

# **CONSTITUTION OF COMMUNITY HARVEST CHURCH**

## **I. NAME**

The name of this organization, a nonprofit religious corporation, shall be Community Harvest Baptist Church, d/b/a Community Harvest Church.

## **II. ARTICLES OF FAITH**

### **A. The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory. We believe that the triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

#### **1. God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit who reigns over this entire universe with providential care. He is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, being fatherly in attitude to all men, but is Father indeed to all who have become His children through Jesus Christ. He hears and answers prayer, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that the Father is characterized by love, patience and kindness, and that His kindness leads men to repentance; we must act like our Father in our relationships with one another and all those around us (Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9; Acts 1:7; Romans 2:4, 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 4:6; 1 John 4:7-19).

#### **2. God the Son**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and that He became man without ceasing to be God, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He became a man to reveal God and redeem sinful humanity. Jesus Christ accomplished redemption by voluntarily giving Himself as a sinless, substitutionary sacrifice on the cross, and by His death satisfied God's righteous judgment against sin. Jesus proved that He had satisfied God's judgment against humanity's sin by His bodily resurrection from the dead, ascending to the right hand of God the Father where He intercedes as High Priest and Advocate for those who are redeemed by Him. We believe that Jesus will personally return to the earth in the future to

establish God's kingdom on earth (Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; Romans 3:24-26, 8:35; Matthew 16:27; Hebrews 1:8, 7:25).

### **3. God the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Divine Person who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ, indwelling them, sealing them unto the day of final salvation, and giving them spiritual gifts. He is every believer's abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit through the church (John 14:16, 17, 26, 15:26, 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9-17, 26, 27; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13; Galatians 3:3-5, 5:22, 23; Ephesians 1:13, 14).

### **B. The Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible was written in the original autographs by men who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit to record God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is the perfect treasure for God's instruction; the Scripture has God for its author, salvation for its end, and its contents are without error. It reveals the standards and principles by which God judges humanity, and is therefore the true standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions must be tried (Psalm 119:9, 105, 130, 142, 160, 165; Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 4:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:23, 2:2; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

### **C. Man**

We believe that man was created in the image of God and that man fell into sin and is lost. All people are sinners by nature and choice and are under God's condemnation. God regenerates by the Holy Spirit every person who repents of his/her sins and who by faith trusts the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Genesis 1:26-27; John 3:3-21; Romans 3:10, 23).

### **D. Satan**

We believe that Satan is a personal being who is the author of sin and that he is destined to the judgment of eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 3:1-3; Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

### **E. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God, being by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is given freely to any and all who put their faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. All who repent and trust the Savior are forgiven for their sins and are born into the family of God by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9).

#### **F. The Great Commission**

We believe that until the return of Christ, it is every Christian's duty and privilege to fulfill Jesus' commission, ministering to all people in His name. We are the instruments of Jesus Christ to minister redemption and reconciliation to the world in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:31-46, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20).

#### **G. Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church, baptism (we practice baptism of believers by immersion), and the Lord's Supper. They are to be observed by the church today; however, they are not to be regarded as means for salvation (Matthew 3:13-17, 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:27-32).

#### **H. The Future Return of Christ**

We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent and glorious return of Jesus Christ to earth to establish His Kingdom. His second coming inspires believers for dynamic and zealous life and service for Him while waiting His return (Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 1:7, 19:11-21, 22:12-20).

#### **I. The Resurrection of the Dead**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and the endless suffering and separation from God of the wicked (Romans 2:2-11; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15).

### **III. ASSOCIATIONS**

Community Harvest Baptist Church shall be an independent church, subject only to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. It reserves the right to cooperate and associate with other biblical groups on a voluntary basis. We choose to associate with and support the Southern Baptist Convention, the Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association and the Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

### **IV. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church shall be to equip, connect, and build the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).

### **V. MISSION**

The mission of this church shall be to transform lives, families and communities through Christ.

## **VI. VISION**

The vision of this church is to become the unified and obedient church described in Ephesians 4:11-16, loving, serving, going, growing and fellowshiping, one with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit with Jesus as our leader

## **VII. CORE VALUES**

### **The Bible**

The Bible is God's living word, the only word powerful to birth and animate spiritual life. We should teach and be doers of the Bible as if life depended on it—and it does! (Hebrews 4:12-13; James 1:22; 1 Peter 1:23 – 2:2).

### **Prayer**

Prayer is our lifeline to God. We pray because we desperately need God; we need His presence and transforming power in our lives. Our need to pray is shown by this—Jesus prayed (Luke 11:1-13; John 17).

### **Evangelism**

Jesus gave everything—position, treasure, reputation, even His life—to fulfill His mission to seek and save lost people; He commissioned us to do the same thing (Luke 19:10; Matt. 18:11-14; 28:18-20).

### **Unity**

Unity is the spiritual life-bond that enables the church to grow up as the body of Christ. When we are unified, love abounds, the weak become strong, the deceived become wise, members work in harmony, and lost people can see Jesus in us. Jesus gave Himself for unity, and we should give ourselves to keep it (Ephesians 2:14-16; 4:1-3, 13-16; Colossians 3:14; John 17:20-23; Acts 2:44-47).

### **Family**

The family is God's foundational institution, and by His design it is one of the best environments to communicate the gospel message to future generations. We should use every God-given resource available to make our families strong (1 Timothy 3:4-6, 12; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15).

### **Church planting**

Growing multitudes of people outside of our community do not know Jesus, and we're in a race to reach as many as we can. The best way for us to win this race is to plant new churches that have evangelism and church planting in their "DNA" (Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-17).

## **Hospitality**

Hospitality can be any practical expression of love; it can be as simple as sharing a meal or as extreme as Jesus dying for our sins. Hospitality in Jesus' name becomes an expression of God's unconditional love for people (1 Peter 4: 9; Luke 10:30-37; John 3:16-18).

## **VIII. MEMBERSHIP**

This church shall comprise people who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who evidence regeneration in their lives and who agree to and support the Vision, Mission and Core Values of Community Harvest Baptist Church.

## **IX. PROPERTY RIGHTS**

The church shall have the right to own, buy or sell tangible property, both real and personal, in its own name through designated individuals when authorized by the Elder Team and affirmed by a vote of the church membership.

In the event of the dissolution of the Church, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of the assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated to the Eastern Nebraska Baptist Association (ENBA) in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Articles adopted by the church.

## **X. GOVERNMENT**

The government of the Church and the authority to govern proceed from Jesus Christ. The government of the Church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over the ministry and other Christian activities in which the church is engaged. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through prayer, His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

Community Harvest Baptist Church will be led by Spirit-filled individuals that meet the spiritual qualifications given in Scripture and who are members that have a passion for the work of Jesus Christ. These individuals may or may not be monetarily compensated for their duties and they will serve on one or more of the following groups: Elder Team, Leadership Team, Deacon Team and Financial Stewardship Team.

## **XI. OFFICERS**

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor(s), Elders, and/or Deacons, and other officers as deemed necessary by the church.

## **XII. PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS**

A supplement to this constitution known as the BY-LAWS shall embody the stated qualifications for church leaders and officers. The BY-LAWS shall also include officers' duties, provisions for appointment of additional leaders, conditions for membership, method by which members are received, along with other rules and regulations for church business and church activities as needed.

## **XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any business meeting when said proposed Amendments have been approved by the Elder Team and presented to the membership in writing and posted for at least one month prior to the business meeting. A two-thirds majority is required for passage.

Adopted at Lincoln, Nebraska, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director