

Last amended: November 13th, 2025

Adopted 11/23/25

CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Preamble:

We, the members of Central Baptist Church of Albertville, Alabama, in order to glorify God and carry out His will for our lives as a community of believers, do establish and adopt this Constitution. This document shall guide our church in its mission, governance, and the conduct of our affairs.

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be Central Baptist Church of Albertville, Alabama. The church will also recognize the name: Christ Central Baptist Church.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be to glorify God by:

1. Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 2. Making disciples of all nations.
 3. Worshiping God in spirit and truth.
 4. Teaching and equipping believers for service in the body of Christ.
 5. Engaging in fellowship, service, and community outreach for the advancement of God's kingdom.
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Article III: Statement of Faith

We, as a congregation, affirm our belief in the essential doctrines of the Christian faith as outlined in the Statement of Faith, which is aligned with the principles of the Baptist tradition. This includes but is not limited to the following core beliefs:

I. Scripture

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and sufficient Word of God. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man and is to be interpreted in the light of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Triune God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — each equally and fully God, one in essence and glory, yet distinct in person and function.

III. Jesus Christ

We believe in the full deity and full humanity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death on the cross for our sins, bodily resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His future bodily return in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.

IV. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, regenerates sinners, and indwells, seals, sanctifies, empowers, and guides believers into all truth. The Spirit equips the Church with gifts for service and growth into the image of Christ.

V. Humanity and Sin

We believe that all human beings are created in the image of God, yet through Adam's fall all have sinned and are by nature and choice under condemnation and in need of salvation.

Our original parents, Adam and Eve, fell from the state of righteousness and their relationship with God because of their sin. As a result, death came to all people—including all their descendants. Everyone is now spiritually dead and thoroughly corrupted in all of who we are: body, soul, and spirit.

The guilt of Adam's sin has been counted against us, and his sinful nature has been passed down to every human being. We are all born in sin and, by nature, are under God's wrath.

We are slaves to sin, subject to death, and destined for all the miseries that come with it—spiritual, physical, and eternal—unless Jesus sets us free.

This inherited sinfulness leaves us completely unable and unwilling to do good. Instead, we are naturally inclined toward all that is evil. All our actual sins flow out of this deep corruption within us.

Even after a person is born again through faith in Christ, this sinful nature still remains throughout this life. Though it is forgiven and its power is being put to death through Jesus our Lord, it will not be fully removed until we are glorified—either when we die or when Christ returns.

VI. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is essential for salvation. Those who repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are justified by His blood, adopted into God's family, and progressively sanctified by the Spirit. The culmination of salvation is glorification, where in glory, Christ makes us complete. Until that time, the Lord perseveres those who have been regenerated and kept until his coming.

VII. The Church

We believe in the one universal Church, composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, and in the local church as the primary place of fellowship, discipleship, worship, and mission. The ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We affirm the church's autonomy under the Lordship of Christ and its accountability to the Word of God.

VIII. Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality

We believe that God created humanity male and female in His image. These distinct and complementary genders are a part of God's good design. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman, born as such, in covenant commitment for life.

IX. Last Things

We believe in the bodily return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the redeemed in heaven, and the eternal punishment of the unrepentant in Hell.

X. Confessional Alignment

We joyfully affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as a faithful summary of biblical doctrine. We further confess our unity with the broader Christian tradition by affirming the Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian, and the Chalcedonian Creeds.

We also affirm:

- The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy — for its clarity on the authority and trustworthiness of Scripture.
- The Danvers Statement — for its faithful witness to biblical complementarity.
- The Nashville Statement — for its clarity on human identity, sexuality, and the nature of marriage.
- The Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742) — as a robust, historic, Baptist expression of Christian doctrine.
- The Baptist Faith and Message 2000*

We believe that these confessions and statements are subordinate to Scripture but are valuable in guiding sound doctrine, safeguarding the truth, and uniting the Church in its witness to the world.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: Qualifications for Membership

Membership in the church shall be open to all persons who:

1. Have professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Have been baptized as believers by immersion, following the example of Christ and in obedience to the Scriptures.
3. Express their agreement with the church's Statement of Faith, Church Covenant, and constitution.

Section 2: Admission into Membership

- New members may be admitted through a confession of faith and baptism or by letter of transfer from another church of like faith and practice.
- Applicants will meet with the pastors or elders to confirm their understanding of the gospel and their commitment to the church's doctrine and mission.

Section 3: Rights of Members Members are entitled to:

1. Participate in all services and activities of the church.
2. Serve in leadership roles, provided they meet the qualifications for leadership.
3. Vote on matters concerning the church, including the election of leaders and approval of significant changes to the church constitution, yearly budget, quarterly reports, unbudgeted expenses exceeding \$10,000, the sale of church property such as land or buildings, the hiring and dismissal of ministerial staff, and the approval and removal of church membership.
4. Share in the life and ministry of the church, including attending members' meetings, participating in the ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), and engaging in ministry opportunities.

Section 4: Responsibilities of Members Members are expected to:

1. Be actively involved in the worship and life of the church.
2. Live according to biblical principles, striving for personal holiness.
3. Regularly participate in Bible study, fellowship, and prayer.
4. Use their gifts and resources to serve the church and by extension, the world.
5. Submit to the church leadership and maintain unity in love.

Section 5: Discipline and Removal of Members Membership may be revoked or individuals may be disciplined for unrepentant sin, as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5, and Hebrews 10:29. Church leaders will pursue reconciliation with a member, and should that fail, the matter will be presented to the congregation.

Any members who cease to affirm the Bible as God's authoritative Word and or the statements of faith will be removed from Church membership.

Article V: Church Leadership

Section 1: Leadership Structure Central Baptist Church shall be led by a team of Elders (spiritual leaders), Deacons (servants), and Titus 2 Women (servants). Both elders and deacons shall be men who meet the qualifications outlined in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9). Titus 2 Women leaders may be those like Chloe, Phoebe, or Priscilla and Aquilla who served the church in specific roles as servants in the church.

Section 2: Elders The elders are responsible for the overall spiritual oversight of the church. Their duties include:

1. Teaching and or preaching the Word of God.
2. Shepherding the flock by providing pastoral care, counseling, and prayer.
3. Overseeing church ministry and setting the direction for the church.
4. Maintaining the purity of the gospel in the church's mission and ministry.
5. Overseeing church discipline and promoting unity.
6. Responsibility to oversee, manage, and ensure children's workers have completed background checks and fulfilled requirements for service.
7. Be responsible for church policies and procedures with exception of ministerial staff job descriptions.
8. Provide oversight of soul care for church members.
9. In the event of the absence of the lead pastor, the elders will ensure that the pulpit is filled and will nominate a pastor search committee composed of five members from the congregation.

Section 3: Deacons

Deacons serve the church in practical matters, including:

1. Serving the physical and material needs of the church (e.g., helping the poor, managing finances, assisting in church activities).
2. Supporting the elders in any duties that may arise.
3. Ensuring that the needs of the congregation are met with dignity and compassion.
4. Serve as team leaders of groups such as Building and Grounds or other teams or committees with the discretion of the Elders.

Section 4: Titus 2 Women

1. Serving the physical and material needs of the church.
2. Supporting the elders in any duties that may arise.
3. Ensuring that the needs of the congregation are met with dignity and compassion.

4. Serve as team leaders of groups such as Titus 2 Women, Bereavement, or Children's Ministry with the discretion of the elders.

Section 5: Qualifications for Elders, Deacons, and Titus 2 Women Elders and Deacons must be:

1. Above reproach, with blameless character.
2. Faithful to their spouse and their family.
3. Spiritually mature, demonstrating a passion for the gospel.
4. Able to teach (for elders) and serve with a heart of humility.
5. Faithful to give proportionately, regularly, and systematically to the Church.
6. Elders are limited to men as qualified by Scripture.
7. Deacons are limited to men.

Section 6: Appointment of Elders, Deacons, and Titus 2 Women

In the inauguration of this Constitution, the Elders shall be nominated by the Senior Pastor and elected by the congregation, in accordance with the qualifications laid out in Scripture.

Consecutively, Elders, Deacons, and Titus 2 Women shall be nominated by the Elder body and elected by the Congregation in a church meeting.

Elders shall serve for a period of 3 years and then will spend at least one year off to rest before being eligible to serve again unless the elders and the Church request otherwise. The church should have at least three lay elders in addition to the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor by default is an elder in perpetuity unless he resigns or moves to another church. The lay elders must not all rotate off at the same time.

Upon the institution of this elder model, the first lay elders may work out amongst themselves to decide who will rotate first for the purpose of rest. There must be a period of two years before any other elder can rotate off unless disqualified or removed by church action. This is done to ensure that all elders are aware of church issues, discipline, and major discussions.

Other paid elders, often called Associate Pastors, Student Pastor, Worship Pastor, may serve on the active elder board, but are only allowed to serve in this capacity by church action and vote. It is recommended to have one additional elder per fifty members beyond one hundred members. Thus, if the church has one hundred members, the church will have three active lay elders. If the church grows to have one hundred-fifty members, one

additional elder may be elected to help meet the needs of the congregation. No elder shall serve as a deacon consecutively and vice versa.

Deacons shall serve for a period of at least 3 years. Likewise, there will be at least three deacons to serve. In the event that there is a need for more deacons, the elders may present this to the church for church action.

Titus 2 Women shall serve for a period of at least 3 years. Likewise, there will be at least three Titus 2 Women to serve. In the event that there is a need for more Titus 2 Women, the elders may present this to the church for church action.

Section 7: Teams and Committees

Teams, Committees, and Task Forces serve at the discretion of the church and elders. Teams, Committees, and Task Forces may have elders, deacons, and Titus 2 Women on those committees as a liaison to the current elders. Teams are ongoing ministry groups that take care of regular ministry programs and tasks. Committees are a rotating body that will serve at the request of the elders to help make decisions for the church body. Task Force(s) are groups that are formed by the elders to help take care of a task and upon completion of that task or timeline, the group is dissolved.

All committees and teams will submit budget requests to the Stewardship Committee and elders for the upcoming church year no later than October 1st of the preceding fiscal year.

These teams and committees will also submit any calendaring, events, and nominations to the elders. Any major concerns and decisions will be brought to the current elders and then if needed to the Church as a whole.

Teams may include: Benevolence, Sound and Media, Worship Team, Lord Supper Team, Baptism Team, Welcome Team, Connection Cafe Team, Van Ministry, Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, WMU, Website and Social Media Team, Mercy Ministries, Recording History Teams, Bereavement Team, Weddings, Wednesday Night Meal Team, Senior Adult Ministry, Transportation and Titus 2 Women, etc. Teams will have leaders appointed by the elders. These leaders may be either deacons or Titus 2 women so that ministry teams may operate decently and orderly.

Committees unless otherwise adjusted by elders through church action will be:
Stewardship Committee comprising of five members in the body appointed by elders,
Personnel Committee comprising of three members, Building and Grounds Committee comprising at least three members. These committees will each have a chair elected yearly

from within that committee. The committee members will serve at least three years and may rotate off for one year if determined by the elders and supported through church action.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1: Worship Services The church shall regularly gather for worship, preaching, prayer, fellowship, and the observance of the Lord's Supper. Regular worship services shall be held on Sundays and at other times as deemed necessary by the elders.

Section 2: Congregational Meetings The congregation shall meet at least once annually for the purpose of:

1. Reviewing the church's ministry.
2. Approving the church's budget.
3. Electing new leaders (elders, deacons, etc.).
4. Discussing significant changes to the church structure or constitution.

Section 3: Church Voting Matters requiring congregational approval (such as the election of elders, deacons, and significant decisions related to the church's mission) shall be decided by majority vote.

Section 4: Elder Meetings Elders will meet on a regular basis to oversee the ministry of the church including planning, praying, reviewing membership matters, handling church business, or asking the deacons for assistance in member care, soul care, or other administrative tasks. Elders will have oversight of other committees or task forces to insure continuity to work toward the mission of the Church.

Article VII: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing and discussed at a prior congregational meeting.

Article VIII: Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of Central Baptist Church, all property and assets shall be distributed to another gospel-preaching, Christ-centered Baptist church or mission organization in accordance with the church's mission and values.

Conclusion:

This Constitution is established to ensure that Central Baptist Church of Albertville remains faithful to its calling to glorify God, preach the gospel, and grow in maturity as a body of believers. As we seek to be a faithful witness to the world, we commit to these guiding principles to direct our shared life and ministry.

It is recommended that Central Baptist Church operate with the Robert's Rules of Order in any type of meeting for the purposes of business in the church. Such Rules will be included as an appendix as a policy or procedure that may be updated apart from this constitution by the current elders, but must inform the church. The church may reject any such changes at members' meetings.