

The Crossroads Fellowship

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be *The Crossroads Fellowship*.

ARTICLE 2 - MISSION

The mission of The Crossroads Fellowship is to equip and encourage church leaders, to support and revitalize struggling churches and to network resources in order to influence the world with the gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE 3 - ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. Bible

We believe that the Bible, the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, is the very Word of God. Each word is accurate and without error in the original text. The Bible is the final authority on any subject to which it speaks and is sufficient in determining what we believe and how we should live.

Psalm 19: 7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21

2. God

We believe that there is one God, the creator and sustainer of all things, an infinite spirit being. He is in sovereign control over the entire universe. He is holy, and His glory is beyond our comprehension. As such, He is worthy of all our worship, honor, confidence and love. In the unity of God, there are three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; each of Whom is fully God. They exist in a perfectly harmonious relationship with each other and willingly fulfill their individual roles in carrying out the great work of salvation.

Genesis 1:2, 26; Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11

We believe that God the Father is fully and eternally God and equal with the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is the supreme authority in the universe, and He has decreed what will ultimately come to pass. He is the sovereign ruler of all things and is the Father of all who come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:3-6; Galatians 3:26

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully and eternally God and equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He was born of a virgin, lived a perfect, sinless life and died as a substitute for our sins. He rose bodily from the grave after three days and ascended to the right hand of the Father to serve as our Great High Priest. He will return to this earth to establish His kingdom.

Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:16, 18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-4, 14, 18; Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:2-11; Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; Isaiah 11:45; Revelation 20:6; Colossians 2:9

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully and eternally God and equal with the Father and the Son. He restrains sin and Satan until God's purposes in the world are fulfilled. He convicts people of sin, opens their minds to understand the Word of God and draws them to faith in God. He is the agent of salvation and baptizes believers into the body of Christ. He indwells, seals and secures believers for all eternity, and He equips, guides, teaches, sanctifies and helps believers to live out the will of God on this earth. In order to help verify the message of the apostles, the Holy Spirit bestowed miraculous gifts to people including speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles and healing. With the completion of God's written revelation to man in the Bible, these gifts are no longer necessary to verify the message and have ceased. However, the Spirit still gives specific gifts to believers to help them serve in the church.

John 14: 16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 3:10; 12:12-13; 13:8-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4: 11-16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8: 26-27; Hebrews 2:3-4

3. Angels

We believe that angels are created spirit beings. They were not created in the image of God and cannot be redeemed. Angels minister before the throne of God by declaring His glory and defending His holiness. They ministered to Jesus Christ while He was on earth by protecting and caring for Him. They also made declarations of truth to man and offered physical protection, provision, encouragement and direction.

Colossians 1:16; Psalm 8:4-5; Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 2:13; 4:11; Luke 22:34

We believe that Satan, also called the dragon, the serpent and the Devil, is an angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven. He is alive and active in this world as the unholy god of this age who rules over all the powers of darkness. He is destined to be defeated forever by Jesus Christ and will be cast into the eternal lake of fire at the end of the Thousand Year Reign of Christ on earth. A host of other angels followed Satan in his rebellion against God and became fallen angels or demons. They are active in carrying out the plan of Satan to attack God and destroy man and will join him in the eternal lake of fire.

Matthew 4:1-3; Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10; 20:2

4. Creation

We believe in the literal interpretation of the Genesis account which teaches that the world and all that is in it was created as the direct result of the spoken word of God. The first man, Adam, was an historical person. He was created in the image of God by the hand of God. God breathed into him and made him a living soul. All men have descended from Adam and Eve.

Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3

5. Fall of Man

We believe that man was created as an innocent being with the freedom to choose to obey God. By a voluntary choice, Adam and Eve committed an act of rebellion against God, and as a result, they fell from their original state and were separated from Him. Because of the fall, all men are now sinners by nature and by choice. All men are totally depraved and are under condemnation and without defense or excuse. The only hope for man is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:10-19; 1:18, 32

6. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is by grace alone through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for sin. Jesus Christ fulfilled the purposes of God through the incarnation where He became the perfect God/Man Who fulfilled the divine law by His personal obedience. This qualified Him alone to die on the cross as the only sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He was a voluntary substitute for each one of us, the just dying for the unjust, bearing our sin in His own body on the cross. His resurrection from the dead proved that His death satisfied the full payment for sin. This salvation is so life changing that it is clearly evidenced by a new life of faith, obedience to God's Word and the growth of the fruit of the Spirit. All true believers are preserved by the power of the Holy Spirit in such a way that everyone who trusts Christ as their savior from sin is kept eternally secure as a child of God.

Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; John 3:16; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21

7. The Church

We believe that the universal church is made up of all those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior from sin from the day of Pentecost through the Rapture of the church.

Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8, 2:1-13, 41-47, 15:14; Ephesians 1:22, 23, 3:21, 5:23-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We believe that a local church is a congregation of believers in Christ who have banded together to fulfill the commands of the New Testament in such a way that they influence their community and the world for Christ. The purpose of the church is to glorify God, fulfill the Great Commission and live out God-honoring relationships with one another. Local churches are autonomous bodies that engage the gifted people God has given to them to fulfill His calling. While independent of any authority other than Jesus Christ, local churches work interdependently with other churches of like faith to exemplify the unity prayed for by Christ and to be more effective in ministering His grace to a lost and needy world. A local church should separate itself from sin and those who have left the faith.

Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; 2 Timothy 3:17; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18.

We believe that the biblically designated offices in a local church are pastor, also called elder and overseer, and the office of deacon. The biblically designated ordinances of the local church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism in the New Testament was always by immersion following salvation as a symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is commanded by our Lord and should precede church membership. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus to remember His death until He returns.

Acts 8:26-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28.

8. Eschatology

We believe that the Rapture of the Church and the Tribulation are the next prophetic events to be fulfilled on earth. The Tribulation will end with the Battle of Armageddon, during which Christ will return to defeat His enemies and establish His kingdom on earth for a thousand years. At the close of the Millennium, Satan will be released to deceive the nations. God will end this rebellion and cast Satan into the eternal lake of fire. After this, all unbelievers will be judged at the Great White Throne and cast into the lake of fire with Satan. Then, the New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven and all who have trusted Christ will dwell with Him there forever. We believe that Heaven is a literal place where believers who die go immediately to be in the presence of God. We believe that Hell is a literal place where people will be separated from God for eternity because they rejected Jesus Christ. It is a place of conscious and eternal torment from which there is no escape.

John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15: 15-58; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30; Revelation 20:14

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Any local church that is in agreement with the articles of faith of the Crossroads Fellowship, desires to participate in the achievement of the mission of the fellowship and financially support its ministries may make application to join this organization. After reviewing the completed membership application and relevant information, the board may then receive a church into the network through a majority vote.

Section 2 A member church must complete an annual information and affirmation form, indicating continued agreement with the doctrine of The Crossroads Fellowship and support of its mission. A member church must regularly contribute financially to The Crossroads Fellowship.

Section 3 A member church may drop its membership by written notice to The Crossroads Fellowship. A member church that has breached its good faith with the networking churches or has not contributed financially to the Crossroads Fellowship for more than one year may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the board.

ARTICLE 5 - LEADERSHIP

Section 1 Officers of The Crossroads Fellowship shall include a board of directors, numbering at least seven, and an executive director. A board member must be a pastor of a fellowship church, must be in agreement with the articles of faith and mission of the organization and must demonstrate a willingness to assist in fulfilling its mission. Nominations for the board of directors may be made in writing to the board by any member church. The board will review these nominations and formulate a ballot. Nominees will be elected by a majority of votes of the network churches at the annual meeting. The executive director is hired by the board of directors and will serve under their supervision. Other staff positions may be created by the board of directors. These staff members will serve under the supervision of the executive director.

Section 2 The board is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the mission of The Crossroads Fellowship. It is responsible for policy formation and adherence and will function as the legal trustee(s) of the organization. The board will organize itself with officers who form an executive committee for leadership. It may establish committees to assist in the fulfillment of the mission of the fellowship. The board shall give serious consideration to advice given by the churches of the fellowship. The executive director is responsible for the implementation of policy, programs and ministries as directed by the board. The board will provide him with direction and counsel, set his salary and serve as co-laborers with him in the work of the ministry.

Section 3 There is no time limit on the term of office of the executive director. The executive director must give a one-month notice of his resignation to the board of directors. Board members shall serve a three-year term of office and may serve consecutive terms. The terms will be staggered so that one-third of them will end each year. Other staff members must give a two-week notice of resignation to the executive director.

ARTICLE 6 - BUSINESS PROCEDURES

The Crossroads Fellowship shall hold an annual meeting at such a place and at such a time as the board of directors shall determine. Member churches will be notified in writing at least 90 days prior to the meeting. The transaction of business as established by board of directors and the election of the board members shall occur at this meeting. Each member church attending the annual meeting is entitled to have one representative who has been given the authority to vote on all matters of business on behalf of that church. The books and records will be audited at least every three years by an independent audit firm.

ARTICLE 7 - ASSETS

The title to the assets of The Crossroads Fellowship is vested in the corporation. The board of directors shall have charge of sale, maintenance, insurance and proper repair of such assets.

ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the fellowship by a two-thirds vote of the representatives present and voting, providing the member churches have been informed in writing of the proposed amendment at least three months prior to the vote.

ARTICLE 9 - CANCELLATION

This Constitution was adopted on September 30, 2008. It supersedes and cancels all other constitutions, by-laws and their amendments.

ARTICLE 10 - DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

In the event a decision is made to dissolve this corporation known as *The Crossroads Fellowship: A Baptist Network of Churches*, provision shall be made by a 2/3 vote at a meeting of the membership of the network, previous to the dissolution of the network, in order to assign all assets to one or more like faith and practice non-profit organizations. None of the assets shall be given to any individual.

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