal well-

being, and their deepest desire is that they would repent and demonstrate their faith is soundly in the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### B. Church Restoration

If, in the view of the elders, the offender who has been church disciplined as a result of their consistent pattern of sin repents, the church will enthusiastically restore them to full membership in accordance with 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.

#### 4. Reconciliation Process for Elders

If anyone seeks to make a formal accusation against any of the elders, including pastoral staff, it will be done in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20. This means an accusation will not be received except from two or three witnesses. The accusers will be invited to testify before the entire elder board. If the accusation is substantive and true, the elder, will be rebuked in the presence of the entire congregation.

### G. AFFILIATION

#### 1. Denominational Affiliations

Christ Proclamation Church maintains a dual-affiliation with Converge Worldwide, formerly known as the Baptist General Conference (BGC), and the Southern Baptist Convention. The regional levels of those two denominations are respectively Converge Northeast (CNE) and the Baptist Convention of New England (BCNE). The severance or alteration of this voluntary affiliation would only be considered in light of heretical trends in the denomination as a whole or anything that would seriously compromise the gospel mission or reputation of the church.

#### 2. Application of Affiliations

##### A. General Fellowship

Christ Proclamation Church will work to promote a cooperative spirit with other churches, especially those who are committed to the primacy of the history gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of their denominational affiliation. That being said, as we attempt to plant additional gospel-driven churches in New England, we will seek to do so in affiliation with Converge Northeast and the Baptist Convention of New England.

##### B. Conflict Resolution

In the Baptist tradition, the local church has always been viewed as autonomous. However, in the event of a conflict within Christ Proclamation Church, which, in the judgment of the elder board, cannot be resolved at the local church level, the elders would solicit help and intervention at the denominational level from Converge Northeast. Such solicitation will necessarily imply at least three things.

- 1.) Converge Northeast will have the right to choose an individual person or group of people to arbitrate, as long as they include pastors from within the district.
- 2.) The decision of the Converge Northeast arbitration team will be binding upon Christ Proclamation Church without qualification.
- 3.) In the event of a church division, any property or assets of Christ Proclamation Church will remain in the possession of the group of members who submit to the decision of the Converge Northeast arbitration team. If no such group exists, then all property or assets owned by Christ Proclamation Church will be transferred to Converge Northeast.

## **H. CONSTITUTION**

### 1. Amendment

This document can be amended by a super majority vote of three-quarters of the elder board after significant input from the members of Christ Proclamation Church. That being said, any member of the church may submit amendment proposals in writing to the elder board. Proposed amendments will be reviewed by the elders and if deemed helpful, considered at a regularly scheduled congregational meeting.

### 2. Non-Addressed Items

In the interpretation of this document, and in all matters not addressed by this constitution but which affects the members and the assets of Christ Proclamation Church, the elders will seek significant input from the congregation but will have final authority.