

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

of

## RUSH CREEK CHURCH

Arlington, Texas

### ARTICLE I: Name

The legal name of the organization is Rush Creek Baptist Church,  
also known as THE CHURCH ON RUSH CREEK or RUSH CREEK CHURCH

This organization will further be referred to as the "Church".

### ARTICLE II: Mission Statement

To help people far from God become contagious followers of Christ.

### ARTICLE III: Statement of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, and as the ultimate basis for our beliefs. This Church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message" as a general statement of faith.

### ARTICLE IV: Statement of Beliefs

#### About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22 II Psalm 90:2 II Matthew 28:19 II 1 Peter 1:2 II 2 Corinthians 13:13

#### About You

You are made in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character. You are the supreme object of God's creation and love. Although you have tremendous potential for good, you are marred by an attitude of disobedience towards God called "sin." This attitude separates you from God until the relationship is restored through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:27 II Psalms 8:3-6 II Isaiah 53:6 II Romans 3:23 II Isaiah 59:1-23.

#### About Eternity

Humans were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal death in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. John 3:16 II John 2:25; 5:11-13 II Romans 6:23 II Revelation 20:15.

#### About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22-23 II Isaiah 9:6 II John 1:1-5; 14:10-30 II Hebrews 4:14-15 II 1 Corinthians 15:3-4  
Romans 1:34 II Acts 1:9-11 II 1 Timothy 6:14-15 II Titus 2:13-15.

### **About Salvation**

Salvation is a gift from God to humanity. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from the penalty of our past, present and future sins. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith. Romans 6:23 II Ephesians 2:8-9 II John 14:6; 1:12 II Titus 3:5 II Galatians 3:26 II Romans 5:16.

### **About Eternal Security**

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is grace and the keeping power of God that gives this security. John 10:29 II 2 Timothy 1:12 II Hebrews 7:25; 10:10-14.

### **About The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17 II John 16:7-13; 14:16-17 II Acts 1:8 II 2 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16 II Ephesians 1:13  
Galatians 5:25 II Ephesians 5:18.

### **About The Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any fundamental, theological, or doctrinal errors.

2 Timothy 3:16 II 2 Peter 1:20-21 II 2 Timothy 1:13 II Psalms 119:105, 160; 12:6 II Proverbs 30:5

### **About Sexual Immorality**

God's Word teaches that sexual intimacy is to only occur between a man and a woman who are 'married' to each other. 'Marriage' has only one meaning sanctioned by God to join one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Any form of sexual immorality, such as 'unbiblical 'marriage', adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God requiring confession to seek His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1: 27-28:11 Genesis 2:18-24 II Matthew 19: 4-6 II Ephesians 5:3, 22-33 II I Corinthians 6:18  
I Thessalonians 4:3-8 II Romans 1: 26-27 II Galatians 5:19-21 II Exodus 20:14

## **ARTICLE V: Purpose**

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

1. **Worship**—To participate together in public worship services and to maintain personal daily devotions. (John 4:24)
2. **Fellowship**—To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together. (1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5,7; John 13:34-35)
3. **Maturity**—To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and to train them for effective reproducing ministries. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship. (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 18:20; 2 Timothy 2:2)
4. **Ministry**—To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, our community, and the world. (1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-50; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13)

5. **Evangelism**—To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9)

6. **Stewardship**—To invest money, time, and other resources using biblical principles. (Matthew 25:14-30; Proverbs 3:9-10)

## **ARTICLE VI: Affiliation**

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world missions, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state, and local expressions.

## **ARTICLE VII: Membership**

### **SECTION 1: General**

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

### **SECTION 2: Qualifications for Membership**

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3. Completion of the Church's membership process.
4. A commitment to abide by the membership covenant.

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls will be maintained.

1. Resident (Active) Members: All members who reside within the Church's ministry area or are currently active in the Church.
2. Nonresident Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of moving out of the Church's ministry area and have not joined another church.

### **SECTION 3: Responsibilities of Membership**

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership covenant.

### **SECTION 4: Voting Rights of Membership**

Every Resident (Active) Member shall have the right and privilege to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the election of the Trustees, the disposition of all or the majority of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church, the calling of the Lead Pastor, the removal of the Lead Pastor, and other issues determined by the Church Council. Each member 12 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

## **SECTION 5: Termination of Membership**

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.
4. A member may be removed by the Church Council according to the following conditions:
  - a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant and as such hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
  - b. Procedures for the removal of a member for public lifestyle issues shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

## **SECTION 6: Restoration of Members**

Removed members shall be restored by the Church Council according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their lifestyles are judged to be in accordance with the membership covenant.

# **ARTICLE VIII: Membership Meetings**

## **SECTION 1: General Meetings**

A general meeting of the members shall be held in April of each year at such time as determined by the Lead Team. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and to elect Trustees. Subject to Section 3 of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

## **SECTION 2: Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called at any time by any member of the Church Council for any appropriate purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section 3 of this Article.

## **SECTION 3: Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings**

Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than one (1) week prior to the meeting. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:

1. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service;
2. Announcement of the meeting via electronic media;
3. Oral announcement to the congregation during Sunday services; or
4. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll.

## **SECTION 4: Quorum**

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE IX: Trustees**

### **SECTION 1: Number and Term**

The Trustees shall consist of a minimum of four (4) and/or shall always exceed the number of voting Lead Team members by at least one (1). The Trustees shall be elected by the members at the annual membership meeting based upon the recommendation of the Church Council. Trustees must be resident (active) members of the Church and serve terms of four (4) years. No Trustee will serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Trustees may be removed from service by the Church Council following Article VI, Section 5, of this Constitution and Bylaws.

### **SECTION 2: Powers**

The Trustees will have the following powers and duties:

1. Two Trustee signatures shall be required on all officially recordable documentation and only upon approval by the Church.
2. Provide financial and business counsel to the Lead Team.
3. Determine the compensation levels of the pastors and professional staff of the Church.
4. Conduct such other duties and activities as the Church Council may designate.

## **ARTICLE X: Lead Team**

The Lead Team is charged with establishing and maintaining the vision and the strategic and operational plans of the church. It is composed of the Lead Pastor, Co-Pastor, and other pastors, not to equal or exceed the number of Trustees as determined by the Lead Pastor and affirmed by the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE XI: Church Council**

### **SECTION 1: Number and Leadership**

The Church Council shall consist of Trustees as defined in Article VIII and the Lead Team as defined in Article IX. The number of Trustees shall always be at least one more than the number of voting members of the Lead Team.

The Lead Pastor gives direction and leadership to the Church Council. The Co-Pastor will serve in this capacity in the absence of the Lead Pastor.

### **SECTION 2: Powers**

1. The activities, business, and affairs of the Church shall be conducted, and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the supervision of the Church Council as determined by the "Delegation of Authority" matrix.

2. The Church Council shall also have the power to:
  - a. Approve and/or remove all Pastors of the Church except for the Lead Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, and with this Constitution and Bylaws.
  - b. Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered for the Church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities. This power is limited to non-recordable documents and indebtedness that does not require Church approval.
  - c. Review periodic audit results and make recommendations.
  - d. Appoint the moderator of the Church.
  - e. Provide counsel, guidance, and mutual accountability between the Trustees and the Lead Team.
  - f. Exercise all other powers conferred by the State of Texas for non-profit organizations.

### **SECTION 3: Meetings of the Church Council**

Regular meetings of the Church Council will be held at least quarterly and may be attended by any Church member. Special meetings of the Church Council may be called only if the majority of the Lead Team and the majority of the Trustees are available. A quorum for the transaction of business consists of one-half of the Lead Team and one-half of the Trustees.

## **ARTICLE XII: Pastors**

### **SECTION 1: Election and Removal of Lead Pastor**

The Lead Pastor of the Church will be called by the members at a membership meeting. The calling of a Lead Pastor requires an 85% affirmative vote. The Lead Pastor may only be removed by vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any regular or special membership meeting. All other pastors may be removed by the Church Council at any regular or special meetings of the Church Council.

### **SECTION 2: Vacancies**

A vacancy resulting from death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause will be filled only in the manner prescribed in this Constitution and Bylaws for regular appointments to that office. Such vacancies shall be filled as they occur.

- a. Upon a vacancy in the office of the Lead Pastor, a Pastor Search Team will be named by the Church Council.
- b. Upon a vacancy in other offices, the Lead Pastor will select a nominee to be presented to the Church Council for approval.

### **SECTION 3: Function**

In order to provide a biblical role model to church members and the community, and in accordance with Article III: Statement of Faith and Article VI: Membership, of this Constitution, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity uphold our beliefs on sexual immorality and conduct themselves accordingly. Forms of sexual immorality include unbiblical 'marriage', adultery, fornication, homosexuality,

bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or disagreement with one's biological sex. 'Marriage' is intended by God to join one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

- a. No person employed by the Church may officiate or sanction any activity or event that enables or encourages sexual immorality of any form.
- b. No person employed by the Church may authorize the use of Church facilities in any manner that enables or encourages sexual immorality of any form.

### **ARTICLE XIII: Amendments**

This Constitution and Bylaws or any provision of it may be altered, amended, or repealed, and a new Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted by vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any special or regular membership meeting at which a quorum is present. A written proposal, approved by Church Council, must be distributed and discussed at least one week before such a membership meeting at which the vote will be taken without discussion.

Remark: This Constitution and Bylaws was approved by church vote on October 24, 1999.

Revised by church vote on April 29, 2012.

Revised by church vote on April 27, 2014.

Revised by church vote on April 26, 2015.

Revised by church vote on April 28, 2024.