

**BIG CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
PLEASANT HILL, MISSOURI**

Constitution

Preamble

Established 14 March 2007

Recognizing the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the head of His church, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the Word of God that says, *“Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner” I Corinthians 14:40 New American Standard Bible*), for the preservation of the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relations to other churches, we do hereby establish and declare this Constitution and By-Laws.

Article I – Name

This body shall be known as Big Creek Baptist Church.

Article II – Vision Statement

The vision of Big Creek Baptist Church is to worship God, to preach and teach His word, win the lost to Christ, and to serve the world in a Christ-like manner.

Article III – Statement of Faith

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. In accordance with the Southern Baptist Faith & Message 2000 paragraphs IV and VI, the church is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers which affirms salvation “is offered freely to **all** [emphasis added] who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour”.

Article IV – Church Covenant

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and in obedience to His command having been baptized by immersion as a public identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, we do freely enter into Christian fellowship with each other as one body in Christ. We will serve the Lord together in Christian love and concern for each other as well as those outside the Christian family.

As a body of born again believers, we accept the Lord’s commission as stated in *Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* and *II Corinthians 5:17-21 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to*

Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He

has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so we might become the righteousness of God." As our mission both individually and collectively, we will seek at all times to bring honor upon the Lord and His church.

Our covenant scriptures to each other will be Ephesians 4:29-32 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling, and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you." and II Corinthians 7:11 "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

Article V – Affiliations

The government of this church shall be vested by the body of believers who compose its membership. It shall be subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. To this end, appropriate bylaws shall be adopted in definitive form to implement the Baptist doctrine of local, independent government.

This church accepts the Scriptures as its authority in matter of faith and practice. It's understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of the Baptist Churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Missouri Baptist Convention, and Blue River Kansas City Baptist Association or their successor. It is expressly understood that this church shall determine any change in its convention relationship and the control of its property in relation to any such change in accordance with Article VI of this document.

Article VI - Amendment Procedures

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the deacon body. After review, the amendment(s) will be presented to the church after a public announcement has been made and posted on two consecutive Sundays. A vote will be taken at a subsequent regular or special called business meeting and shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority of a quorum vote approval for adoption.

Section 2: The copy of record of this document shall be filed in both hard and soft (electronic copy in its native format) copy with the church secretary in the church office and placed in the church's safe deposit box with emphasis on configuration management/document control to ensure all usage of the document is executed with the current version and previous versions have been superseded as appropriate

Article VII – Membership Definition

A. General

The emphasis of the New Testament is that every believer become identified and committed to a specific local assembly of believers following the lead and direction of God. The body at Big Creek Baptist Church shall consist of regenerated (born again), baptized (by immersion) believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who are in substantial agreement with its views of faith and practice.

B. Reception of Members

Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and desiring to live in keeping with the spirit of the Covenant, policies, faith, and practices of this church may by vote of the church be admitted into full membership. Candidates for membership shall present themselves before the Church, and be received in accordance with the following conditions and regulations:

- a. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receiving believer’s baptism by immersion.
- b. By promise of letter of recommendation from another Southern Baptist church of like faith and order.
- c. By statement of faith if the person has been saved and scripturally baptized by immersion in a Church of like faith and order, yet for some legitimate reason can not produce a record thereof.
- d. Any exceptions to the above due to extenuating circumstances shall be considered by the pastor and the deacons for recommendation to the Church.

Revision History

Version/ Release	BY	Date	Description
Initial	Constitution & Bylaw Committee	4/11/2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Document as Accepted
Rev 1	Bylaw Committee/Deacons	08/14/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various changes to correct grammar, spelling, etc. and discrepancies with bylaws. Revised Article III to be consistent with bylaws. Revised Amendment Procedure to be consistent with bylaws.