

Constitution

Article 1

Name

The name of this church and any affiliated campuses shall be Silver Creek Church (hereafter referred to as the “Church”)

Article 2

Purpose

The purpose of the Church is to lead families to discover life in Jesus. The Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) of 1986, for such purposes including, but not limited to, proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; establishing and maintaining religious worship; educating believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, and supporting missionary work globally.

Article 3

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God in this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, with the aid of the Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to exercise Christian care and prayer for one another, to be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness.

We also engage to sustain the spiritual and scriptural purity, peace and prosperity of the Church and its ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to assist as the Lord enables, in the work of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ; to contribute, as the Lord provides, to the financial support of the needy, and to the evangelization of all peoples, and to love and pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and for those not saved.

We further engage to maintain daily personal Bible reading, meditation, and prayer time. Also, to establish family devotionals, where possible, so as to bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And to, follow the standards of God’s Word so as to provide an example by word and by prayer to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

“But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Article 4

Authority

Jesus Christ – The head of the church is the Lord Jesus Christ. (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22, 5:23)

The Word of God – The Bible, God’s written, complete, final, inspired, inerrant Word is the expressed will of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

State Authority - Whenever possible, the Church will comply with and submit to the governmental authorities put in place by God to bring order and justice to the larger society. If at any time governmental authority is in conflict with the Word of God, the Bible, in a direct or implied manner, the Church will respectfully reject their authority in favor of God’s authority.

Article 5 Statement of Faith

Doctrine - We accept the Scriptures as our authority in matters of faith and practice, and adopt the following Statement of Faith as our interpretation of Bible Doctrine:

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority. [2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13]
2. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three in one, co-equal, which is the Trinity. [John 1:1, 14; Acts 5:3,4; 1John 5:7]
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary." [Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:35; Heb. 4:15; 1 Cor. 15:47; 1 John 5:20]
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, third Person of the Trinity, Who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the life of every believer, and He empowers the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. [John 14:16,17; 16:8; Acts 1:8; Acts 5:30-32]
5. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into Heaven and His present life there as High Priest and Advocate for all believers. [Matt. 28:6,7; Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:1]
6. We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [1 Thess. 4:16-18; Acts 1:11; Matt. 24:44; Rev. 20:6]
7. We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man. Satan is still working in the world to destroy the souls of men and he and all his angels and all who receive not Christ as their Savior will eternally perish in the Lake of Fire. [Job.1:6,7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 20:10]
8. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, there by incurring not only physical, but spiritual death (which is separation from God), and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature which is manifested in thought, word, and deed." [Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-6; Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12]
9. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood." [Rom. 5:6-9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; 1 John 4:10]
10. We believe that salvation is the gift of God, offered to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. All who receive Jesus Christ as their

personal Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit and become children of God and heirs of eternal life. This is a relationship in which they are eternally secure. [John 3:16; Acts 20:20-21; Eph.1:13; 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-12]

11. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell, and the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven. [Matt.28:6-7; Acts 1:9-10; Heb.2:17; 1 John 2:1]

12. We believe in the Church, the Body of Christ, whose mission it is to make disciples of all nations by preaching the Gospel. (Matthew 28:18-20)

13. We believe that in all of its endeavors the Church should be supported by the love-gifts of the members. [Matt. 16:16-18; Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 2:41-42, 47; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col. 1:18]

14. We believe that the ordinances of the Church, given by our Lord, are baptism (by immersion following conversion) and the Lord's Table (Communion). [Matt.26:26-30;28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Cor.11:23-29]

Beliefs on Cultural Issues

Marriage and Sexuality - We are committed to protecting the God-ordained institution of Christian marriage and family as defined in Scripture as the sacred union between one man and one woman as their genders were determined at birth for life and the children that result in that union. We believe the biblical plan for sexuality is one husband and one wife.

Sanctity of Human Life - The Church demonstrates compassion for all lives through our care for orphans around the world and the protection of the unborn. We will see to the needs of the elderly and sick. We will protect others from harm—whether from abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, or other abuses.

Gender - We recognize gender as created by God, initially expressed in the first man, Adam, and first woman, Eve as a reflection of God's image. We believe the design of God for each individual is the biological gender given at birth.

The Church reserves the right to refuse to host or perform any ceremony or program in our facilities or by a staff member that violates our doctrine or the sound application of that doctrine to cultural issues or current events not in accordance with this Constitution.

The Church is apolitical except where the rule of law is in direct conflict to the law of God.

Article 6 Governance

Officers – The officers of this Church shall consist of Elders forming The Board of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall be a member of the Elder Board. The Board of Elders shall serve as the final authority for the Statement of Faith and its application.

Senior Pastor

Selection and appointment process: Qualifications for the Senior Pastor shall be a male and such as are described and set forth in the New Testament. (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Voting control for selection would be a 75% majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Resignation or Removal: A Senior Pastor may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Board of Elders. A Senior Pastor may be placed on probationary leave or removed from office by a 75% majority vote of the Board of Elders (excluding the vote of the Senior Pastor) for conduct unbecoming of a person in church leadership, practices contrary to scripture, infidelity to the Statement of Faith, or performance which is unsatisfactory to the Church.

Responsibilities: The Senior Pastor shall be in charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation. He shall be a voting member of the Board of Elders and may call the Elders together at any time. The Senior Pastor administers the day to day operations and affairs of the Church with the authority to administer operational finances within the Elder approved annual budget. He shall be responsible for the selection, dismissal and management of ministerial and administrative staff and administration of wages and benefits within the Board of Elders approved annual budget.

Specific Considerations: Any single expenditure that represents an amount greater than 5% of the approved annual budget shall require majority approval of the Board of Elders. All hiring or termination for pastoral or supervisory staff positions shall require pre-review with the Board of Elders.

Hiring for any staff position of an individual with family ties to an existing staff member shall require majority approval of the Board of Elders. If the individual has family ties to an Elder, that Elder shall abstain from voting.

Entering into a contractual arrangement with any individual or organization with family ties to an existing staff member or Elder shall require majority approval of the Board of Elders. If the individual or organization has family ties to an Elder, that Elder shall abstain from voting.

Elder

Selection and Appointment Process: Qualifications for Elder shall be such as are described and set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:3, 1 Timothy 3:1-7). An Elder must be a male of at least 21 years of age who has been a member of the Church for a minimum of one year. All Elder candidates shall have been baptized by immersion following conversion. Additionally, all Elders candidates shall have demonstrated faithfulness to the ministry through acts of service, regular attendance and unselfish generosity.

The term of office for Elders shall be three years and be so arranged as to replace three existing Elders each calendar year. An Elder shall not be eligible for re-election for an interval of one year. New Elder terms will initiate in January each year. This process will vary over the course of initial establishment until this rotational process can be effectively implemented. The Board of Elders shall consist of at least nine members plus the Senior Pastor.

Elder candidates shall be nominated each October. Nominations can come from the membership. Responsibility for vetting nominations for potential Elders will rest with the existing Elders (including those not currently serving) and the Senior Pastor. All vetted Elder candidate's names shall be published to the membership in November in advance of any final approval process. Elder candidates must be approved by two-thirds majority approval of the existing Board of Elders.

Resignation or Removal: Any Elder may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Board of Elders. Any Elder may be removed from office by the majority vote of the entire Board of Elders for conduct unbecoming of a person in Church leadership, practices contrary to scripture, infidelity to the Statement of Faith, or performance which is unsatisfactory to the Church.

Responsibilities:

The Board of Elders are the guardians of the ministry of the Church and the governing board of the Church. They shall lovingly lead as examples and shepherds. The Board of Elders shall direct the financial operations of the Church with

authority to approve and adjust the annual operating budget. The Elders are the guardians of all legal documents pertaining to Church assets and property.

Elder Board Structure: The Board of Elders shall elect annually in December for the upcoming annual period by majority vote the following officers: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The Chairman shall lead and moderate the Elder Board meetings and represent the Church in all legal matters. The Treasurer shall provide the Elder Board with regular financial summary information (ideally on a monthly basis), oversee the processing and reporting of offering funds and associates reporting needs, coordinate the preparation of the annual operating budget for the Church and be responsible for the control and disbursement of all Church funds per the direction of the Elder Board. The Secretary shall document the minutes of each Elder Board meeting and prepare and produce a summary following each meeting.

Meetings: The Board of Elders will endeavor to meet together on a monthly basis as feasible or more frequently if operational or situational issues require their attention. Special meetings of the Elder Board may be called by the Senior Pastor or any officer of the board to deal with emergency situations.

Quorum: The Board of Elders may not conduct any business unless a majority of the non-pastoral Elders is present at the meeting. Unless otherwise specified within the constitution, any matter requiring a vote of the Board of Elders shall be based on the majority of the Elders present at a meeting in which a quorum exists. An Elder shall be considered present for the purposes of establishing a quorum if he participates by telephone, video link or other technology that allows similar interactive participation.

Action Taken Without a Meeting: The Board of Elders is authorized to vote on matters affecting the Church outside of regularly scheduled meetings. The vote shall be conducted in writing, or acceptably agreed upon electronic communication (email is acceptable).

Conflicts of Interest: All Elders are duty bound to disclose any conflicts of interest immediately when they become aware of the situation. No Elder may vote on any action in which he has an interest but his presence may be used to establish a quorum. The fact that an Elder may have an interest in a particular action taken by the Board of Elders does not render the action void.

Vacancies: The Elder Board shall have the authority at its discretion to replace any vacancy on the Elder Board from among any eligible candidates through majority vote. If no eligible candidates exist, they may use the Selection and Appointment Process to select a candidate.

Contracts: Unless delegated by the Board of Elders, no Pastor, officer, staff member or Church member shall have any power or authority to bind the Church by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Crisis Management: In the event of a crisis or disaster that results in the inability to establish a quorum of Elders, the Senior Pastor or any Officer of the Board of Elders shall have the authority to convene a temporary Emergency Leadership Team. This team shall consist of all current members of the Board of Elders and inactive members of the Board capable of participating shall convene as a temporary Emergency Leadership Team. The duty of this Leadership Team shall be limited to dealing with urgent issues directly related to the crisis and with urgency restoring the Board of Elders as defined by this Constitution. The Emergency Leadership Team shall then be promptly disbanded.

Article 7 Finances

Financial Operations

Fiscal Year: The fiscal year shall begin on July 1 and end on the last day of June each calendar year.

Financial Support: The systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. It must be kept on the plane of voluntary, free-will offering, untarnished by any hope of material gain. All members of the Church are expected to give regular financial support to the Church to support operational ministry and special projects the Church may select to sponsor.

Auditing: The finances of the Church shall be audited on a bi-ennially basis by an independent auditor retained by the Treasurer and the audit shall be submitted to the Board of Elders for review. In non-audit years a Financial Review shall be conducted by an independent auditor.

A member of the Church may inspect privately with the Elder Board Treasurer prepared financial statements of the Church by providing a written request to the Elder Board. Requests may be denied if such a request is deemed frivolous by a majority of the Elder Board. Board meeting minutes and disciplinary documentation as well as information involving privacy interests such as, but not limited to, donor records, names and addresses of members, individual benevolence, individual salaries, health information, background checks and other personal information are not subject to inspection without a court order.

Specific Considerations

The Elders shall first have the approval of the majority of the Church membership (refer to Article 10 requirements) before:

- Borrowing money or encumbering Church property
- Selling, disposing or buying any real estate
- Gifts exceeding 5% of the operating budget

Article 8 Deacons

The Church will be served by a Board of Deacons. It is the duty of the Deacons to visit the sick, to prepare and distribute the elements for the Lord's Supper, and to assist the Senior Pastor when needed in the performance of his duties. As financially feasible, The Board of Deacons shall administer a budgeted fund known as the Deacon's Fund to be used to address special needs, as deemed appropriate. The Board of Deacons shall elect a Secretary or appoint a designee to record and report all receipts and disbursements. All instances of assistance shall be held in strictest confidence. They shall provide a report annually to the Church membership and shall elect their own Chairman every year.

The term of office for Deacons shall be three years and be so arranged as to replace four existing Deacons each calendar year. A Deacon shall not be eligible for re-election until after an interval of one year. New Deacon terms will initiate in January each year. This process will vary over the course of initial establishment until this rotational process can be effectively implemented. The Board of Deacons shall consist of at least twelve members plus the Senior Pastor(s).

Article 9 Church Membership

Qualifications

As a non-denominational church, any person 18 years of age or older may be received into membership upon professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, public profession of faith by baptism and accepting Him by grace through faith as their personal Savior and Lord. Persons presenting themselves for membership in this Church shall attend all established instruction sessions provided for prospective members. They shall, during the course of instruction, acknowledge a confession of faith in Christ and acceptance of the Statement of Faith and Church Purpose Statement by signing an

application for membership provided by the Church. At the discretion of the Lead Pastor, and notification to the Elders, attending a course of instruction can be waived.

Responsibilities

Every member shall conduct themselves in daily life as to give evidence of their unity with the Lord Jesus Christ, a demonstrated desire to grow in their relationship with Him and actively seek to share in the Church of their time, talent and treasures. Members shall dedicate themselves to regular attendance of worship services. Only members of the Church shall be qualified to vote on any matters requiring congregational approval.

Termination of Membership

Members may terminate their membership upon presentation of written request to the Board of Elders. Membership may be terminated by the Board of Elders based upon prolonged absence from worship services and gatherings over a period of a year. Written notice shall be provided to the member in advance of terminating membership.

Discipline: The Senior Pastor and Board of Elders shall take prompt action as to any member whose words or actions willfully violate the Statement of Faith or the Church Constitution seeking first to secure restoration through repentance, and if unsuccessful then to dismiss the member from the Church. (Matthew 18:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3:10)

Article 10 Meetings of the Church

Public Worship: Public worship services shall be held regularly. Any call to gather the body of the Church shall require the pre-approval of Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders.

Ordinances: It shall be the practice of the Church to observe the Lord's Supper at least once per month and baptisms shall be by full immersion..

Business Matters: On all matters that require a vote of the Congregation, only members of the Church shall be entitled to vote. Twenty-five percent participation of the Church members is necessary to establish a quorum. An affirmative vote of the majority of the Church Members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the passage of any proposed resolution. Members may not vote to initiate any Church action; rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Senior Pastor and Board of Elders.

Article 11 Property

Title – Title to all real and personal properties shall be in the name of the Church or in the then governing and legal name of said Church as possibly amended in the future.

Ownership – All properties shall be owned by the Church and shall not be the possession of any individual.

Use – All Church property shall be dedicated to and used for worship of the Triune God, edification of believers and the evangelization of the lost. All meetings, gatherings, events, and activities conducted on Church property shall be consistent with the stated purpose of this Church, in harmony with the Statement of Faith as set forth in this Constitution.

Article 12 Constitution

Additions or Deletions

Consideration for any proposed amendment to this constitution shall require pre-approval of the Board of Elders by a two-thirds majority vote. The approved proposed amendment then requires the approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible voting members of the congregation present at an Elder approved Church Business Meeting. The proposed amendment must be given public announcement for a minimum of two successive weekends prior to the business meeting where the vote is conducted. An announcement of the proposed amendment(s) from the pulpit during worship services on two successive weekends or publication of the proposed amendment(s) to the membership on two successive weekends shall be deemed sufficient notice.

Article 13 Dissolution

This Church shall have the right to own, buy or sell tangible properties, both real and personal, in its own name and through properly elected and authorized officers. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any member from the assets, holdings or transactions as a result of dissolution. In the case of liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of this Church, the Board of Elders shall cause all assets to only be distributed to another like-minded ministry that is in agreement with our Statement of Faith.

This constitution has been adopted by a unanimous vote of the Elder Board, who were duly elected by the Church members.

This constitution supersedes any other constitution of Silver Creek Church.

Date:

Silver Creek Church Secretary