Curtis Berean Bible Church Membership

Our Mission:

“All to the praise of God’s glory” (Eph. 1:1-14):

1) By exalting and glorifying Him through faithfully teaching and seeking to obey His Word, keeping the gospel central in everything. 2) By edifying and discipling believers in becoming more Christlike. And 3) By evangelizing, in love, grace, and truth, our community and the nations.

Our History:

The Berean Fundamental Church in Curtis, now called the Berean Bible Church, began in 1946 with home Bible study classes conducted by Dr. Ivan Olsen of North Platte and Rev. Ray Ransom, pastor and Bible teacher. The emphasis from the beginning was based on the great commission from Jesus, “Go ye into all the world.” Matthew 28:18-20

In February of 1946, Dr. Ivan Olsen met with a group of interested people from Wellfleet, Maywood, and Curtis to discuss plans to organize a Berean Church in Curtis. Dr. Olsen held meetings in Curtis each Thursday evening for many weeks, assisted by Rev. Ransom and others. Sunday School and morning worship services were held in the Ransom home.

On May 31, 1946 the following men met to discuss a building program: Dr. Olsen, Ray Ransom, Hugh Clark, Earl Hatch, Glenn Shults, Julius Hasenauer, and Max Hasenauer. They decided to purchase the corner lot at 6th and Prentiss from Ray Bular for $275.00 and the adjoining lot for $2250.00 which included buildings for the parsonage. By 6:00 that evening the contract had been signed and $900.00 received in cash and pledges. An additional loan of $1000.00 was made from the North Platte Berean church.

The first evangelistic meetings were held in a tent set up in the city park with Rev. and Mrs. Ostrander in charge. Missionary Ronald Winstanley of Evangelistic Union S.A. and other pastors assisted.

Rev. Ransom was pastor through November of 1946. Eli Cook was then pastor until April 1947. April 17, 1947 the men started digging the basement for the church which was to be a cinder block structure, 30'x 60' with full basement and classrooms.

Gilbert Gustafson came as pastor in May, 1947 and on August 31 the first services were held in the church, though there was still much work to be done. Dedication services were held Sunday evening, November 9, 1947.

Rev. Gustafson moved on in March of 1949. Ray Fogle was then pastor from July 1949 to January 1950. Jack Lard was interim pastor from February, 1950 until after Easter. John Maret was interim pastor May to September 1950 when Kenneth Martin took the pastorate. He left in December, 1955 to take over duties at Maranatha Bible Camp. Wendell Baxter served from January to August, 1956 followed by J.C. Clasper who was interim pastor from September 1956 to January, 1957. Ward Childerston accepted the pastorate from January, 1957 through September, 1958. Randall Heinrichs began as pastor in September, 1958 and resigned May, 1962 to join the crew in building the senior citizens home in Curtis—Sunset Haven. He became its administrator. Clyde White was installed as pastor August 26, 1962 and he remained through May, 1978.

In August through October of 1966 the old church building was torn down. Ground breaking for the new building began the first of November. Jim Wagoner was the contractor, but had to cancel due to financial problems so Rev. White took over as contractor. He and other capable workers completed the project. The new building was dedicated to the Lord on July 23, 1967. The debt on the new church was paid in full on June 8, 1983.

Rev. LeRoy Cook took the pastorate in May, 1978 and stayed until August, 1983. In addition to his duties as pastor, he led a Bible study for the UNSTA students.

Rev. Donald Crisp took the pastorate in November, 1983 and stayed until December, 1988.

Stan Gurney took the pastorate in June, 1989.

Stephen Demoret took the pastorate in November, 1992 and stayed until November, 2000.

Rodney Forrester took the pastorate in August, 2001.

Richard Troup took the pastorate in August, 2004 and stayed until April, 2006.

David Caldwell took the pastorate in February, 2007.

Brian Nicklas took the pastorate in August, 2009 and is the current pastor.

The Berean Fellowship of Churches' History:

Our roots date back to the 1930's, when Ivan Olsen became the first pastor of the Berean Fundamental Church in North Platte, NE. As others witnessed the blessing of God on his work, they began to come to him for counsel and assistance to plant churches in other communities. God's blessing on those efforts allowed for the establishment of a number of Berean Churches in just a few years. The name Berean Fundamental Church Council, Inc., was chosen to become the legal organizational name for this new Berean Fellowship of Churches. Since those early years, many more churches have been planted. Today, the BFC is comprised of approximately 60 churches throughout the states of: California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Tennessee, Kentucky, and hundreds in India.

Our Name:

On Sunday, August 21, 1932, 13 people gathered in a North Platte, NE home to pray and hear teaching from the Bible. God caused the group to grow as many in the community placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Initially known as the "Church of the Open Bible," in 1935, the fledgling congregation found a more fitting name as "The Berean Fundamental Church." Though the word "fundamental" has since lost favor in our culture, to those founding families it had a wonderfully simple depth of meaning: it was based on the "fundamentals" of the Christian faith.

You might be asking, "What does Berean mean? The word actually comes from Acts 17:11 in the Bible. It says the Bereans were "noble" because they searched the Scriptures to see if what they were being told about Jesus was true. We want to be the same kind of people who search God's Word, the Bible, to know the truth.

To learn more about the Berean Fellowship of Churches and remain connected and informed go to www.weareberean.org.

Constitution and Bylaws

of Curtis Berean Bible Church

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I. Name: The name of this organization is the Berean Bible Church. This name shall be reported to the Berean Fellowship of Churches via the Regional Fellowship.

II. Affiliation:

A. This church is affiliated with the Berean Fellowship of Churches (BFC).

This church is subject to the rules and regulations stipulated in the Berean Fellowship of Churches' Constitution and Bylaws.

III. Doctrine and Mission

A. Doctrinal Statement

As an affiliate of the Berean Fellowship of Churches we hold to the following doctrinal statement as required by the BFC Constitution.

As an interdependent, collaborative group of churches, the BFC holds to the following statement of beliefs. We hold our beliefs regarding the nature and character of God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the need for salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, and the authority and reliability of Scripture as primary doctrine. Individual believers who love Jesus Christ and believe that the Bible is God's Word may differ on secondary matters. For the sake of unity and clarity of teaching, we believe it is important to state clearly where the BFC stands doctrinally.

Christians who share our commitment to Jesus and the Bible and wish to partner with the BFC in pursuit of Christ's mission may have reservations or differing personal views regarding secondary issues. We welcome these brothers and sisters in Christ into our fellowship with the understanding that doctrinal unity is critical to the mission of each local BFC church. We ask that all leaders and members of BFC churches submit to the following doctrinal statement of beliefs regardless of reservations or differences they may personally hold regarding secondary issues.

Individual BFC churches are free to adopt additional doctrinal distinctives which must be made publicly available and be consistent with and supplemental to the following doctrinal statement.

BIBLE

We believe the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety, is the only divinely inspired, inerrant, objectively true, and authoritative written Word of God. It is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The divine inspiration of Scripture extends to each word of the original manuscripts, but not to the various copies or translations of Scripture. The Bible should be interpreted literally, grammatically, contextually, and historically.
(Deut. 29:29; Matt. 5:17; John 10:35; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:21, 3:16)

GOD

We believe there is only one God, the Creator, who is infinite and personal. He exists eternally in three distinct persons, revealed to us in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is holy. God is love. God is just. God is all powerful, all knowing and ever present. He is the source of all that is good and is the only rightful object of worship. (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Job 42:1-2; Ps. 96:9, 115:3; Prov. 15:3; Isa. 6:3, 43:10-11, 44:6, 45:22, 66:1; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1, 4:24, 5:26, 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 3:26, 1 Cor. 3:16, 8:4; Heb. 4:13; 1 John 3:20, 4:8-10)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son who has neither beginning nor end. The Old Testament contains numerous prophecies of His coming. He was conceived in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin named Mary, and is fully God and fully man. Jesus lived a sinless life that perfectly revealed God's love and truth. He died for our sins, was buried, and arose bodily from the dead on the third day. He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father as our only mediator, high priest, and advocate. (Gen. 3:15; Ps. 110:1-4; Isa. 9:1-7, 53:1-12; Mic. 5:2; Matt. 1:20-25; Luke 24:27; John 1:1, 17, 10:30, 14:3-6; Acts 1:11, 4:12; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-5, 20; Col. 1:16-19; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 1:3, 4:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:22-24; Rev. 1:18)

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. He is a person, not a force. The Holy Spirit's ministries include convicting all people of sin; calling,

regenerating, indwelling, and baptizing believers into the Body of Christ at conversion; setting them apart to a holy life; and guiding, teaching, keeping, and empowering them day by day. The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to each believer according to His will for the building up of the church. We believe the primary evidence of the presence and filling of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit rather than a miraculous sign. (John 3:5-8, 16:5-15; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4, 16:7-14; 1 Cor. 2:9-12, 3:16, 12:3-13, 13:8-11; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18; Heb. 2:3-4)

HUMAN RACE

We believe that both man (Adam) and woman (Eve) were created in the image of God to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. As a result of deliberate disobedience they fell from their sinless state, and they and all their descendants became sinners. Consequently, no one can save himself or herself, and apart from the grace of God in Jesus Christ, all are condemned to eternal torment. All humans still bear the image of God and are therefore intrinsically valuable, but all humans are now broken image-bearers, in need of the restoration found in Christ. God distinguishes between the sexes, equally valuing men and women, who both reflect His image. God ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman as part of his design that some roles within the family and the church be distinctly male or female. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18-25, 3:1-24; Matt. 19:3-9; John 3:16-18, 36; Rom. 2:12-16, 5:12-21, 6:23, 7:14-21; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:9-10; ; Jas. 3:9; Rev. 20:13-15)

SALVATION

We believe we are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone. This salvation was purchased through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ who, by shedding his blood for sin, offers salvation as a free gift to every person without distinction. God is sovereign over salvation and yet each person is fully accountable for his or her response to the gospel. The person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior is eternally secure, and can enjoy the assurance of salvation as guaranteed by Christ's victorious resurrection. We believe that at death those who have trusted in Jesus enter eternal glory and those that have not enter eternal torment. (Matt. 25:46; John 1:12, 3:16, 10:27-28; Acts 16:31, 20:20-21; Rom. 3:21-28, 8:31-39, 10:9,12-15, 17; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 17-22; Eph. 1:7, 2:4-9; Phil. 1:6; Heb 2:14; 1 John 2:2)

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that every believer has been set apart with a perfect standing before God. As believers yield themselves to the Holy Spirit, they will experience spiritual growth in holiness but not perfection in conduct in this life. Believers will battle the world, the flesh and the devil, but living by faith in Christ results in transformation of the heart and authentic righteous living. Future rewards are determined primarily by what motivates Christian behavior. Those whose behavior is an outflow of finding their identity in Christ will be rewarded. (John 15:1-8; Rom. 6:13-19, 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:8-15, 10:13; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; 5:10; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph 2:1-3; Phil. 1:6, 3:12; 1 Thess. 4:3; Heb. 10:10)

CHURCH

We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, which is His body, established to bring God glory. All who have trusted in Christ as Savior are members of this body. Christians should commit themselves to worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, stewardship, and service in a local church. The church is responsible to represent Jesus Christ in the world through godly living and evangelism. All believers are commanded to participate in two church ordinances: believers' baptism, by immersion if possible, and the Lord's Supper; the bread and cup symbolizing Christ’s body and blood. (Matt. 26:26-29, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42, 8:35-39; Rom. 12:9-13; 1 Cor. 11:23-34, 12:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 3:6-11, 4:11-13; Col. 1:18; Heb. 10:23-25; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

SATAN

We believe that Satan was created as an angelic being. Rebelling against God, he became the author of sin, our adversary and accuser, and the great deceiver of the nations. He was defeated by Christ’s death and resurrection but continues to wield power in this world under God’s sovereign control. In the end, he will be completely overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ and suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Gen. 3:1,15; Job 1:6-12; Matt. 4:3-11; John 8:44; 1 Cor. 15:24; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-2; Col. 2:13-15; 1 John 3:8, 5:19; Rev. 12:7-12, 20:10)

FUTURE EVENTS

We believe in the imminent, bodily, personal return of Jesus Christ. On a day known only to God the Father, Jesus will return for his Church. God will reunite all human souls with resurrected, imperishable bodies. This will be followed by the final judgment of the wicked into the lake of fire and eternal life for God's children in a new heaven and a new earth, restoring all creation to a joyful, God-honoring state. (Matt. 24:27-36; John 5:28-29; 14:3; Acts 1:7, 11; Rom. 8:1, 18-25; 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-57; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Col. 1:19-20; 1 Thess. 4:15-5:3; Rev. 11:15, 19:11-21:5).

B. Doctrinal Distinctives

In addition, this church (the Berean Bible Church) holds the following doctrinal distinctives which are consistent with and supplemental to the above doctrinal statement. Some of the below statements are taken and adapted from the Positional Statements of Bob Jones University & Seminary in Greenville, SC and Answers in Genesis in KY.

Supplemental statements 1-4 are Biblical beliefs that will be taught in this church and must be personally accepted for membership. Supplemental statements 5-8 concern theological positions and Biblical interpretations that will be taught in this church, however, they are not beliefs one must personally hold to in order to qualify for membership.

1) We believe all human life is sacred and begins at conception. Each unborn child is a unique, living human being, created in the image of God, and must be respected and protected both before and after birth.

2) We believe there is only one race of mankind—the human race made in the image of God. All people alive today are descendants of Adam and Eve and have equal dignity and value regardless of age, intelligence, gender, physical ability, shade of skin tone, religion, ethnicity, or any other characteristic.

3) We believe God created man and woman in His image as two distinct but equal genders which He intends to use for His glory. Individual gender is assigned by God and determined at conception. Therefore, we believe that to intentionally alter or change one's physical gender or to live as a gender other than the one assigned at conception is to reject God's right as Creator to assign gender to His creatures and is a personal rejection of His plan.

4) We believe human sexuality is part of God's divine design for human beings. However, the Bible restricts all sexual activity to within the boundaries of the marriage relationship between a husband and wife. The Bible specifically names as sinful all sexual activity outside of marriage and prohibits any form of sexual activity between persons of the same sex.

5) We teach on a soon approaching day unknown to mankind, God the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) will rapture His Church. Following a terrible period of judgments that God will pour out upon the earth, our Savior will return in glory to establish His Millennial Kingdom on the earth. His thousand year reign will be followed by the ushering in of the new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem, and the eternal state.

6) We teach the Church, the Body of Christ, made up of both Jew and Gentile, began on the Day of Pentecost and is distinct from Israel. Thus, the nation of Israel will have a special place in Christ's Millennial Kingdom wherein the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants will reach their ultimate fulfillment and Israel will be restored as a nation in the Promise Land from which Christ will reign from Jerusalem.

7) We teach the sign gifts (gifts of healing, tongues, prophecy) as mentioned in the New Testament and observed in the early Church have fulfilled their purpose and are not a normative pattern for today. God in accordance with His perfect will and sovereignty does heal some people today, but the temporary gift given for the purpose of healing others was granted during the apostolic age to authenticate the apostles and the truth of the gospel message they proclaimed.

8) We teach the account of origins and the fall in Genesis is a factual and literal narrative of historical events, that is, God created the universe, including all original kinds of living organisms (including man) in six literal days. The genealogies recorded in Genesis 5 and 11 indicate a date for the creation week less than ten thousand years ago. The flood described in Genesis 6-8 was a historical event which was global in extent and biologically and geologically catastrophic in effect.

C. Mission Statement:

"All to the praise of God's glory" (Eph. 1:1-14): 1) By exalting and glorifying Him through faithfully teaching and seeking to obey His Word, keeping the gospel central in everything. 2) By edifying and discipling believers in becoming more Christlike. And 3) By evangelizing, in love, grace, and truth, our community and the nations.

IV. Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of those who are born again in the Lord Jesus Christ, are seeking to be obedient to the teachings of Scripture, and are consistently functioning as a part of this body to fulfill its mission.

A. Explanation

Church membership in Berean Bible Church is for people who have trusted in Christ and desire to glorify God by partnering in the ministry of this church. Church membership does not save a person or earn them merit with God, but it is a sign of commitment to love and serve what Christ loves, the Church. (Ephesians 5:25)

Regarding salvation, a Berean Bible Church member must have repented from their sin and placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They must acknowledge that they cannot

be saved or made right with God by good works, but are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. (John 1:12, 3:16; Romans 3:20-23; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Regarding baptism (as with church membership) it does not save a person, but in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ, the Berean Bible Church requires that its members have undergone baptism as a believer. If you have not been baptized, we ask that you do so at the next available opportunity. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38, 41; 16:14-15, 30-33; 18:8)

B. Qualifications

1. Confess faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord and give evidence of a regenerated life.

2. Submit to the Doctrinal Statement and Bylaws of this church and the doctrines of the Berean Fellowship as outlined in the Berean Fellowship Constitution and Doctrinal Statement.

3. In obedience to Jesus Christ have undergone believer's baptism in water by immersion.

C. Procedure

1. A person seeking church membership will participate in the process prescribed by the Church Board.

2. The candidate for membership shall then be examined by the Church Board to ensure that he or she meets the qualifications for membership.

3. Upon approval by the Church Board the candidate shall be accepted for membership and their membership announced to the church.

D. Membership Covenant

Members will comply with the following Membership Covenant:

As a member of the Berean Bible Church, I…

1) Will walk in brotherly love and will work and pray for the unity of the Holy Spirit in our church.
(John 13:34-35, 17:20-21; Romans 12:10-18; Ephesians 4:1-3, 29-32; 1 John 4:19-21)

2) Will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, pursue holiness, and flee from the sinful desires of my flesh.
(Galatians 5:16-26; Colossians 3:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:1-3, 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16)

3) Will pray for my church family and will refuse to participate in gossip.
(Galatians 6:2; Colossians 4:2; James 5:16; Proverbs 20:19)

4) Will regularly attend Sunday morning services and participate in communion services when I am able.
(Hebrews 10:24-25)

5) Will agree to pursue the godly path of reconciliation when I have differences with others. I also agree to be held accountable by the leadership and other members of the church, understanding the nature of restorative church discipline.
(Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 5:16)

6) Will pray for and submit to the leadership of the church.
(Colossians 4:2-3; Hebrews 13:17)

7) Will commit myself to live generously, both financially and with my spiritual gifts. I understand God has sovereignly given me resources and spiritual gifts to steward and use to accomplish our mission of: 1) Exalting and glorifying Him through faithfully teaching and seeking to obey His Word, keeping the gospel central in everything. 2) Edifying

and discipling believers in becoming more Christlike. And 3) Evangelizing, in love, grace, and truth, our community and the nations.
(Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Peter 4:10)

E. Removal

1. If a member joins another church, his or her membership in this church automatically terminates. A letter certifying the member's baptism and membership standing will be sent upon request.

2. Members who develop irreconcilable differences with either the doctrinal position of this church or the policies and procedures described in these Bylaws shall quietly resign their membership without attempting to cause any trouble.

3. Members may be removed from membership at the discretion of the Church Board as the final result of church discipline according to the procedure described in Matthew 18 and in these Bylaws.

4. Members who are absent from church events and activities for six months may be removed from membership after the Church Board has attempted meaningful contact to discern the reasons for their absence and ascertain their spiritual health.

F. Additional Regulations

1) Only members shall be entitled to vote or hold an office in this church.

2) The Elders and the Constitution and Bylaws of this church will determine the items and/or proposed action which will require the vote of the membership of this local church.

3) Seventy-five percent (75%) of the membership vote will approve or disapprove any proposed item(s) or action.

4) Only members shall be qualified to serve as primary teachers and in certain positions of leadership. This includes regular Sunday school teachers, primary Bible study leaders, primary small group leaders, primary Kids' Club classroom leaders, primary VBS classroom leaders, and regular worship team members. Membership is not required for those who serve as ushers, nursery workers, substitute teachers, substitute leaders, assistant classroom teachers, assistant table leaders, and youth and college students who are approved by the Board to temporarily serve in any of the above-mentioned positions.

5) The church shall conduct classes for membership according to the need. These classes shall be taught by the pastor or a Board member.

V. Church Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is the restoration of the sinning member to Christ and the church body.

A. Guidelines

1. Biblically, each believer is responsible before God to examine his or her own obedience to Christ. (1 Cor. 11:31)

2. In taking disciplinary actions, it is imperative that all parties be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and follow scriptural guidelines.

3. Church discipline is for specific sins, not for differences of opinion. (1 Cor. 5; 1 Tim 5:19-21)

B. Process (Matt.18:15-20)

1. The person who is aware of the offense is to be the first to prayerfully and privately confront the sinning member.

2. If the sinning member refuses to repent, the first person is to take one or two witnesses for a second attempt to confirm and clarify the facts.

3. If the matter remains unresolved, it is to be brought to the Church Board.

4. If the sinning member still refuses to repent, the Church Board may bring the matter to the attention of the members of the church.

5. When the sinning member repents, he or she should be forgiven, restored to fellowship, and lovingly affirmed by those involved.

6. Restoration to ministry responsibilities shall be at the discretion of the Church Board.

7. In the event that the sinning member continually refuses to repent, he/she may be removed from membership at the discretion of the Church Board.

VI. Church Leadership

A. Church Board

1) The Official Church Board (referred to hereinafter as “the Board”) shall be the Board of Directors for this corporation and will provide accountability for all organizations, committees, and ministries of the church.

2) The Board will consist of Biblically qualified male Elders. The Elders and pastor of the church shall constitute the Board of this church.

3) The Board will choose and appoint qualified Elders from the membership of the church to serve on the Board.

a) The Board will inform the church family that the candidate is being considered.
b) The church family will have thirty days to give positive and/or negative feedback on the candidate being considered.
c) The Board will consider all responses of the church family regarding the candidate they are considering.
d) The candidate will then be approved or disapproved by the Board to become an official Board member of this church.
e) The Elder will serve as long as he desires, so long as he remains Biblically qualified. If the Elder Biblically disqualifies himself, he will resign or be asked to resign by the Board, immediately.

4) The Board will meet regularly to conduct the business affairs of the church. The Board shall appoint a Secretary from their number to keep the minutes of their meetings in a permanent record.

5) The Board shall keep the members of this church informed of its decisions and actions as these things affect the entire church family.

6) The members of the Board are exhorted to keep confidential matters discussed or decided upon in their meetings, “confidential”.

7) When the number of Board members becomes fewer than three (including the pastor) a Provisional Leadership Team will be formed according to article II. H-5 of the Berean Fellowship of Church’s Constitution. This team along with at least one representative from the local church will serve as the Official Board of this church until an autonomous local Board can be reestablished.

8) Elders must agree to the Elder Covenant.

B. Elders

1) An Elder serves as a shepherd, leader, and teacher in the local church.

2) A man is qualified to serve as an Elder when his life consistently displays the characteristics described in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, Hebrews 13, and 1 Peter 5. He will be selected for his Christlike character, giftedness, and his sense of personal call to the role.

3) Elders of this church are responsible to the Lord Jesus and accountable to the Board and to the church to shepherd and teach the church as Jesus would. He shall be identified as an Elder as long as he shares in the responsibilities of shepherding the flock until he is prevented from doing so by his death, resignation, or removal by other Elders in the event of heresy, immorality, misconduct, incompetence, or failure to maintain a good testimony.

4) All Elders will agree to the following covenant:

> I, (name), ask God for His grace to help me shepherd the Berean Bible Church. I commit to God's assignment to shepherd and guard this flock as an overseer. I understand that this role is not simply advisory, but one of shepherding God's people, guarding sound doctrine, and advancing God's mission in this community. I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my leadership in this church, and so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him, and grow in a committed love for my church and community.
>
> I commit to seek the Holy Spirit's help in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. I commit to maintain a soft heart before the living God by practicing the spiritual disciplines, intentionally keeping my eyes on Jesus the Chief Shepherd.
>
> I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship.

If at any time I am out of harmony with my fellow Elders or with the Berean Fellowship, I commit to seek reconciliation. If I fail to be reconciled, I will graciously resign immediately, causing no trouble which would damage this church.

C. Lead Pastor

1. Responsibilities

    a. The Lead Pastor shall provide spiritual leadership to the church in equipping God's people for the work of the ministry. (Eph 4:11-12).

    b. The Lead Pastor is an Elder of the church and shall be accountable to the Board for the performance of his duties. He serves on the official Board as an Elder.

    c. He shall have the right to be an ex officio member of all committees and other organized groups within the church.

    d. He shall participate in the BFC Regional Fellowship and the annual BFC General Council meetings.

2. Calling a Lead Pastor

    a. The Board shall appoint a search committee consisting of five to seven church members, at least one of whom is an Elder.

    b. All discussions of the search committee shall be confidential, as to the names and evaluations of each potential candidate, although they will keep the congregation well informed of their process.

    c. The team shall review résumés and shall send a copy of these Bylaws and the BFC Constitution to each viable candidate.

    d. The search committee will be instructed to contact the Regional Fellowship Leader for names of potential candidates as well as assistance with the process.

e. Though many potential candidates may be considered, only one will be chosen, by a two-thirds majority vote of the search committee, for recommendation to the Board.

f. If the Board has a favorable response to his application, résumé, and ministry experience, it will seek the assistance of its Regional Fellowship. If after reviewing a pastoral candidate the representatives of the Regional Fellowship do not recommend the candidate as a lead pastor the search committee should continue to review resumes to identify a different candidate to recommend.

g. After receiving input from the Regional Fellowship, if the Board wishes to proceed, it shall extend an invitation to the prospective candidate to visit the church, to meet with the Board, and to preach.

h. Upon a unanimous affirmative vote of the Board, the candidate shall be presented to the congregation for a vote of affirmation.

i. Upon an affirmative vote of 75% of the church members present at a specially called meeting, a call shall be extended to the candidate.

3. A pastor shall serve as long as mutually agreeable between him, the Board and the church, provided that he continues to affirm the Pastor's Covenant.

4. Pastor's Covenant: Throughout his tenure with this church, the pastor will maintain the character and commitments of the following Covenant:

   I, (name), ask God for His grace to help me shepherd the Berean Bible Church. I commit to God’s assignment to lead this flock through shepherding, teaching, evangelizing, and equipping believers for the work of ministry. I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my time at this church, and so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him, and grow in a committed love for my church and community.

I commit to seek the Holy Spirit's help in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. I commit to maintain a soft heart before the living God by practicing the spiritual disciplines, intentionally keeping my eyes on Jesus the Chief Shepherd.

I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship.

I commit to being sensitive to God's leading regarding the completion of my current ministry assignment, and will graciously resign when I sense God's leading. If at any time I am unable to submit to the authority of this church's Elders or the Berean Fellowship, I ask these Elders to call it to my attention. If I fail to be reconciled I will resign immediately and will quickly and quietly leave the community, causing no trouble which would damage this church.

5. Any pastor not previously ordained shall be licensed for ministry, as set forth in the BFC Constitution. If the pastor was previously ordained, his ordination may be formally recognized and endorsed by the church and reported to the BFC.

6. An Interim Pastor has the same duties and covenant as a Lead Pastor and must be chosen by vote of the Board.

7. The Pastor's salary, vacation, and a granted paid sabbatical every 5-7 years shall be determined and reviewed by the Board. Any changes to these items will be made known to the church family.

D. Deacons

Another leadership role within the local church is that of a Deacon (for men) and Deaconess (for women). In the Greek the word *deacon* means to serve, it's a special appointed ministry position of service under the leadership and authority of the Elders.

1) Qualifications

a) 1 Timothy 3:8-13 list the Biblical qualifications for these servants. The main qualification difference between Elders and Deacons is, Deacons don't necessarily have to fulfill the role of teaching or have that gift.

b) Any church member who willingly desires and accepts their selection and appointment to the office of Deacon and the responsibilities it involves.

2) Selection

a) Nominations to the office of Deacon will be made by the Board of those who meet the Biblical qualifications, and so desire to serve in this capacity.

b) Reappointments may be made to the office year to year as long as the person remains qualified for the office.

c) The number of Deacons shall be determined by the Board based on the needs of the church.

3) Duties

a) To be determined by the Board.

E. Church Treasurer

1. He shall be a member of the Board.

2. He shall be responsible to see that regular financial reports throughout the year are distributed to the members of the Board and a year-end summary report made available to the church family at the Annual Business Meeting in January.

3. He shall bring all non-regular bills to the attention of the Board for its consideration and approval before said bills are paid.

4. He shall certify to the bank(s) the names of those members of the Board who have been authorized to have access to the safety deposit box(es) and to sign the checks for the disbursement of church funds.

5. Upon his retirement or removal from office, he shall deliver to his successor all records, files and/or other papers belonging to the church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

F. Additional Ministry Staff

1. The Lead Pastor, in conjunction with the Board, may hire/appoint pastoral and non-pastoral staff, whether full-time, part-time, or volunteer. These staff members shall be directly accountable to the Lead Pastor.

2. Pastoral staff members must meet the qualifications of an Elder. Pastoral staff members are directly accountable to the Lead Pastor and indirectly accountable to the Board. Pastoral staff may serve on the Board at the discretion of the Lead Pastor and the Board.

3. All ministry staff shall abide by these Bylaws, and will quietly resign if he/she is unwilling to submit to the authority of the Lead Pastor, Board, or the Berean Fellowship.

VII. Officers of the Church Corporation

A. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary will be appointed annually by the Board from its membership, also filling the roles of President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Corporation. These officers will be granted the authority and responsibilities

generally accorded these positions to act on behalf of the Corporation.

VIII. Meetings

A) Public Meetings

1) Public worship services shall be held weekly on Sundays.

2) This church shall observe the Lord's Supper (Communion) at times or time intervals deemed appropriate by the Board.

3) Other public services can be scheduled by the Board as they determine such services to be in the best interests of the church family and its ministry to this community.

4) This church and its leadership shall not officially lead or participate in any community-wide ecumenical worship service without Board approval.

B) Business Meetings

1) The Annual Church Business Meeting shall be held (weather permitting) the last Sunday in January, having been announced from the pulpit or in written form, either physical or digital, two Sundays prior to the meeting.

2) Special business meetings can be called at the discretion and direction of the Board.

3) Members of the church can make a request for such a special meeting if they will agree to specify the details of their request to the Board prior to any meeting. The Board will determine if and when the meeting will be called.

IX. Church Ministries

A. General Description

1) As people in our church family are moved by God to consider creating or starting new ministries, they are to meet with the Board, or its designated representative to discuss the scope and nature of the ministry.

2) Each ministry leader will be a member of Berean Bible Church, and will be approved by the Board. Ministry leaders will report directly to the Board or its designated representative.

3) Each ministry is under the authority and leadership of the Board. No ministry shall operate in the name of Berean Fundamental Church of Curtis, or Berean Bible Church of Curtis without Board approval.

X. General Policies

A. Use of Church Building

1. Use of the church building (and property) for other than its scheduled gatherings, ministries, or activities and events planned by church family must first have Board approval.

2. All guest speakers must have the approval of the Board.

3. Members of this church family who desire to use a minister of the gospel for a funeral or wedding in or on the church property, other than this church's Pastor, must make request of the Board for approval. At their discretion, the Board can request and/or require that this church's Pastor also take part in the service.

B. Marriage

1) This church holds to a Biblical view of marriage. This means no unequally yoked (a Christian marrying a non-Christian) and no homosexual (same sex) marriage/wedding can be carried out by the Pastor of this church. It also prohibits any ceremony that is nonbiblical to be performed in our church facility or on church property by anyone.

2) In order for this church's Pastor to officiate a wedding, Board approval is needed along with no less than a three months' notice from the couple. During this time of engagement, a minimum of 4 sessions of premarital counseling are required of the couple with the pastor or a Board approved counselor.

C. Children's Ministries Worker's Covenant

1. All who serve / work with children will complete the Children's Ministries Volunteer Application, sign the Covenant, and have a Criminal History Background check.

D. Curriculum

1. All curriculum taught and new material purchased for Sunday school, Kids' Club, Youth Group, VBS, and Bible studies must be listed on the current Approved Curriculum List of this church or approved by the Pastor or a Board member.

E. Worship Music

1. All worship music sung and any new songs purchased and introduced must be according to the current Worship Music Guidelines of this church.

XI. Church Property

A. Titles: This locally incorporated church shall hold titles to all church property, real or personal.

B. Use: Property held by this locally incorporated church shall be for the use of church ministry consistent with the doctrine, practice, and ministry contained within these Bylaws.

C. Division: In the case of an organizational division of the church, the group of members that abides by the BFC National Constitution and these Bylaws shall retain all church property. Should controversy arise as to which group that is, the question shall be submitted to the BFC Board of Directors or its successor, and their decision shall be final. Upon determination by the BFC Board of Directors, all titles for church property shall be conveyed to the group of members retaining ownership.

D. Dissolution: If at any time there are insufficient members to continue a viable church work and a decision is made to close the church, the ownership and title of all church property, real and personal, shall be transferred to the BFC.

E. Disaffiliation: This church may vote to disaffiliate from the BFC, as provided in Article V, C of the BFC Bylaws.

XII. Rules of Order

A. General Powers: This organization shall receive gifts, bequests and legacies; acquire, buy, hold, improve, rent, lease, mortgage, sell and convey, and otherwise deal in real and personal property as may be necessary to conduct the business of this church and fulfill its stated mission. Appeals for funds may be made as deemed advisable by the Board.

B. This church will be supported financially by the members of this church family as they practice Biblical Financial Stewardship. Methods of receiving funds, other than the passing of the collection plates, must have the approval of the Board. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any individual(s) inside or outside this church congregation, from the assets, holdings, or other transactions in which this organization may become involved.

C. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of this church shall be January 1 through December 31.

D. Quorum: A quorum for any meeting of the membership shall be 50% and not less than 10 people of the active membership. A quorum for a duly called meeting of any board or committee shall consist of 50% of its membership.

E. Decisions will be by the majority vote of those present, unless alternately defined in these Bylaws or previously stipulated. Each member has one vote.

F. Parliamentary Guide: In order that "...all things be done decently and in order," Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (of the most recent edition) shall be followed in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of this church.

G. "Ex officio" members, meaning "by virtue of office," shall have the right to vote and function in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

H. Policies: Each board, committee and auxiliary organization of this church may formulate and maintain its own policies and procedures, which shall be approved by the Board and be in harmony with these Bylaws. A current copy of these policies and procedures shall be kept on file at the church office.

XIII. Limitation of Liability

A. No member of the Board of Berean Bible Church shall be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Berean Bible Church.

B. To the extent that a person who is, or was, an officer, employee or other agent of this organization has been successful on the merits in defense of any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative proceeding brought to procure a judgment against such person by reason of the fact that he or she is, or was, an agent of the Berean Bible Church, or has been successful in defense of any claim, issue or matter, therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such proceeding.

C. If such person settles any such claim or sustains a judgment against him or her, then indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts reasonably incurred in connection with such proceedings shall be provided by this organization but only to the extent allowed by, and in accordance with state law.

D. The Board of Berean Bible Church may adopt a policy authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the organization against any liability other than for violating provisions of law relating to self—dealing asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not Berean Bible Church would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of state law.

XIV. Interpretation and Amendments

A. These Bylaws may be amended upon an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the church membership at a meeting in which a quorum is present, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed, either physically or electronically, to the church membership at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

B. The counsel of the Regional Fellowship of the BFC will be sought before considering the revision or amendment of these Bylaws.

C. Upon adoption of an amendment to these Bylaws, a current copy will be provided to the Board of Directors of the BFC.

D. Matters of clarification and interpretation of these Bylaws will be referred to the Regional Fellowship of the BFC.

E. These Bylaws of Berean Bible Church supersede and replace all prior Bylaws.

XV. Signatures

The undersigned certify that the above Bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors of this church and affirmed by the membership, at a duly called meeting of the Berean Bible Church, on January 29, 2023, and are adopted for the Corporation.

_____

Chairman of the Corporation

_____

Corporation Secretary