

CONSTITUTION

CROSSROADS BAPTIST CHURCH

BEGGS, OKLAHOMA

PREAMBLE

For the certain preservation of, and security of the principles of our faith, that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. TITLE

1.1 Church Name and History. The legal name of the Church as incorporated is Crossroads Baptist Church, Inc. This legal corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church." The Church was originally founded on March 16, 2003 and incorporated in 2003 as well.

1.2 Principal Office. The Church's principal office is located at 6962 Happy Camp Rd. Beggs, Oklahoma, 74421. The members may vote to authorize a change of the principal office from one location to another within the State of Oklahoma by noting the changed address and effective date in a resolution passed by the members and the change of registered service agent and address being filed with the Secretary of State, without requiring an amendment to these Bylaws.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church is to glorify God, to reach the unsaved and minister to people. This is accomplished through obedience to Christ's "Great Commission" in Matthew 28:19-20:

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"

This commission includes the worshiping and exalting of the Lord; the evangelizing of the lost; and the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry of the church in obedience to the commands of God.

We affirm the Holy Bible as the verbally inspired word of God and the basis of our beliefs. This Church ascribes to the doctrinal statement of THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 and as amended and reaffirmed in 2000. We voluntarily 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 **Believers Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**. (See Article VII of the Bylaws)

ARTICLE III. SPIRITUAL AND CORPORATE BODY

3.1 Spiritual Body. This Church is a spiritual body consisting exclusively of Christians bonded together in unity for spiritual purposes of the New Testament Church. The Church consists of the individuals joined to the Church by the Lord through His Spirit as vocational ministers, volunteer leaders and lay members. These individuals are combined together in this body with their unique spiritual gifts, talents, experiences and resources to accomplish the ministry and service God designed this Church to accomplish in its ordained sphere of influence. These bylaws guide the church's ministerial operations, officers, and organizations and the ministries of the members comprising this body of Christian believers.

3.2 Legal Corporate Body. The spiritual Church operates under the structure of a legal corporate entity incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma and the United States of America. As such, the Church is a nonprofit corporation designated as a charitable and religious organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IV. BIBLICAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION OR REVIEW

4.1 Acknowledgement of God's Ultimate Control. This Church, in all of its ministries and activities, exists solely to serve the Lord and bring glory to Him. It is subject to authority of God's truths as set forth in the Holy Bible and to the guidance from His Spirit as He leads the Church to fulfill the purposes for which this Church was created and for which its members come together as a body and then return to serve Christ in their unique spheres of influence in the world.

4.2 Bylaws as a Guide. Acknowledging the spiritual realities of the Church, these bylaws are an informed guide to the Church in its support and service to each of its ministers, employees, leaders and members. The bylaws guide our effort to fulfill our calling, utilize our spiritual gifts and maximize our service to the Lord as He directs and blesses. The bylaws are designed to maximize the impact of the members as a whole, while preserving the agreed liberties of the members. The bylaws protecting the biblical rights and freedoms of the Church to take appropriate action in relation to its members, other churches, those who do not know Christ personally, to the society and government.

4.3 Spiritual Leadership and Relationships. The Church pursues its purposes and ministries with the intent to obey God and follow His divine will in all matters. God reveals His will through His Word and by the indwelling Holy Spirit impressing His will upon our members. God wants to reveal His will in all circumstances, so the members covenant to seek His will in all matters. God's ways are above our ways and He often directs His people to do things that do not make sense or are unexplainable in human wisdom, but are clearly the right thing to do according to His will. Church members, gathered together in God's presence, have the authority to resolve all matters at issue before the Church. All members consent to be bound to such decisions as far as it concerns the Church's ministries and as it concerns the members' relationships with this Church.

4.4 Waiver of Right of Judicial Review. These bylaws are a spiritually driven guide to direct the spiritual process of the Church. They are not legalistic controls of the power of God in Church decisions. The bylaws will be followed subject to the prioritized obligation to follow the Church Lord's will when He provides guidance to act in a certain manner, even if contrary to the express terms of the bylaws. Any failure to comply with the bylaws, when approved by the required percentage of members present and voting, does not create a basis for a review of the Church's decisions by a secular court, including actions contrary to the bylaws. The members waive any right to take the spiritual matters of the Church governance, ministry, ecclesiastical or even secular court of law. All members shall obey God's word by resolving all matters through internal mediation herein set forth.

4.5 No Creation of Judicially Enforceable Rights. These bylaws are not a legally binding contract between the church, its employees or its members. The bylaws do not create rights that are enforceable against the spiritual Church, the corporate Church or its properties, or against any member. If any judge or government officer determines that any provision of the bylaws or another Church governing document creates a legal right or cause of action enforceable in a court or government agency, that provision is stricken from any such document(s) shall remain valid as spiritual guidelines.

4.6 Church's Right to Seek Judicial Intervention. Nothing in these bylaws shall be construed to limit the church's right to pursue any legal action to defend the Church, its members or property, to remove trespassers or former officers, employees or members who have to be removed by the vote of the members.

4.7 Limitation on Activities. To properly reflect statements required by the United States government, and subject to the full assertion of the Church's rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution, no substantial part of the activities of this Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by the Internal Revenue Code), and the Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, this Church shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a church under a proper interpretation of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE V. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this Church is vested in the Body of Believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the Members shall constitute the Membership. (See Article I of the Bylaws)

All internal groups created and empowered by the Church shall report to and be accountable only to the Church, unless otherwise specified by Church action. All action taken by the Church shall be voted in (60%, excluding staff hiring as stated in Article II of the Bylaws) by active adult members and teen members actively involved in youth that are present. This would also include voting on all staff personnel. At no time will secret ballot voting be allowed for any matters of this Church. We find no precedence for secret ballot voting in Scripture, and we believe that all matters of conscience can and should be expressed openly and honestly, and therefore should be voted on in an open forum without fear of repercussion.

This Church 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 Southern Baptist Churches. Insofar as is practical, this Church will cooperate with and support the North Canadian Baptist Association, The State Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.