

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF COUNTRY ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **CONSTITUTION**

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## PREAMBLE

We, the members of Country Acres Baptist Church of Wichita, Kansas do hereby declare and establish this Constitution in support of the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, as a guide for the orderly functioning of the corporation, hereinafter called the Church, and to preserve and secure the exercise of the principles of our faith.

### ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the corporation, a church incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas, shall be called Country Acres Baptist Church. Country Acres Baptist Church is voluntarily affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Country Acres Baptist Church will support, through voluntary cooperation, in specific ways to be determined by the congregation, a local Southern Baptist Association, our state Convention of Southern Baptists, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

Pursuant to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, we hereby establish the officers of the Church to be a president, treasurer, and secretary. The appointment, election or installation of a person or persons into these officer positions will be determined by the current Bylaws of the Church.

### ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

As empowered by the Holy Spirit and guided by the Holy Scriptures, the chief purpose of Country Acres Baptist Church will be to obediently glorify God (I Cor. 10:31, Eph. 1:3-14) by: (1) conducting our lives and services in a worshipful manner seeking His pleasure, reflecting His character and expressing our devotion in word and deed; (2) by edifying one another toward Christ-like maturity (I Thess. 5:11, Eph. 4:16) through the teaching and studying of God's Word, providing examples of holy living, having loving fellowship in things of Christ, and equipping and involving every member in ministry; and, (3) by involving ourselves, and supporting others, in evangelism and missions (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8) which will be accomplished, in part, by showing Christ's compassion through our involvement in the lives of the unsaved and the needy and suffering, and declaring God's good news about Christ to them while seeking to lead them to personal faith in Him and involvement in His church, and identifying and sending Christian workers to spread the gospel throughout the world.

### ARTICLE IV: ARTICLES OF FAITH

Country Acres Baptist Church is in agreement with *The Baptist Faith and Message* as revised and approved by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000 and it is hereby incorporated by reference as part of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE V: POSITIONAL STATEMENT

We understand that there are certain issues over which godly and sincere Christians differ in their understanding of the Scriptures. In these instances, “preserving unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” is our highest aim (Ephesians 4:3). However, the official position of the Church as it relates to its teaching and day-to-day operations in matters not specifically delineated in this Constitution or the accompanying Bylaws will be prayerfully determined jointly by a simple majority of the Elders and the Pastors, who have the responsibility for teaching and oversight of the Church.

Notwithstanding the foregoing positional statement, we believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning, and that is a union sanctioned by God which joins together one man and one woman in a single exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:22; Ephesians 5:22-33) and that marriage is the only legitimate and acceptable sexual relationship.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church membership and to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church, in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should agree to and abide by this statement on marriage and conduct themselves accordingly.

## ARTICLE VI: CREATING AND AMENDING BYLAWS

From time to time, and as needed, this Constitution hereby provides for the creation and implementation of bylaws to assist the Church in its ongoing ministry and to aid in the accomplishment of its purpose as described and delineated in this Constitution.

Bylaws will be amended pursuant to the provisions provided within the Bylaws for making amendments.

## ARTICLE VII: AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Since the Holy Scriptures are ultimately binding on this church as providing a unique and absolute authority for the conduct of its affairs, this Constitution is to be open for review so that it may be amended if necessary when any of it is perceived to be in conflict with God’s Word in any way, or when any of it appears to be hindering the fulfillment of the stated principles of this church.

Any member may submit a written recommendation to the Elders for an amendment to this Constitution at any time a member believes such an amendment will facilitate further conformity to God’s Word in the Church and fulfillment of the stated purposes and functions in the Constitution.

The Elders will pray and deliberate over the recommendation for a two-week period of time. If and when a unanimous agreement by the Elders is reached, the amendment will be presented to the Church for approval. Notice of the date set by the Elders for the Church to vote on the proposed amendment will be accomplished pursuant to the policy in place at that time in regards to any specially called business meeting.

If seventy-five percent (75%) approval is reached from the membership present at the pre-announced business meeting, the amendment will be ratified and adopted into this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

Any action to dissolve the Church must be approved by a 75% vote of eligible voting members of the Church present at a business meeting called to specifically consider such action, for which meeting written notice has been issued to all members eligible to vote in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

If the Church at its own option shall cease to exist, all property, real or personal, shall be sold, as necessary, and the proceeds of the sale used, to pay all just claims for goods and services provided to the Church and any and all other debts owed by the Church. Any funds or unsold property remaining three months after said payments are completed will be delivered, free of restraint or condition, to the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, or its successors and assigns.

#### ARTICLE IX: PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS

By adopting this Constitution, the members of Country Acres Baptist Church do hereby state and confirm that all previous Constitutions adopted by the Church along with any and all amendments to said constitutions are as of this day, null and void and no longer applicable to the Church in the conduct of its business or the fulfillment of its purpose.

ADOPTED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014, BY AN APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNTRY ACRES BAPTIST CHURCH, WICHITA, KANSAS.

Signing for the Church:

Kelly R. Randolph  
President and Senior Pastor

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Vincent R Harrison  
Secretary and Pastor of Administration

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Christopher B. Birdwell  
Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance  
Committee

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