



CONSTITUTION

Adopted February 11, 2001
Last Revised January 18, 2009

**Gray Road Baptist Church
Indianapolis, Indiana**

CONSTITUTION

Gray Road Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

ARTICLE 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Gray Road Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana.

ARTICLE 2. Purpose

Section 1

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining, supporting, and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print-shops, day-care centers, camps, counseling ministries, and nursing homes.

Section 2

The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE 3. Doctrine

The doctrine of this church shall be as stated in the Confession of Faith, which is a part of this constitution.

ARTICLE 4. Affiliation

As an independent, New Testament Baptist Church, this church cannot join anything outside itself, but can only affiliate with outside organizations on the ground of fellowship in the Gospel.

ARTICLE 5. Membership

Section 1 - The Meaning of Membership

Gray Road Baptist Church believes that the Lord Jesus Christ deserves the very best from each of His own. The church, as such, looks with disfavor upon all forms of worldliness. We hold that any habit, practice, association, or affection which hinders spiritual growth and an ever-deepening knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ should be laid aside. The ministry of the church in all its preaching and teaching consistently urges its members to “lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily besets us” (Hebrews 12:1).

As a church we believe there is power in Christ for each individual within the membership to live a life free from those things which grieve the heart of our Savior, and to live lives pleasing to Him. While some of its members at times forget their high calling in Christ Jesus and engage in things unbecoming to Christians, nonetheless the great body of this church is known as one whose members seek to live lives separated from worldliness (1John 2:14-17).

When a person becomes a member of Gray Road Baptist Church, he or she enters into the fellowship of a church which expects all of its members to endeavor to maintain its testimony against apostasy, worldliness, and indifference, and to seek by every right means possible to assist it in its preaching of the Bible, in the separation of its members from the world, and in the winning of the lost to Jesus Christ.

Section 2 - Qualifications for Membership

a. The membership of this church shall consist of those who believe in and have received Jesus Christ into their lives as their Lord and Savior and who have met with the Membership Committee or the Deacons and given to them testimony of their salvation (Rom. 10:9,10). They shall be recommended to the congregation by the Deacons in the following ways:

1. Any person who professes faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, gives evidence of being born again, and who accepts the Confession of Faith held by this church, may, upon the recommendation of the Deacons and by a vote of congregation, be received into the membership following baptism by immersion. However, a negative vote by a total of five members shall exclude the person from membership.

2. The procedure is the same as in the preceding paragraph (1) for a person who has been scripturally baptized following his/her conversion.

Section 3 - Status of Members

a. Active. In order to be considered an active member of this church in good standing a member must attend at least one worship service quarterly and not be under church discipline. This attendance requirement shall not apply to shut-ins, missionaries serving in other areas, and other exceptions which may be approved by the Pastor and Deacons. Only active members in good standing shall have voting privileges.

b. Inactive. Failure to attend any worship service of the church for a period of six months, except in cases as stated in the preceding paragraph (a), shall be deemed sufficient reason for the Deacons to drop the name from the active membership roll, placing it on the inactive roll. Names shall be carried on the inactive roll for a period of six months. If the delinquent member shows no interest in that time, the Deacons may recommend to the church that the name be removed from the membership.

Section 4 - Reception of Members

The names of those recommended by the Deacons for church membership may be presented and voted on at any regular church service or any regular business meeting.

Section 5 - Duties of Members

- a. Each member is expected to conduct himself or herself in daily life so as to bring honor to Jesus Christ, and as being in agreement with the Confession of Faith and the Covenant of the church.
- b. Each member should regularly attend the services of the church and participate regularly in the financial support of the church as the Lord prospers him or her (Heb. 10:25).
- c. Each member is expected to volunteer to serve within the limits of his or her ability.

Section 6 - Human Sexuality

- a. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gal. 19-21).
- b. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman by mutual covenant (Gen. 2:23,24).
- c. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church (1Tim. 3:1-13).

Section 7 - Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being (Psa. 139:13-15). Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancy due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

Section 8 - Discipline of Members

In all matters of differences between members, the Deacons and the church must adhere faithfully to the teaching of the Lord in Matthew 18:15-17. All differences between members must be settled by this rule. The Deacons shall see that this principle is enforced. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church in order to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31,32).

In the case of doctrinal heresy or gross and flagrant violation of Christian conduct such as the Scriptures forbid, and after biblical counsel by the Pastor and Deacons, the accused may, upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons and vote of the congregation, be dismissed from the membership of the church. Prior to the vote of the congregation the accused shall be advised by letter of the pending action and thereby also be advised of his/her right to appeal the case to the church body. The accused must make arrangements for such appeal with the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 9 - Termination of Membership

The name of any member shall be removed from the church membership roll when one or more of the following conditions exist:

- a. When the member joins another church. In the case of other Baptist Churches of like faith and practice, a letter of transfer shall be granted to members in good standing. When the member joins a church other than one of like faith and practice, the member shall be granted a certificate of standing to date.
- b. Upon death.
- c. Upon request of the member, his/her membership shall be terminated.
- d. Continuous inactivity, as described under Section 3.
- e. Disciplinary action by the Pastor and Deacons.

In all cases of termination of membership, action by the church is required. This may be done at any church service or business session.

ARTICLE 6. Church Government

- a. This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:23) and the direction of the pastor and the deacons. Membership in this church does not afford those individuals with any property contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures.
- b. While the church may voluntarily associate itself with other churches of like faith and practice, or with associations of such churches, yet it remains independent and assumes sole responsibility for its actions and decisions.
- c. As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation; the clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation; the treasurer shall serve as the treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the deacons shall serve as the vice-president of the organization.
- d. Unless authority to speak on behalf of the church is otherwise granted by the pastor and the deacons in writing, the pastor (or the chairman of the deacons if the office of pastor is vacant)

shall have sole authority to communicate the legal position of the church regarding matters that are not expressly addressed by this constitution. In no event shall the pastor (or the chairman of the deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) have the authority to make statements on behalf of the church that contradict this constitution.

ARTICLE 7. Ordinances

Section 1 - Baptism

Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior shall, by the Pastor or some person authorized by the church, be immersed in water in accordance with the scriptural teaching. Immersion shall be prerequisite to church membership (Rom. 6:4).

Section 2 - The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper (Communion) shall normally be served in the assembled church by the Pastor (or some person designated by the church) and the Deacons on the first Sunday of each month, and/or at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons. Since it is the Lord's table, none who are His shall be barred, but the Pastor shall frequently state the scriptural order, which places baptism as a prerequisite to communion, and he shall explain the meaning of the ordinances (1Cor. 11:23-32).

ARTICLE 8. Officers and Committees

All elected church boards and committees, as their first order of business following their annual election or appointment, shall elect from their membership officers for the coming year.

The officers of the church shall be the Pastor and Deacons.

The Deacons shall be elected by the church and their term of office shall begin at the next Deacons' meeting following the annual election. Retiring officers shall hold their offices until the term of the newly elected officers begins.

Section 1 - Pastor

a. When the office of Pastor has been vacated, the Deacons shall act as a pulpit committee. They shall present to the church one candidate at a time, to be voted on by the church before another candidate is presented (if the one being considered is not called or does not accept). Announcement of the coming of a candidate shall be made publicly from the pulpit at the Sunday service(s) of the church at least one week before the candidate is to appear.

b. On the Sunday the candidate is present at the church, the pulpit committee shall announce from the pulpit at the Sunday service(s) that the congregation shall vote on the following Sunday. The congregation shall vote by ballot, and 80% of the votes cast shall be required to issue a call to the candidate.

c. The Pastor shall serve for an indeterminate term, and his service shall be terminated either by his resignation or by action of the church body. The Pastor shall give the church notice in

writing not to exceed sixty (60) days and not less than thirty (30) days of his intention to discontinue as pastor. The church may, by an 80% or greater vote of the ballots cast at a regularly called business meeting, dismiss the Pastor, provided that a notice of not less than sixty (60) days from the time the action is taken be given to him that his term of office will cease. Such notice may be waived by the mutual consent of the church and the pastor.

d. The pastor shall be a member of the church, and subject to all the requirements imposed on members as provided herein. He shall be the moderator of the church and a member ex-officio of the deacons and all boards and committees of the church.

e. The pastor shall be qualified according to 1Timothy 3:1-7.

f. The duties of the pastor in addition to those outlined in other portions herein shall be to:

1. Have the oversight of the total church. Acts 20:28
2. "Preach the Word" 2Timothy 4:2
3. "Feed the flock of God" 1Peter 5:2
4. "Warn and teach" that every member may be mature in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28
5. Have the oversight of the pastoral staff and all other paid personnel.
6. Officiate at such occasions as generally fall to the pastor of a church.
7. Supervise the administration of the ordinances.
8. Designate others to supply the pulpit in his absence.

g. The pastor's salary shall be reviewed and determined annually by the deacons.

Section 2 - The Pastoral Staff

a. The pastoral staff shall consist of all the men who are called by the pastor and deacons to minister to the congregation as paid personnel of the church.

b. When the services of ministers other than the pastor are needed in the operation of the church, the church shall hear the recommendation of the pastor and deacons and may authorize such positions. The pastor shall then recommend to the deacons the person to be employed in the position created, and by mutual consent of the pastor and deacons the person will be hired to fill the position.

c. When a vacancy occurs in the pastoral staff, if the pastor and deacons deem that the services of another person should be secured to fill the vacancy, the pastor shall recommend to the deacons the person to be employed, and by their mutual consent the position shall be filled.

d. All paid ministers, known as the pastoral staff, are directly responsible to the pastor in the performance of their duties. The employment or dismissal of a pastoral staff member is not subject to church action.

e. Due to changing circumstances and conditions, it may be necessary to vary the number, titles, and duties of members of the pastoral staff.

f. The salaries of the pastoral staff and other employees shall be reviewed and determined annually by the pastor with the approval of the finance committee.

Section 3 - Other Paid Personnel

a. Paid personnel other than the pastoral staff may be hired by the mutual consent of the pastor and deacons, and shall be under the supervision of the pastor or a pastoral staff member whom he shall designate.

Section 4 - Deacons

a. Deacons shall be elected by the church to three-year terms, and their terms shall be arranged so that no more than one-third shall leave office each year. The number of Deacons serving in a given year shall be determined by the following factors, in the following order:

1. Deacons shall be qualified according to 1Timothy 3:8-12.

2. Whenever possible, the number of Deacons should be sufficient to adequately meet the needs of the church, and to allow for the completion of all the duties assigned to the Deacons in this constitution.

3. Whenever possible, the ballot shall include two nominees for each open position. (See Article 12, Section 2b.)

b. When a vacancy occurs during the year, the man who had the highest number of votes at the last election of those nominees not elected shall be asked to serve until the next election, when the vacancy, if the term has not expired, shall be filled. Should the man not accept, the process shall be repeated, beginning with the nominee with the next highest vote total in the last election, until all nominees from the last election have been exhausted. At that point, the pastor and deacons shall fill the position by appointment.

c. The deacons shall meet monthly at a time determined by them.

d. The duties of deacons shall be:

1. To elect from their number a Chairman and a Secretary. The secretary shall also be the Clerk of the church. They shall also elect from their number at their first meeting in the new year the following church officers: three Trustees (one of whom shall be the chairman), Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. The pastor shall serve as the moderator of the deacons.

2. To divide themselves into three committees: Membership, Finance, and Benevolence. The Clerk shall be the chairman of the Membership Committee, and the Treasurer shall be the chairman of the Finance Committee. Each deacon shall serve on one of these three committees. Appointment of the deacons to committees shall be by the pastor, confirmed by the deacons.

3. To cooperate with and assist the pastor and his staff in the performance of their duties.

4. When a vacancy in the pastorate occurs, the deacons shall serve as the pulpit committee.

5. The deacons shall serve as an advisory committee to the congregation, bringing such recommendations to the church body as they see fit. They shall also consider and make recommendations to the church body on matters brought up by members in business sessions.

6. The deacons shall receive and disburse the Deacons' Fund, or Benevolence Fund, of the church. Monies for this fund shall be received at each Communion Service. The administration

of this fund shall be confidential within the deacons, and an annual report shall be given to the church of the total amount received and disbursed.

7. The deacons shall have authority, if necessary, to make any non-budgeted expenditure not exceeding \$1000.

e. The duties of the Membership Committee shall be

1. To interview all prospective members concerning their personal faith in Jesus Christ, and to recommend to the church those they believe should become members of the church. They shall provide each candidate for membership with a copy of the church constitution.

2. To annually organize a special calling list for each deacon, particularly including those members who have special needs.

3. To periodically examine the church membership roll in an effort to keep it up to date.

f. The duties of the Finance Committee shall be

1. To supervise the handling of funds received. They shall assist, when necessary, the Treasurer and Financial Secretary in the counting and banking of all monies.

2. Prepare for presentation to the deacons, and upon their approval, to the church, an annual budget.

3. To recommend auditors to the deacons who shall annually examine the financial records of the church. A report of said examination shall be made to the church annually at its April business meeting.

g. The duties of the Benevolence Committee shall be

1. To receive and disburse the Deacons' Fund in accordance with the policies of the deacons.

2. To oversee the care of the member widows, shut-ins, the poor, and others with special needs in the church.

Section 5 - Trustees

The deacons shall elect three of their number annually (one shall be the chairman) to be trustees. The trustees shall function as required by the laws of the State of Indiana for Baptist churches. The trustees, as such, shall hold all the property of the church in trust. They shall not sell, lease, give away, or dispose of church property exceeding \$200 in value in any one month without the approval of the pastor and deacons. When the amount shall exceed \$1000, the deacons must recommend the action to the congregation for its approval.

Section 6 - Other Officers and Committees

a. Clerk. The clerk shall keep a fair and complete record of the proceedings of the church. He shall have charge of all records, keep a register of all members of the church, showing their last known address, and the date of their admission and removal. He shall write letters of transfer, and perform other duties as may be prescribed by the pastor and deacons.

b. Treasurer. The treasurer shall receive all monies of the church and shall apply the same as directed by the church. He shall submit a current, written, exact financial report at the regular deacons' meeting each month, and at the church quarterly and annual business meetings. He shall recommend to the deacons persons to count and deposit the offerings, and shall supervise the church's bookkeeper in his duties.

c. Financial Secretary. The financial secretary shall furnish the members of the church with offering envelopes. He shall keep a record of all offerings and gifts made to the church in the offering envelopes. He shall furnish quarterly and annual statements to members and others who contribute through the envelope system.

d. Gray Road Christian School Steering Committee.

The Gray Road Christian School Steering Committee shall consist of five members and the pastor. They shall be appointed by the Church Board in October of each year for a one-year term. Members of the committee who have served four consecutive terms shall not be eligible for appointment for one year. The pastor shall be the permanent chairman of the committee, and the principal of the school shall be a member ex-officio. To be eligible for appointment, a person must be an active member of the Church and in good standing.

e. Missions Committee.

This committee shall consist of five members, at least two of whom shall be men. They shall be elected for a period of two years, and their terms shall be arranged so that only two (three on alternate years) shall leave office each year. The chairman of the committee shall be a man. It shall be the duty of the committee to develop and implement a program of missions promotion and information for the congregation, particularly concerning the missionaries which the church supports, and to assist the pastor or his representative in the hosting of missionaries and in the planning of the annual missions conference.

1. Missions Policy. To be an approved missionary of the church and receive financial support from the church a missionary or missionary appointee must:

a. Subscribe to the Confession of Faith of the church.

b. Serve under a mission agency that guarantees that the financial support from the church will go to the missionary, and whose doctrine is in conformity to the church's Confession of Faith.

c. Be willing, upon request, to submit a financial statement to the church, and to communicate with the church a minimum of every two months concerning the work he is doing, along with requests for prayer.

f. Other officers and committees may be elected or appointed as recommended by the pastor and deacons and approved by the church.

ARTICLE 9. Covenants

Section 1 - Membership Covenant (see church covenant)

Section 2 - Officers and Teachers Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to subscribe to our Membership Covenant, and having been asked by the church to become involved in an area of service to the body, and believing that with additional responsibility there is a larger area of accountability and testimony, we do most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant for officers and teachers.

We, therefore, pledge our complete support of the doctrines and position of Gray Road Baptist Church, as outlined in this constitution. We believe that officers of the church have a solemn responsibility for maintaining the church's loyalty to the Word of God for subsequent generations. We pledge to the leaders with whom we shall be serving an attitude of unity and oneness in the body of Christ, recognizing that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

We also pledge to be faithful to the public meetings of the church. We further pledge to faithfully support the Lord's work through this church by regularly contributing financially to the church in proportion as the Lord prospers us.

We also pledge to strive to live lives that are pleasing to the Lord, in accordance with His Word and in fellowship with Him, and to "abstain from all appearance of evil," as the Scriptures teach. We further pledge that when our ministry involves teaching, we shall make careful preparation of our lesson by study and prayer, do everything we can to improve our teaching ability, including attendance at teachers' meetings and special training classes, and further, to make an effort to lead each of our students to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and to cause those who are saved to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." We also pledge to endeavor to secure the faithfulness of those under our responsibility by visitation, telephoning, and writing.

We moreover pledge that the church body shall be able to count on us for constructive evaluation, enthusiastic support, and demonstrated loyalty, and that should at any time we not be able to provide this, we are under obligation to voluntarily relinquish our office.

ARTICLE 10. Organizations

Section 1. Gray Road Christian School

The purpose of Gray Road Christian School is to provide a program of high academic quality which is in complete agreement with the Word of God as outlined by the Confession of Faith of this constitution. This organization shall be legally and spiritually controlled by Gray Road Baptist Church, and is a ministry of the church. The responsibilities of the administration and steering committee of the school are covered elsewhere in this constitution.

Section 2. Sunday School

This organization shall be considered as the church studying the Bible. It shall be under the general supervision and control of the church through the church staff.

Section 3. Other Organizations.

Other organizations within the church which are ministries of the church may be formed or disbanded from time to time, but none may be started without the consent of the Pastor and Deacons. Any organization within the church shall be governed by this constitution and voted church policy. All officers of organizations within the church must be active members of the church.

ARTICLE 11. Financial Policy

Section 1. Raising Funds

All regular funds for the church shall be raised by free will offerings. All offerings shall be deposited weekly as directed by the church treasurer. Fundraising for missions trips, service projects, youth camps, or other special ministry opportunities may be allowed if first approved by the Senior Pastor and the Deacons. Social functions may be held for Christian fellowship, and when expenses are involved, these may be defrayed either by a freewill offering or by a charge. Gray Road Christian School will receive its monies from tuition and fund raising.

Section 2. Envelopes

Numbered offering envelopes shall be made available to every member and others who request them. Members are expected to contribute to the expenses and ministries of the church regularly and systematically as the Lord has prospered them.

Section 3. Special Offerings and Designated Gifts

a. From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Pastor and Deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes of the church. All special offerings shall be given to the person or cause, after collection, by check from the church.

b. Sunday School classes, youth groups, and other organizations of the church may keep a small treasury for the purpose of sending flowers, buying coffee, etc., but the fund may not exceed \$200. No class or organization within the church may own property of any sort. Anything purchased by an organization or ministry within the church may be used by that organization or ministry, but it is understood that such property is the property of the church, and as such is subject to the church.

ARTICLE 12. Business Meetings

Section 1 - Annual and Quarterly Meetings

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the church during the month of January. There shall be Quarterly Business Meetings of the church in the months of April, July, and October. The dates of these meetings must be announced from the pulpit a minimum of one week in advance of their occurrence, in the Sunday service(s).

Section 2. Annual Election Meeting

a. The Annual Election Meeting shall be held on either the second or third Sunday of December. Announcement of this meeting shall be made from the pulpit at the Sunday Service(s) on the preceding Sunday.

b. Nominations for church offices shall be made by the active members of the church. The Deacons shall cause a nomination form to be provided to each active member 18 years of age or older. This form shall state the offices which are to be filled, and provide spaces for the members to nominate qualified individuals for the various offices. The Deacons shall provide the nomination form at least four Sundays prior to the Annual Election Meeting, and nominations will be accepted up to two Sundays before the meeting.

The names of those qualified individuals with the highest number of nominations, who accept the nomination, shall be provided to eligible voting members on the Sunday prior to the Annual Election Meeting. A brief testimony from each of the qualified individuals will be included, and whenever possible, each will be introduced to the congregation.

If no legitimate objections are raised by any active member during the week prior to the Annual Election Meeting, those names will appear on the ballot.

Section 3. Voting Privileges

Every active member of the church eighteen (18) years of age or older may vote in all the business sessions of the church.

Section 4. Other Business Meetings

Special Business Meetings may be called by the pastor and deacons at any time provided that public notice is given at the Sunday service(s) on the Sunday preceding. Routine business may be brought before the church at any service.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at any business meeting shall be fifty (50) active members of the church eighteen years of age or older.

ARTICLE 13. Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any annual or quarterly business meeting, or at any meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of such meeting be given from the pulpit at the

Sunday service(s) on the two Sundays preceding the meeting. A written copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be made available to all the active members a minimum of two weeks before the meeting when the amendment is to be considered by the church.

Section 1. Procedure

To be considered, a proposed amendment must be signed by five members or more, and be submitted to the Deacons in writing for their approval. The proposed amendment will be presented to the church at the next annual or quarterly business meeting following the Deacons' approval, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, as stated above.

Section 2. Confession of Faith

The Confession of Faith cannot be amended.

ARTICLE 14. Dissolution

Should this church at some future time be dissolved, its assets shall be assigned to one or more non-profit Christian organizations, the statements of faith of which must agree with this church's Confession of Faith. This shall be accomplished by recommendation of the Deacons and the vote of the congregation. None of the assets shall be given to any individual.

Document Revision History Gray Road Baptist Church Constitution

*The constitution was adopted by unanimous vote of the congregation on February 11, 2001.
Subsequent changes are documented below.*

Article #	Section #	Sub-section	Previous Verbiage	Revised Verbiage	Date Approved by Congregation
8	6	d	<p>The Gray Road Christian School Steering Committee shall consist of five elected men and the pastor. They shall be elected for a term of two years in June of each year, and their term of service shall begin on July 1. Their terms shall be arranged so that only two (three in alternate years) shall leave office each year. Members of the committee who have served two consecutive terms shall not be eligible for nomination for one year. The Pastor shall be the permanent chairman of the committee, and the principal of the school shall be a member ex-officio. To be eligible for nomination and election, a man must be an active member of the church in good standing.</p>	<p>The Gray Road Christian School Steering Committee shall consist of five members and the pastor. They shall be appointed by the Church Board in October of each year for a one-year term. Members of the committee who have served four consecutive terms shall not be eligible for appointment for one year. The pastor shall be the permanent chairman of the committee, and the principal of the school shall be a member ex-officio. To be eligible for appointment, a person must be an active member of the Church and in good standing.</p>	10/19/2003
8	1	a	<p>Announcement of the coming of a candidate shall be made publicly from the pulpit at all the Sunday services of the church at least one week before the candidate is to appear.</p>	<p>Announcement of the coming of a candidate shall be made publicly from the pulpit at the Sunday service(s) of the church at least one week before the candidate is to appear.</p>	11/12/2006
8	1	b	<p>On the Sunday the candidate is present at the church, the pulpit committee shall announce from the pulpit at all the Sunday services that the congregation shall vote on the following Sunday at the evening service.</p>	<p>On the Sunday the candidate is present at the church, the pulpit committee shall announce from the pulpit at the Sunday service(s) that the congregation shall vote on the following Sunday.</p>	11/12/2006

9	2	--	We also pledge to be faithful to the public meetings of the church, including Sunday, School, Morning and Evening Services on the Lord's Day, and the Midweek Service of a small group meeting in place of the Midweek Service.	We also pledge to be faithful to the public meetings of the church.	11/12/2006
12	1	--	There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the church during the month of January, following a Sunday evening service. There shall be Quarterly Business Meetings of the church following an evening service in the months of April, July, and October. The dates of these meetings must be announced from the pulpit a minimum of one week in advance of their occurrence, in all the Sunday services.	There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the church during the month of January. There shall be Quarterly Business Meetings of the church in the months of April, July, and October. The dates of these meetings must be announced from the pulpit a minimum of one week in advance of their occurrence, in the Sunday service(s).	11/12/2006
12	2	a	The Annual Election Meeting shall be held at the conclusion of the Sunday evening service on either the second or third Sunday of December at the conclusion of the evening service. Announcement of this meeting shall be made from the pulpit at all the Sunday Services on the preceding Sunday.	The Annual Election Meeting shall be held at on either the second or third Sunday of December. Announcement of this meeting shall be made from the pulpit at the Sunday Service(s) on the preceding Sunday.	11/12/2006
12	4	--	Special Business Meetings may be called by the pastor and deacons at any time provided that public notice is given at the Sunday services on the Sunday preceding.	Special Business Meetings may be called by the pastor and deacons at any time provided that public notice is given at the Sunday service(s) on the Sunday preceding.	11/12/2006
13	--	--	This constitution may be amended at any annual or quarterly business meeting, or at any meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of such meeting be given from the pulpit at all the Sunday services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting.	This constitution may be amended at any annual or quarterly business meeting, or at any meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of such meeting be given from the pulpit at the Sunday service(s) on the two Sundays preceding the meeting.	11/12/2006

11	1	--	The policy of the church shall be to raise all its monies by free will offerings. This shall include all the organizations and all the purposes for which monies are received, with the exception of Gray Road Christian School, which receives its monies from tuition and fund raising. All offerings shall be deposited as directed by the church treasurer weekly. From time to time social functions may be held for Christian fellowship, and when expenses are involved, these may be defrayed either by a freewill offering or by a charge.	All regular funds for the church shall be raised by free will offerings. All offerings shall be deposited weekly as directed by the church treasurer. Fundraising for missions trips, service projects, youth camps, or other special ministry opportunities may be allowed if first approved by the Senior Pastor and the Deacons. Social functions may be held for Christian fellowship, and when expenses are involved, these may be defrayed either by a freewill offering or by a charge. Gray Road Christian School will receive its monies from tuition and fund raising.	12/30/2007
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4			This church declares itself to be in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, and the Indiana Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches.	Voted to be stricken from the constitution.	10/19/2008
8			The Deacons shall be elected by the church and their term of office shall begin on the first of the month following the annual election in December. Retiring officers shall hold their offices until the term of the newly elected officers begins.	The Deacons shall be elected by the church and their term of office shall begin at the next Deacons' meeting following the annual election. Retiring officers shall hold their offices until the term of the newly elected officers begins.	01/18/2009

12	2	b	<p>Nominations for church offices shall be made by the active members of the church. The pastor shall cause a nomination form to be mailed to each active member 18 years of age or older. This form shall state the offices which are to be filled, and provide spaces for the members to nominate qualified individuals for the various offices. The results shall be tabulated and, if possible, the ballot shall include two nominees for each office to be filled. The names of those qualified individuals with the highest number of nominations, who accept the nomination, shall be on the ballot.</p>	<p>Nominations for church offices shall be made by the active members of the church. The Deacons shall cause a nomination form to be provided to each active member 18 years of age or older. This form shall state the offices which are to be filled, and provide spaces for the members to nominate qualified individuals for the various offices. The Deacons shall provide the nomination form at least four Sundays prior to the Annual Election Meeting, and nominations will be accepted up to two Sundays before the meeting.</p> <p>The names of those qualified individuals with the highest number of nominations, who accept the nomination, shall be provided to eligible voting members on the Sunday prior to the Annual Election Meeting. A brief testimony from each of the qualified individuals will be included, and whenever possible, each will be introduced to the congregation.</p> <p>If no legitimate objections are raised by any active member during the week prior to the Annual Election Meeting, those names will appear on the ballot.</p>	01/18/2009
8	4	a	<p>The church shall elect a minimum of 12 deacons, each of whom shall serve for a three year term. One-third of the deacons shall be elected each year. To be eligible for election, a man must have been an active member of the church for one year prior to his election. A retiring deacon shall not be</p>	<p>Deacons shall be elected by the church to three-year terms, and their terms shall be arranged so that no more than one-third shall leave office each year. The number of Deacons serving in a given year shall be determined by the following factors, in the following order:</p>	01/18/2009

			<p>eligible for re-election for one year after having served two consecutive full terms.</p>	<p>1. Deacons shall be qualified according to 1Timothy 3:8-12.</p> <p>2. Whenever possible, the number of Deacons should be sufficient to adequately meet the needs of the church, and to allow for the completion of all the duties assigned to the Deacons in this constitution.</p> <p>3. Whenever possible, the ballot shall include two nominees for each open position. (See Article 12, Section 2b.)</p>	
8	4	c	<p>Deacons shall be qualified according to 1Timothy 3:8-13. No man who has been divorced, or is a member of any secret order or society may serve as pastor or deacon.</p>	<p>Voted to be stricken from the constitution.</p>	01/18/2009

GRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Confession of Faith

1. Of the Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

2. The True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exod. 20:2-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11).

3. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgement; that He bears witness to that truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer (John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom. 8:14,16,26,27).

4. The Devil or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10).

5. Creation

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Gen. 1; 2; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3).

6. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; 1:18, 32).

7. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of a woman, and that He is both the son of God and God the Son (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14).

8. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith (Jonah 2:9; Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14-17; Isa. 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24).

9. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; 5:9-10).

10. Grace and the New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sin is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; 2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13; John 3:8).

11. Justification

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work or righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1,9; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9).

12. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saints as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (Heb. 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 4:3-4; 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24-25; Rev. 22:11).

13. The Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:6; John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1).

14. The Church

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We have the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final (1 Cor. 11:2; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Acts 2:41-42).

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Col. 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

15. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be preformed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He come, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism first and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers (Acts 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:23-28; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42).

16. Separation

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Thess 1:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11).

17. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of Kings (Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18).

18. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37).

19. Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 51-54; Phil. 3:20-21; Rev. 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom (Dan. 9:25-27; Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29-30; Rev. 20:1-4,6).

20. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; 1 John 5:19; Rom. 7:6; 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21; Rev. 20:14-15).