

Constitution

May 2011

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Riverview Church, in order to preserve, secure, and promote the principles of our faith, and to insure that our church will be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the teachings of God in the Bible, voluntarily adopt and submit ourselves to this Constitution.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The name of this organization and corporation will be: **RIVERVIEW CHURCH**

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE

Riverview Church exists to glorify God by developing mature followers of Jesus Christ according to the power of his Word. We do this by helping people connect their hearts to God in worship, their minds to Scripture in study, their hands to people in service, and their feet to the world in outreach.

ARTICLE THREE: INCORPORATION

Riverview Church will maintain continuous legal incorporation as an Ohio not-for-profit corporation, having been first incorporated on March 3, 1953 (Ohio Corporation #232323). The Elders elected by the voting members will be the legal Corporate Trustees of this Corporation.

ARTICLE FOUR: DOCTRINE

Riverview Church affirms the following doctrines:

- A. **The Bible:** We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is verbally inspired in every word, and absolutely inerrant in the original documents. We affirm the infallibility, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture, and we believe that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice. (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- B. **God:** We believe that there is one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect and holy in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existent in three Persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of Whom equally deserves worship and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

- C. **Jesus Christ:** We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death on the Cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the Father's right hand, and His personal return to Earth in power and glory. (Luke 1:26–33; John 1:3; Philippians 2:5–8; Colossians 1:15–17, 2:9)
- D. **Holy Spirit:** We believe in the Spirit-filled life. The Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers for service, and seals every believer unto the day of redemption. (John 16:7–15; Romans 8:9–11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13–14, 4:30)
- E. **Man:** We believe that mankind is created in the image of God, but because of Adam's sin all are by nature radically depraved. We believe there is nothing about man that remains untouched by sin. Therefore, he is utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God. Apart from divine grace, man is hopelessly lost. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:10–12, 23, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1–3)
- F. **Salvation:** We believe that the salvation of sinful man is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God when the repentant sinner—enabled by the Holy Spirit—responds in faith. Salvation is not based on any human merit or work, but is wholly the result of God's grace through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. All the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 1:12–13; Romans 3:28, 8:28–30, 10:9–10; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:4–7)
- G. **The Church:** We believe that all who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church, of which Christ is the Head. All believers are to come together in local assemblies and submit themselves to the shepherding of elders who are appointed by the Holy Spirit to oversee the flock. Two ordinances have been committed to the local church: the baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper, which commemorates and proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, 12:12–14; Hebrews 13:17)
- H. **Last Things:** We believe in Christ's imminent return to Earth, the rapture of the church, the millennial reign of Christ, and the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved—the saved unto eternal life and the unsaved unto eternal damnation. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 20)
- I. **Angels:** We believe that angels are created beings and are therefore not to be worshiped. We believe that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator. Satan is the open and declared enemy of both God and man, but he has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Christ. He will be eternally condemned. (Ezekiel 28:11–19; Matthew 4:1–11; Hebrews 1:6–7; Revelation 20:10)

- J. **The Christian Life:** We believe that true faith is always accompanied by repentance from sin. Repentance is agreeing with God that you are sinful, confessing your sins to Him, and making a conscious choice to turn from sin to Christ in obedience to Him. It is not enough to merely believe certain facts about Christ; true saving faith responds in obedience and bears the fruit of the Spirit. We believe that though we will be tempted to sin in this world, we do not have to sin. God will always give us a way of escape if we seek Him and submit to His Word. (Luke 13:3,5; Romans 6:11-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 2:3-6)

ARTICLE FIVE: AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT

- A. The legislative and governing authority of Riverview Church is vested in its members in a duly called congregational meeting. Executive authority to implement the stated purpose of Riverview Church is vested in the Elders of Riverview Church as specified in this Constitution.
- B. The members of Riverview Church will exercise their power through duly called congregational meetings and will have authority in matters relating to the following:
1. Acquisition, sale, or disposal of real property
 2. Approval of corporate debt
 3. Election of Elders
 4. Employment or dismissal of the Senior Pastor or Associate Pastors
 5. Approval of the total annual church budget
 6. Amendments to this Constitution
- C. All matters of corporate direction and spiritual guidance not specified as being congregational prerogatives in Article Five, Section B are entrusted by the members to the Elders.

ARTICLE SIX: PROPERTY, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

- A. All real property and other assets will be held in the name of Riverview Church. Riverview Church may receive by gift or purchase any real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Ohio and is deemed necessary for the functioning of Riverview Church, and will have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, bill of sale, deed, or otherwise.
- B. No real property will be purchased, sold, or disposed of without the approval of the membership.
- C. No corporate debt will be incurred or assumed without the approval of the membership.
- D. In the case of division of Riverview Church membership caused by disagreement or conflict, all property and assets of Riverview Church will belong to those who abide by this Constitution. We pray that God will preserve us from such division.
- E. In the case of dissolution of Riverview Church corporation, the Elders will sell all assets and property of Riverview Church, either by public or private sale, seeking the greatest return possible. They will then pay in full any current and long-term obligations of

Riverview Church. Any remaining funds will be disbursed to the current missionaries of Riverview Church in proportions according to the most recent missions budget approved by the membership of Riverview Church. If no missionaries remain, the remaining funds will be distributed to Christian organizations of similar doctrine and purpose.

- F. Riverview Church will be considered dissolved if the membership votes to dissolve the corporation, or if it has not held an Annual Church Business Meeting for three years, or when less than six voting members remain.

ARTICLE SEVEN: MEMBERSHIP: Qualifications and Rights

- A. To become a member of Riverview Church a person must:

1. Have experienced regeneration by God to a new birth into spiritual life, profess personal faith in Jesus Christ as God's only provision for the forgiveness of his/her sin, and live in submission to Jesus Christ as Lord of his/her life.
2. Have been publicly baptized after having come to personal faith in Jesus Christ.
3. Agree to the doctrines specified in Article 4 of this Constitution.
4. Agree to adhere to the provisions of this Constitution and any by-laws or policies approved by the Elders of Riverview Church.
5. Complete the membership process as defined by the Elders.

- B. Every member of Riverview Church will adhere to the Member Covenant:

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.
2. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
3. We also engage to maintain family and private devotion; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our activities, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all gossiping, backbiting, and excessive anger; to practice moderation; and avoid all substances and practices that bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.
4. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the command of our Savior to secure it without delay.

5. We acknowledge that implicit within this covenant is the consent to be lead by the Relational Commitments that have been officially adopted by the church and address critical relational principles.
- C. The Elders may remove a member who:
1. Moves away and unites with another church of similar theology.
 2. Requests to be removed from the membership of Riverview Church because he or she desires to unite with another church.
 3. Has died.
 4. Undergoes the process of church discipline. Church discipline shall be carried out according to our “Commitment to Accountability and Church Discipline” as stated in ARTICLE FIFTEEN: RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS.
 5. Holds or affirms a heretical doctrine contrary to the doctrine as specified in this Constitution.
 6. Disturbs the unity or peace of Riverview Church.
- D. The Elders may remove from voting membership a member who for a period of four-months is habitually absent from the services, ministries, meetings, ordinances of Riverview Church, or otherwise consistently displays no interest in being actively involved. This individual may be placed on an inactive, non-voting membership roll by a majority vote of the Elders.
- Within one month of placing an individual on the inactive, non-voting membership roll, the Elders are to contact the individual to encourage the member to return to active participation in church life, remain inactive without voting rights or resign membership in Riverview Church. Inactive, non-voting members may be returned to the membership rolls by a majority vote of the Elders.
- One year from being placed on the inactive, non-voting membership roll; a continuously inactive individual may be removed from the membership roll by majority vote of the Elders.
- E. The Elders are responsible to maintain the Riverview Church membership roll in accordance with the parameters described in this Constitution.
- F. The complete current membership roll of Riverview Church will be available in the Riverview Church office at all times.

ARTICLE EIGHT: OFFICERS

- A. The officers of Riverview Church will consist of Elders and Pastor(s).
- B. The Elders will be men who meet the minimum qualifications set down in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. There will be a minimum of three Elders, and a maximum as determined by the Elders. The Elders have the executive authority to implement the stated purpose of Riverview Church. All other church entities are subordinate to the Elders.
1. Elders will be men who are:

- a. faithful in prayer, obedient and pious,
 - b. active voting members of the congregation,
 - c. mature in judgment,
 - d. of unquestioned Christian character,
 - e. able to teach sound doctrine and refute theological error,
 - f. devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - g. in agreement with this Constitution and church By-Laws, and
 - h. aspiring to the responsibilities of church leadership.
2. Each Elder will serve a term of three years beginning with his election by the membership at the Annual Church Business Meeting, except upon the initial adoption of this Constitution, increases in the number of Elders, or the filling of vacant Elder positions.
 3. Upon initial adoption of this Constitution and the election of Elders at a duly called congregational meeting by a majority of three-fourths of the voting members present by written secret ballot, approximately:
 - a. one-third of the Elders will serve until the first Annual Church Business Meeting following election,
 - b. one-third of the Elders will serve until the second Annual Business Meeting following election, and
 - c. one-third of the Elders will serve until the third Annual Business Meeting following election.
 4. Men may be elected at a duly called congregational meeting by a majority of three-fourths of the voting members present by written secret ballot to:
 - a. fill vacant Elder positions and complete the term of the resigning Elders.
 - b. fill additional Elder positions as needed, and serve terms in accordance with Article Eight, Section B, and Subsection 3.
 5. An elder who is faithfully serving in his role shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms. A one year period of rest is encouraged, but not mandatory, when the sum of his expiring term of service and the new term exceed seven (7) years.
 6. The Elders will meet at least twice each month for prayer and discussion at times mutually agreed upon by the Elders.
 7. The Elders will elect a Chairman from among the Elders at their first meeting following the Annual Church Business Meeting of the congregation. The Chairman of the Elders will lead all Elders meetings, congregational meetings, and will approve, speak, or write for the Elders in all communications to Riverview Church and community. He will strive to guide the Elders in a biblical and loving manner, always seeking God's will and direction, and maintaining unity in the congregation. The Chairman will include in the agenda of the next Elders meeting any matters of business given to him in writing by an Elder. In the event the Chairman cannot

attend a meeting he will appoint another Elder to lead the meeting in his absence. The Chairman will serve a term of one year and may succeed himself once. A one-year period of rest must elapse before a man may be elected again to be the Chairman.

8. The Elders will elect a Secretary from among the Elders at their first meeting following the Annual Church Business Meeting of the congregation. The Secretary will keep written minutes of every Elders meeting, printing and distributing them to the Elders within seven days of each meeting. Elders' minutes will be confidential documents, available to Elders only. The Secretary will be responsible to produce minutes of congregational meetings, a copy of which will be available in the Riverview Church office for any church member to review.
9. In the absence of the Senior Pastor the Elders will be responsible for obtaining qualified men to preach the Word of God as needed at worship services.
10. The Elders will seek to study and discuss all matters under their care until they arrive at unanimity of vision and decision which is consistent with biblical truth. A quorum of half of the Elders is required to consider any motion before the Elders. In matters where unanimity among the Elders is not achieved after repeated efforts to pray and discuss the issues at hand, a two-thirds majority vote of the Elders present will be required to approve a motion before the Elders.
11. The Elders will have as primary responsibilities:
 - a. accomplishing the purpose of Riverview Church,
 - b. setting the vision for Riverview Church,
 - c. establishing policies and by-laws consistent with the purpose of Riverview Church,
 - d. overseeing the work and compensation of the Pastor(s), and other employees of Riverview Church,
 - e. encouraging the congregation toward spiritual maturity,
 - f. maintaining responsible financial control,
 - g. maintaining discipline within the congregation,
 - h. developing active participation in ministry by every member,
 - i. maintaining consistent communication with the congregation and its ministries, and
 - j. reviewing the work of all committees and ministry teams.
12. Having established clear purpose and direction, the Elders will delegate specific responsibilities with appropriate authorities for specific areas of ministry to Ministry Teams or temporary committees as needed. The delegation of responsibilities with requisite authorities will be clarified in writing for each area of ministry.
13. Full-time or part-time employees may be employed at the recommendation of the Elders. Full-time or part-time employees may be terminated by a three-fourths

majority vote of the Elders. Their responsibilities and compensation will be determined by the Elders, and they will be accountable to the Elders.

- C. The Senior Pastor of Riverview Church will be a man of proven Christian maturity and pastoral ability. He will be ordained and give evidence of a divine call to the Gospel ministry.
1. The Senior Pastor will be an Elder of the congregation throughout his time of service, having the full responsibilities, rights, and authorities of an Elder. He will have responsibility for participation in the discussions of the Elders, giving the benefit of his knowledge, wisdom, and experience. He will devote himself to the work of the pastoral ministry and the oversight of Riverview Church on a full-time basis, in concert with the other Elders. The Senior Pastor will not serve as the Chairman of the Elder Board. His primary responsibilities will be:
 - a. to pray for God's guidance in all areas of church ministry,
 - b. to adequately prepare to preach and teach the Bible, in order to equip the members for works of service to God,
 - c. to counsel and encourage the members of Riverview Church, and
 - d. to work in concert with the Elders and Pastor(s) to ensure the spiritual health and growth of the congregation.
 2. The Senior Pastor's specific responsibilities and authorities will be determined in discussion with the Elders to maximize the Senior Pastor's use of God-given gifts and natural talents for the benefit of the congregation and his own personal growth.
 3. When the office of a Senior Pastor is vacant:
 - a. The Elders will prayerfully discuss and examine the purpose and direction of Riverview Church. The Elders will then call a meeting of the congregation to discuss and clarify and establish the purpose and direction of Riverview Church.
 - b. Having established clear purpose and direction, the Elders will then form a Pulpit Committee to confidentially seek and review men as potential candidates for the office of Senior Pastor who are qualified according to Article Eight, Section C, and who are appropriately gifted to advance the stated purpose and direction of Riverview Church. The Pulpit Committee will unanimously select one candidate to invite to visit Riverview Church for the purpose of interviewing with the Elders, and others of the congregation as the Elders may decide is appropriate. The Pulpit Committee will then vote among themselves to continue the man's candidacy or end his being considered. If the Pulpit Committee votes to continue the man's candidacy, they will recommend him to the Elders.
 - c. If the Elders vote to continue the candidacy, he will be invited to visit a second time, to interview the congregation as widely as possible, in a variety of meetings and settings, and to preach at the worship services of Riverview Church. The purpose of these events is to give Riverview Church opportunity to meet and assess the candidate, and to allow the candidate to evaluate the congregation.

- d. Following the second visit, if the elders vote to continue the candidacy and the candidate is willing, the Elders will call a congregational meeting solely to consider the election of the candidate to the office of Senior Pastor.
 - e. For congregational meetings to consider the election of a candidate to the office of Senior Pastor, members who know they will not be able to be physically present may obtain an absentee ballot by personally asking the Secretary of the Elder Board. The absentee ballot must be signed and returned to a member of the Elder Board at least one day prior to the congregational meeting. Proxy votes are prohibited. Members represented by absentee ballot are counted toward the quorum and majority requirements. The Secretary or his designate will insure that a member who has voted by absentee ballot does not vote again at the congregational meeting.
 - f. A quorum of two-thirds of the voting membership of the congregation is required to consider the election of a candidate to the office of Senior Pastor.
 - g. A majority of three-fourths of the voting members present by written secret ballot (in person or by absentee ballot) is required to elect a candidate to the office of Senior Pastor. Three Elders will count and destroy the ballots.
4. The Senior Pastor will remain in office until he resigns, retires or is removed.
 5. The Senior Pastor may be removed from office when the following process is followed:
 - a. Three-fourths of the Elders will recommend to the congregation that the Senior Pastor's employment and services be terminated, and call a congregational meeting for the sole purpose of discussing and on the Senior Pastor's removal from office.
 - b. A quorum of one-half the voting membership of the congregation is required for consideration of the termination of the Senior Pastor.
 - c. A majority of one vote more than one-half the voting members present is required to approve the motion to remove the Senior Pastor from office.
- D. Associate Pastors may be employed at the recommendation of the Elders with approval of the congregation at a meeting duly called for that purpose. Associate pastors will be non-voting members of the Elders. Their responsibilities and compensation will be determined by the Elders, and they will be accountable to the Elders.
1. An Associate Pastor may be removed from office when the following process is followed:
 - a. Three-fourths of the Elders will recommend to the congregation that the Associate Pastor's employment and service be terminated, and call a congregational meeting for the sole purpose of discussing and voting on the Associate Pastor's removal from office.
 - b. A quorum of one-half the voting membership of the congregation is required for consideration of the termination of an Associate Pastor.
 - c. A majority of one vote more than one-half the voting members present is

required to approve the motion to remove an Associate Pastor from office.

ARTICLE NINE: MEETINGS

A. Notice, Quorum, and Majority Requirements:

1. A duly called congregational meeting is defined as follows:
 - a. Every congregational meeting must be announced from the pulpit in the morning worship service at least two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.
 - b. The purpose of the meeting will be included in the announcement, and posted in writing publicly in the Riverview Church facility two Sundays prior to the meeting.
2. The following quorum and majority requirements must be met in order to approve any business in a duly called congregational meeting:
 - a. A quorum of one-half of the voting membership of the congregation is required at any duly called meeting of Riverview Church, unless another quorum requirement relating to a particular type of business is specified else where in this Constitution.
 - b. A majority of one vote more than one half the voting members present is required to pass motion in a duly called meeting of Riverview Church, unless another majority requirement relating to a particular type of business is specified elsewhere in this Constitution.
3. A voting member of Riverview Church is defined as follows: a member who is not on the inactive, non-voting membership role, whose permanent residence is within 100 miles of Riverview Church facility, and who is at least eighteen years of age.

B. Annual Church Business Meeting:

The Annual Church Business Meeting will be held in May of each year, to establish the purpose, program, and plans for the following June through May period. The Elders will select the date of the meeting. The Elders will propose ministry plans and an appropriate budget for the coming June-May year, which the congregation will discuss, amend, and approve as God directs. Presentations given in the meeting will focus on ministry plans for the coming year.

C. Calling of Congregational Meetings:

Congregational meetings, other than the Annual Church Business Meeting, will be called by the Elders upon a two-thirds majority vote of the Elders, or at the written request of at least fifteen percent of the voting membership of Riverview Church, presented to the Chairman of the Elders.

ARTICLE TEN: FUND RAISING

Believing Jesus Christ to be the head of Riverview Church, we will look to him to supply the financial needs of the congregation through the voluntary gifts of the members. It will not be the policy of Riverview Church to promote suppers, parties, sales, or engage in the sale of products or services for the purpose of raising funds for the general or missionary support of Riverview Church. Any exception to this general policy must have prior

approval of the Elders. (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

ARTICLE ELEVEN: CHURCH UNITY

- A. When Riverview Church members disagree or their interpretations of theology, the Bible, or Christian behavior differ, we pray that Jesus' love will guard and guide our attitudes toward each other so that we seek to find unity and build each other up in an atmosphere of love and gentleness.
- B. Should members find themselves in disagreement, they will seek the guidance of a Pastor or Elder to help bring resolution and reconciliation of the matters involved. All such involvement with church officers will remain confidential, unless public disclosure is agreed upon by the members involved in the disagreement.

ARTICLE TWELVE: INDEMNIFICATION

- A. Riverview Church will indemnify and hold harmless any and all officers, directors, church agents, Elders, ministers, Pastors, administrators, or employees for any expenses actually and necessarily incurred in connection with any action, suit, or proceedings against said person(s). This indemnification will include costs for attorney fees. The indemnification will occur as the expenses are incurred and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, on receipt of the officer's, director's, church agent's, Elder's, minister's, Pastor's, administrator's, or employee's promise: (1) to repay that amount advanced if proved by clear and convincing evidence in court that officer's, director's, church agent's, Elder's, minister's, Pastor's, administrator's, or employee's conduct involved a deliberate intent to injure Riverview Church corporation's best interests, (2) to reasonably cooperate with Riverview Church corporation in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.
- B. This indemnification will be available to any officer, director, church agent, Elder, minister, Pastor, administrator, or employee who is made or thereafter will be made a part to any action, suit, or proceeding because of the person's relationship with Riverview Church corporation. Persons who are officers, directors, church agents, Elders, ministers, Pastors, administrators, or employees at the time of being made a party, or threatened with being made a party to any action, suit, or proceeding, or were officers, directors, church agents, Elders, ministers, Pastors, administrators, or employees, will be allowed indemnification. Indemnification will also be available in criminal actions only if it is found that officer, director, church agent, Elder, minister, Pastor, administrator, or employee had no reasonable cause to believe that the subject acts were unlawful.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: AMENDMENTS

- A. This Constitution may be amended at any duly called congregational meeting, provided that both the written text of such amendment and the basis for its consideration have been published and distributed to all members of Riverview Church in accordance with the notice requirements detailed in Article Nine.
- B. A quorum of one-half the voting membership is required for consideration of a proposed amendment. A two-thirds majority of the voting members present is required for adoption of the proposed amendment.

- C. The Elders will ensure that the Constitution will be reprinted and dated after any amendment is adopted, and distributed to the congregation within thirty days of any amendment being adopted by the congregation.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: EFFECTUAL POWER OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- A. This Constitution will supersede any previous Constitution, and take effect immediately upon its ratification by two-thirds majority in a meeting in which a quorum of one half of the voting membership of Riverview Church is present.
- B. This Constitution will remain in force as presently formulated or duly amended according to Article Thirteen until this corporation is legally dissolved.
- C. This Constitution will not be suspended or abrogated.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN: RELATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The elders are authorized to develop, amend, and implement biblical Relational Commitments pertaining to peacemaking and reconciliation, preserving marriages, protecting children, biblical counseling, confidentiality, accountability and church discipline, and other relational issues. These Commitments will guide and govern relationships among both members and attendees of our church, and are incorporated into this constitution by reference.