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P R E A M B L E

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

## I. NAME

This body shall be known as New Columbus Baptist Church located in New Columbus, Kentucky.

## II. OBJECTIVES

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.

To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church that ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and world in Jesus' name.

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christlike in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

### III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and is the basis for all statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

The Baptist Faith and Message does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of New Columbus Baptist Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastor and deacons are New Columbus Baptist’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

#### A. On Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:2627.)

Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as described in Scripture. (Gen 2:1825.)

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:25; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has

commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:1820; 1 Cor 6:910.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of New Columbus Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by New Columbus Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:1416; 1 Thess 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:1921; Rom 10:910; 1 Cor 6:911.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:2831; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of New Columbus Baptist Church.

#### IV. RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains

the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as it practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association and state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

## V. CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord of Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, 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, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, to expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek 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 deployments; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage as well as abuses of drugs; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; 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 Saviour to secure it without delay.

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 the Spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

## BYLAWS

### I. MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. General

This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this Church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

#### Section 2. Candidacy

Any person may offer themselves as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates should be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- (1) By profession of faith and for baptism according to the policies of this church.
- (2) By promise of letter of recommendation from another Baptist church.
- (3) By restoration upon a statement of prior conversion experience and baptism in a Baptist church when no letter is obtainable.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the pastor and the deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three-fourths vote of those church members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates membership.

### Section 3. New Member Orientation

New church members will be expected to participate in the church's new member orientation plan. Each new member shall, during new member orientation, be immediately approached by a representative of the church to encourage them to tithe.

### Section 4. Voting Rights of Members

Every member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present.

### Section 5. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:

- (1) Death
- (2) Dismissed to another Baptist church
- (3) Exclusion by action of this church

## Section 6. Discipline

(1) It shall be the basis purpose of New Columbus Baptist Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor and deacons are available for counsel. Redemption rather than punishment should be the guidelines which governs the attitude of one member toward another.

(2) Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church, every reasonable measure will be taken by the pastor and deacons to resolves the problems using the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. If action has to be taken by the church, it must be presented at one meeting of the church and voted upon at a later date, after all members have prayed and sought God's guidance in the matter.

(3) Any person whose membership has been terminated for any reason, after showing repentance and reformation, will be joyfully reinstated.

## II. CHURCH OFFICERS

All church members are eligible for office on approval of the church. All officers must be members of the church. The officers of this church shall be as follows:

### Section 1. Pastor

The pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament Church. The pastor will lead the congregation, the organization, and the church staff to perform their tasks.

The pastor is leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such, he works with the deacons and the church staff to:

- (1) Lead the church in performing its tasks
- (2) Lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application
- (3) Proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and
- (4) Care for the church's members and other persons in the community.

A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given.

A pulpit committee shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. Any member has the privilege of making other nominations. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for a choice. The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request. He shall oversee at meetings of the church. The pastor shall give at least two weeks notice at the time of resignation before terminating his responsibilities as pastor.

## Section 2. Deacons

(1) There shall be deacons elected as the church feels there is a need. They shall be elected by secret ballot.

(2) In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practices of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. The task of the deacons is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministries tasks; proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers; care for church members and other person of the community; lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application; and lead the church in performing its tasks.

### Section 3. Moderator

The pastor shall not serve as moderator. In case of the absence of the moderator, the Chairmen of the Deacons shall serve as moderator. The moderator will be elected by the congregation.

### Section 4. Clerk

The church-elected clerk of the church shall keep in a suitable book a record of all actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary, as indicated in the bylaws.

### Section 5. Treasurer

The church shall elect the church treasurer. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel, all money or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.

## Section 6. Church Staff

This church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall need. A job description shall be written when the need for staff members is determined.

Vocational staff members other than the pastor shall be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and employed by church action. At least two weeks at the time of resignation should be given.

The secretaries and custodians shall likewise be recommended to the church by the personnel committee and employed by church action.

### III. COMMITTEES

#### Section 1. General

All church committee members shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church unless otherwise indicated in the description below.

#### Section 2. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee coordinates the staffing of all church leadership positions that are filled by volunteers. The Nominating Committee recommends persons for all volunteer positions to be elected by the church. They will begin their work in April and bring recommendations to the regular July business meeting for approval so that they can prepare and train to take office.

## IV. PROGRAM SERVICES

### Section 1. General

The staff of program services shall be recommended by the church nominating committee for election by the church to make recommendations for needed committees.

### Section 2. Church Recreation Service

The recreation staff will serve the church in seeking to meet the recreational needs of members and groups. They will provide recreation activities and provide consultation, leadership assistance, and resources.

## V. PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

### Section 1. General

All organizations of the church shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church shall report regularly to the church.

### Section 2. Sunday School

There shall be a Sunday School, divided into departments and classes for all ages and conducted under the direction of the Sunday School director for the study of God's word.

The tasks of the Sunday School shall be to teach the biblical revelation; reach persons for Christ and church membership; perform the functions of the church within its constituency; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

### Section 3. Training Union

There shall be a Training Union, divided into departments for all ages and conducted under the direction of a general director. The Training Union shall serve as the training organization of the church.

### Section 3. Training Union (Cont.)

The tasks of the Training Union shall be to orient new church members, train church members to perform the functions of the church; train church leaders; teach Christian theology, Christian ethics, Christian history, and church policy and organization provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and denomination.

## VI. ORDINANCES

### Section 1. Baptism

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Saviour by personal faith; who professes publicly at any worship service; and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord, shall be received for baptism.

1. Baptism shall be by emersion in water.
2. Baptism shall be administered by the pastor or whomever the church shall authorize. The deacons shall assist in preparation for, and observance of baptism.
3. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship.
4. A person professing Christ and failing to be baptized after a reasonable length of time shall be counseled by the pastor and/or deacons. If negative interest is ascertained, that person shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism.

### Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine (un-fermented) commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his second coming.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper (Cont.)

1. The Lord's Supper shall be observed quarterly, preferably the first Sunday of the quarter, or as otherwise scheduled.
2. The Lord's Supper shall be observed in a worship service.
3. The pastor and deacons shall be responsible for the physical preparations of the Lord's Supper.

## VII. CHURCH MEETINGS

### Section 1. Worship Service

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for the worshipping of the Almighty God. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastor.

### Section 2. Special Services

Revival services and any other church meetings which will be essential in the promotion of the objectives of the church shall be placed on the church calendar.

### Section 3. Regular Business Meetings

Regular business meetings shall be held monthly.

### Section 4. Special Business Meetings

A specially called business meeting may be held to consider special matters of significant nature. A one-week notice of the subject, date, time, and location must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impracticable.

## Section 5. Parliamentary Rules

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedures for all business meetings of the church.

## VIII. CHURCH FINANCES

### Section 1. Budget

The Deacons, in consultation with the church council, shall prepare and submit to the church for approval an inclusive budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and world-wide expenses.

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts.

### Section 2. Accounting Procedures

All funds for any and all purposes shall pass through the hands of the church treasurer, and be properly recorded on the books on the books of the church.

### Section 3. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall run concurrently with the church year as designated by the Southern Baptist Convention.

## IX. AMENDMENTS

Changes in this constitution and bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided each amendments shall have been presented in writing at a previous meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each member present. Amendments to the constitution shall be by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and entitled to vote; amendments to the bylaws shall have a concurrence of the majority of the members present and voting.

## X. ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

### Amendment I. Building Use Policy

The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice. (2 Cor 6:14; 1 Thess 5:22.)

Second, it is very important that the church present a consistent message to the community, and that the church staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Col 3:17.)