

The Constitution of Century Baptist Church

Adopted 07-28-82 & Revised 01-15-84, 05-96, 01-99, 10-99, 9-01, 5-03, 8-05, 1-07, 3-10,8-14, 4-17

■ ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization is Century Baptist Church of Bismarck, North Dakota.

■ ARTICLE II – INCORPORATION

Century Baptist Church is incorporated under the laws of the state of North Dakota.

■ ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION

Century Baptist Church voluntarily affiliates with the North American Baptist Conference, Folsom, California.

■ ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE

To provide the place and means whereby Christians may assemble to worship God.

■ ARTICLE V – COVENANT

Century Baptist Church joyfully covenants (agrees) to accept the headship of Jesus Christ in living up to this standard:

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:1-16, NIV)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1 **We believe the Bible is God’s Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God’s revelation of Himself to humanity** (II Timothy 3:16). It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct (I Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17.) It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity (John 20:31, I John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2).

- 2 **We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and love** (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4). He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence, and redemption (Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3).
 - The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe. He hears and answers prayer (I Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11). He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Savior (I John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31).
 - The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18). Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles, and teaching (John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24). He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection (I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25). He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation (Philippians 2:5-11). He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord (Romans 8:34; John 14:23).
 - The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16). At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). The Spirit indwells, seals, and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; I Peter 4:10). He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies, and produces the fruit of Christlikeness in all who yield to Him (Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; 22-23).

- 3 **We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will** (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16). The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God (Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14). Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position (Revelation 12:7-9). They now tempt individuals to rebel against God (I Timothy 4:1; I Peter 5:8). Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ’s victory over sin and death (Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10).

- 4 We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation** (Genesis 1:26-28). As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect (Psalm 139:13-17). Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:9-18, 23). Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him (Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23). Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions, and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator (Romans 14:12; I Timothy 2:5).
- 5 We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death** (II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23). It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21). An individual is united to Christ by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27). As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace (Romans 5:1). Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Thessalonians 3:12).
- 6 We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members** (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5). Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48). Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28). The form of government is understood to be congregational (Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23).
- The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (I Corinthians 11:23-26).
 - To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship, and a more effective fulfillment of Christ's commission (Acts 15; I Corinthians 6:1-3).
- 7 We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God** (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29). Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other (Matthew 22:21). Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture (I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-16). The state should guarantee religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good.

- 8 We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society** (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christlike spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; I John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4).

We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4). We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship exclusively between one man and one woman, as instituted by God in the beginning (Genesis 2:20b-24; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4).

- 9 We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth** (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1). The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise (Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3). The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness (John 5:28-29). The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25-41, 46; Revelation 20:10). The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Philippians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

(Adopted by the North American Baptist Conference delegates, August 10-15, 1982, Niagara Falls, NY. Section 8 amended by the delegates, July 15-19, 2009, Winnipeg, MB.)

A CHRISTIAN AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE

The ministers of our North American Baptist Conference welcome the privilege that our respective civil governments give to solemnize marriages as part of their Christian ministry. However, the same Biblical authority that informs all our teaching and ministry governs our convictions about the nature of marriage. Therefore, our ministers will in good conscience only perform weddings consistent with the view of marriage expressed in the following “Christian Affirmation of Marriage:”

From the Bible we believe . . .

That God’s intention for marriage is established throughout the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments

This is expressed in creation and the creation story, (Genesis 1-2) the Law of Moses, (Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18; Deuteronomy 5:18, 21) Literature, (Proverbs 5; Proverbs 12:4; Proverbs 13:22; Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 17:6; Proverbs 19:13-14; Proverbs 31:10-31; Song of Solomon) and in the prophetic tradition. (Malachi 2:14-15) The Divine establishment of marriage is confirmed by the words of Jesus (Matthew 19:1-9; Mark 10:6-9) and the New Testament authors. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13: 4; 1 Peter 3:1-7) They provide guidance for perfecting marriage, and affirm its spiritual significance. Chaste singleness and marriage are both honored as faithful and holy lifestyles ordained by God. (Matthew 19:10-13; 1 Corinthians 7)

That God ordained marriage as a voluntary union for life of one man and one woman

Our creation as man and woman, who are complementary to one another, (Genesis 2:7, 18-23) has significance in revealing aspects of the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and His relationship to humanity.(1 Corinthians 11:11-12) The permanence of the marital bond (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10: 7-9) mirrors God’s faithfulness, just as its monogamy reflects God’s singular devotion to his people (Ephesians 5: 25) and his people’s singular devotion to him (Deuteronomy 6:13; Joshua 24:24; Matthew 4:10).

That sexual intimacy is legitimate only within the bounds of marriage

The commands of God are clear. (1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7-8) Sexual activity profoundly affects people emotionally and spiritually. (Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 4:19-24) Sexual intercourse outside of marriage, promiscuity, common law relationships, adultery, homosexual acts, exploitation, incest and sexual perversion contradict God’s purpose for human sexuality.(Leviticus 18:6-18; Matthew 5:27-32; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 7:1-2, 9; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 1:8-11)

That marriage is more than a contract between two persons: It is a covenant before God

God is committed to every marriage between a man and a woman.(Malachi 2: 14-15) In the covenant of marriage, God joins a man and a woman together “in one flesh,” and forbids anyone to break it. (Matthew 19: 4-6; Mark 10: 6-9) This covenant is unique among human relationships.(1 Corinthians 11: 12) God intends the married couple to recognize and celebrate His call to an irrevocable commitment to love, to cherish and remain faithful which transcends the quid pro quo of contracts. (1 Corinthians 7: 10-11; Ephesians 5: 21-33)

That in Christian marriage, the Church acts as an agent of God’s blessing, as a primary witness and as a supportive community

The church declares the blessing of God but does not create that benefit. (Ephesians 1: 22-23) Therefore the church cannot confer the spiritual blessing of marriage on other relationships. (1 Corinthians 5: 9-13; 1 Timothy 1: 6-11)

That a healthy marriage is the best foundation for families and the raising of children

The practical benefits of marriage are inherent to its form. A healthy marriage is a unique source of benefits for children including the stability of the family and the access of children to a mother and a father. (Proverbs 6: 20-23; Colossians 3: 18-21) God intended that children should receive nurture from male and female parents, and in turn learn to honor both. (Deuteronomy 5: 16; Ephesians 6: 1-3)

Neither the church nor anyone else can confer the innate benefits of marriage on other forms of relationships or unions. (Matthew 19: 4-6; Mark 10: 6-9)

Therefore we conclude . . .

That the Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman only, and to recognize other unions as legitimate marriages would be contrary to our understanding of scripture within the North American Baptist Conference.

We affirm, in accordance to the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Faith, that each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect. We also affirm that we are called to introduce each person to the loving, reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ and the life changing transformation described in scripture. As Christians we seek to demonstrate God’s love to all people, but we will not compromise our convictions on marriage as defined by scripture.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. As a matter of belief, doctrine and religious practice, the North American Baptist Conference reserves the term “marriage” for the covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.
2. And that the North American Baptist Conference establishes the standard that all individuals, who are licensed to perform marriages, will not officiate, co-officiate or participate as a pastor at any marriage outside of the previously stated definition of marriage.
3. And that in the event that an individual licensed to perform marriages, officiates, co-officiates or participates as a pastor at a marriage that is outside of the previously stated definition of marriage, will be subject to disciplinary review and loss of license.
4. And we recommend that all North American Baptist Conference churches adopt the above as a policy of their individual, local church, and review their “church use policies” to reflect the resolution as stated.
5. And that the facilities of North American Baptist Conference churches will not be used for weddings or receptions where the marriage union is contrary to the provisions of this resolution.

Adopted by the North American Baptist Conference delegates, July 5-9, 2006, Estes Park CO. Revision approved by the General Council, May 14, 2011, Orlando, FL.

■ **ARTICLE VI – MEMBERS**

Century Baptist Church will have members. Conditions of membership are described in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

■ **ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS**

A. Century Baptist Church shall conduct weekly, worship services on Sundays and at other times as designated by the Board of Elders.

B. Business meetings – Century Baptist Church will conduct at least one annual business meeting at which the eligible voting members will vote on the budget, the ballot, and other measures as presented by the Board of Elders. Additional meetings may be scheduled as determined by the Board of Elders.

■ **ARTICLE VIII – GOVERNANCE**

A. Elders - Century Baptist Church shall be governed by a Board of Elders elected and affirmed by the members of the church. Qualifications, election and removal of Elders are described in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

B. Deacons – Century Baptist Church shall have Deacons. Qualifications, election and removal of Deacons are described in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

C. Pastors – Century Baptist Church shall have Pastors. Qualifications, election and removal of Pastors are described in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

D. Ministry Staff – Additional Ministry Staff may be hired as needed according to the process outlined in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

E. Committees – the Board of Elders shall determine the committees necessary for the ministries of Century Baptist Church. Composition, duties and selection of committees and their members are described in the Bylaws of the Constitution.

■ **ARTICLE IX - EFFECTUAL POWER OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall remain in force as presently formulated or as duly amended according to Article X until this corporation is duly dissolved.

■ **ARTICLE X - AMMENDMENTS**

Century Baptist Church may change this constitution by a 75% positive vote of eligible voting members at a properly called business meeting.

■ **ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION**

The membership may dissolve Century Baptist Church at a properly called business meeting with a 75% vote of the eligible voting membership. If Century Baptist Church should dissolve, the material assets must be liquidated to satisfy any debt with the remaining cash given 50% to The North American Baptist Conference (or its successor), 25% to the North Central Association of NAB churches (or its successor) and 25% to Bismarck Baptist Church of Bismarck, North Dakota.

BYLAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF CENTURY BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

These bylaws will serve as a civil document that will guide our church to operate in accordance with the church's constitution.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

A. MEMBERSHIP CANDIDATES

The candidate for membership must. . .

1. . . . have accepted Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and Lord.
2. . . . complete Century's membership class.
3. . . . be baptized as a believer by immersion (if this hasn't been done already).
4. . . . satisfactorily complete the Century Baptist Church membership application.
5. . . . share his or her personal faith story with at least one Pastor and two Elders.
6. . . . be officially approved as a member by the Elder Board and welcomed by the congregation.

B. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

The member will be removed by the congregation from the membership roll if he or she. . .

1. . . . joins another church and asks for a letter of membership transfer.
2. . . . asks to be released from the membership of Century Baptist Church.
3. . . . shames the name of Jesus by immoral conduct or by causing great strife in Century Baptist Church and fails to respond to reconciliation efforts by the church leadership.
4. . . . physically dies.
5. . . . ceases to participate in the ministry of Century Baptist Church for more than one year, at which time they will be placed on an inactive membership list. If after five years the inactive member fails to respond to efforts by church leaders to bring them back into participation and after proper notice, the congregation shall, by majority vote, terminate the individual's membership. Century members in the military, special training, etc. are exempt from this action.

ARTICLE II – GOVERNANCE

A. BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. There will be an Annual Business Meeting during the month of April to approve the budget, the ballot, and other business as necessary.
2. Business meetings are called by the Elder Board by announcing the purpose of the meeting three Sundays prior to the meeting. The meeting may be held on or after the fourth Sunday.
3. The quorum for all business meetings is 30% of the current membership who are 18 years of age or older and whose permanent residence is in Burleigh or Morton Counties. Once a quorum is achieved, the meeting is official until adjournment.
4. All members age 18 and older who are present at the business meeting may vote.
5. All measures require a 75% positive vote in order to pass.

B. THE ELDER BOARD

1. **Qualifications and Responsibilities of Elders:** The Elder Board consists of a minimum of seven men who meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 and explained in the 'Elder Qualifications and Responsibilities' document found in the policy manual.
2. **Selection of Elders:**
 - a. Elders candidates are identified, selected, and trained according to the process outlined in the policy manual .
 - b. After completing the Elder Candidating Process, the Elder Candidate is presented by the Elder Board to the congregation three Sundays before the April business meeting.
 - c. A vote of 75% affirmative by eligible voting members who are present at the meeting is required to elect an Elder.
3. **Term of Elders:**
 - a. An Elder's service begins as soon as the vote is confirmed.
 - b. Elders are affirmed to serve on the Elder Board every year at the April business meeting. A vote of 75% affirmative by eligible voting members who are present at the meeting is required to affirm each Elder.
 - c. After seven consecutive years on the Elder Board, a one-year sabbatical is required. After sabbatical, the Elder is eligible to return to the Elder Board following the yearly affirmation.
 - d. If an Elder vacates his position during the year for any reason, that position may be filled at the next Annual Business Meeting.
4. **Offices:** The Elder Board will select from among its own members a chairman and secretary whose responsibilities are outlined in the policy manual .
5. **Authority:** All authority not otherwise delegated in these bylaws will be held by the Elder Board.
6. **Removal:** If an Elder ceases to meet the qualifications of his office, he must vacate his position through resignation. If he does not resign, he may be removed by the recommendation of the Elder Board and a 75% vote of eligible voting members at a properly called business meeting.

C. DEACONS

1. Qualifications and Responsibilities: Deacons meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and explained in the 'Deacon Qualifications and Responsibilities' document found in the policy manual. Deacons provide spiritual and administrative leadership to standing committees.
2. Selection of Deacons:
 - a. Deacon candidates are identified, selected, and trained according to the process outlined in the policy manual .
 - b. After completing this process, the Deacon Candidate is presented to the congregation three Sundays before the April Business Meeting.
 - c. A vote of 75% affirmative by eligible voting members who are present at the meeting is required to elect a Deacon.
3. Term of Deacons:
 - a. The Deacon's service begins as soon as the vote is confirmed.
 - b. All Deacons are affirmed by the congregation every year at the April business meeting. A vote of 75% affirmative by eligible voting members who are present at the meeting is required to affirm each Deacon.
 - c. After seven consecutive years serving as a Deacon, a one-year sabbatical is required.
 - d. If a Deacon vacates his position during the year for any reason, that position will be filled at the next Annual Business Meeting. An Elder or designate of the Elder Board may temporarily fill the position if necessary.
4. Removal: If a Deacon ceases to meet the qualifications of his office, he must vacate his position through resignation. If he does not resign, he may be removed by the recommendation of the Elder Board and a 75% vote of eligible members at a properly called business meeting.

D. PASTORS

1. **Qualifications and Responsibilities:** Pastors must meet the qualification and fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the 'Qualifications and Responsibilities' document related to their specific role found in the policy manual .
2. **Selection:** The Elders will designate a search committee to perform all search functions as outlined in the policy manual. After a candidate is selected, the Elders will present him to the congregation for approval at a properly called business meeting. If the candidate is approved, he will begin serving according to the letter of call and continue until he resigns or is removed.
3. **Removal:** If the Pastor ceases to meet the qualifications of his office, he must vacate his position through resignation. If he does not resign, he may be removed by the recommendation of the Elder Board and with a 75% affirmative vote of the membership at a properly called business meeting. If the congregation votes to remove a Pastor, he must cease his duties immediately. Severance pay may be given at the discretion of the Elder Board.

E. MINISTRY STAFF

1. **Qualifications and Responsibilities:** All Ministry Staff must meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the 'Qualifications and Responsibilities' document related to their specific role found in the policy manual .
2. **Selection:** Selection of Ministry Staff shall proceed according to the process outlined in the policy manual.
3. **Removal:** Removal of Ministry Staff shall proceed according to the process outlined in the policy manual.

F. COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees will be chaired by a Deacon and seated with a minimum of three qualified members-at-large. An Elder will be assigned as a liaison to the committee but is not officially seated and does not vote. Specific committee responsibilities and authority are outlined in the policy manual.
2. Standing Committees
 - a. Personnel - This committee oversees the policies governing all paid staff, assists in the hiring of new paid staff, and fulfills other responsibilities as outlined in the policy manual.
 - b. Properties - This committee oversees the care and maintenance of all present church facilities and makes recommendations to the Elder Board for new construction projects.
 - c. Finance - This committee prepares the budget each year for Elder Board approval and oversees and enforces the church's Financial Operations Policies.
 - d. Missions - This committee manages the missions budget, communicates with supported missionaries and organizations, and hosts missions-related events at Century Baptist Church.
3. The Elder Board may appoint temporary committees for specific projects as needed for a maximum of two years.
4. Committee Members
 - a. Committee Members are identified, selected, and trained according to the process outlined in the policy manual.
 - b. After completing this process, the Committee Member Candidate is presented to the congregation three Sundays before the April Business Meeting.
 - c. A vote of 75% affirmative by eligible voting members who are present at the meeting is required to elect a Committee Member.
 - d. Committee members may serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms and would be eligible to serve again after a one year break.

G. Policy Manual

The Policies and Procedures manual is open for all church members to view and is kept in the church office. Documents in this file outline policy and provide direction for a variety of subjects not addressed in the constitution and bylaws. All policies must be approved by the Elder Board.

ARTICLE III - THE UNIFIED BUDGET

1. The Annual Budget Process:
 - a. Requests for funding from all ministry teams and committees are provided to the Finance Committee by the date specified by the Committee.
 - b. The Committee prepares a General Budget draft and presents the draft to the Elder Board.
 - c. The Elder Board reviews, amends (if necessary), and approves the General Budget Draft which is presented to the membership three Sundays prior to the April business meeting.
 - d. The members vote to adopt the annual General Budget at the April business meeting.
2. The Missions Budget: A minimum of 10% of the income shall go toward missions. "Missions" shall include, but not be limited to, North American Baptist Conference Ministries, North Central Association Ministries, and other mission ministries whose beliefs, mission, and values are in keeping with those of Century Baptist Church.
3. God's Treasures: If sufficient funds are available, 10% of the income shall be placed in a savings account called "God's Treasures" for unexpected or unbudgeted needs, future large expenditures, and as a guarantee that no less than 10% of the total annual giving goes to missions.
4. Benevolent Fund: Once a month, during each service in which communion is served, a special offering is taken for disbursement by the Elder Board to persons with financial needs because of crises in their lives.
5. Construction and Buying and Selling Real Property: Construction and the sale or purchase of land or buildings must be approved by the members with a 75% positive vote at a properly called business meeting.
6. Indebtedness: Century Baptist Church operates on a cash basis. The members must approve any loan which would use church property for collateral.

ARTICLE IV - INDEMNIFICATION OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND ALL OTHER LEADERSHIP

For the purpose of this Article, any person who is or was an Elder, officer, employee or other agent of the corporation is indemnified and held harmless by the corporation for any activities performed in their duties on behalf of the corporation. The corporation will obtain on a timely basis and retain an appropriate liability insurance policy, commonly known as "Directors' and Officers' insurance".

ARTICLE V - EFFECTUAL POWER OF THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall remain in force as presently formulated or as duly amended according to Article VI until this corporation is duly dissolved.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Century Baptist Church may change these Bylaws at a properly called business meeting by a 75% positive vote of eligible voting members.