

1 Constitution and Bylaws
2 of
3 Crosspoint Church
4 Clemson, SC
5

6 *Adopted by the membership on February 24, 2008.*
7 *Revised by the membership on April 6, 2011, October 17, 2012, August 18, 2015, and October 7, 2020.*
8
9

10 PREAMBLE
11

12 Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here under the name
13 Crosspoint Church of Clemson, SC, for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we,
14 the members of Crosspoint Church do hereby organize ourselves and adopt this Constitution as our articles
15 of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as
16 revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church.
17

18
19 ARTICLE I
20 Name and Principal Office
21

22 The name of this church is Crosspoint Church, located in Clemson, South Carolina. Crosspoint Church
23 maintains its principal office at 1019 Tiger Boulevard, Clemson, SC, 29631.
24
25

26 ARTICLE II
27 Mission, Vision, and Core Values
28

29 The mission of Crosspoint Church is to make disciples of all people for God's glory.
30

31 The vision of Crosspoint Church is to be a people transformed by the gospel, living daily on mission, and
32 sending laborers to the nations.
33

34 The core values of Crosspoint Church are (1) Worship exalts God, (2) Scripture reveals truth, (3) Fellowship
35 encourages growth, and (4) Sending advances the gospel.
36
37

38 ARTICLE III
39 Statement of Faith
40

41 **Preface**

42 We believe that the authors of the Bible, not the readers, determine the meaning of it. Therefore, on matters
43 of doctrine, we cannot assume the Scriptures to mean anything other than what they were intended to mean
44 originally. We hold this statement of faith to be authoritative for matters pertaining to church practice. The
45 final interpreter of Scripture will be by the Spirit's illumination of the covenant members as exercised by vote
46 of the covenant members according to the constitutional provisions.
47

48 A. **The Scriptures**

49 The Bible was written by divinely inspired men and is God's revelation of Himself and His will to
50 man. The Bible in its entirety is the Word of God, and as such is wholly true in everything it affirms.
51 The Scriptures are the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and practice. (Ps. 18:30,
52 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 3:15-16; Rev. 22:18-19).

1 **B. God**

2 The Godhead exists eternally in three persons in perfect unity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These
3 three persons are one God, and are worthy of precisely the same confidence, obedience, and worship.
4 God is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. (Mt. 28:18-19, Mk. 12:29, Jn. 1:14, Acts 5:3-
5 4).

6
7 **1. God the Father**

8 God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of
9 the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. God is Father in truth to
10 those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, yet He remains fatherly in
11 His attitude toward all men (Gen. 1:1, 2:7; Ex. 3:14, 6:2-3, 15:11ff, 20:1ff, Lev. 22:2; Dt. 6:4,
12 32:6; 1 Chr. 29:10; Ps. 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3,15, 64:8; Jer. 10:10, 17:13; Mt. 6:9ff, 7:11, 23:9, 28:19;
13 Mk. 1:9-11; Jn. 4:23-24, 5:26, 14:6-13, 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Eph.
14 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6, 12:9; 1 Pet. 1:17).

15
16 **2. God the Son**

17 The Son of God has existed from eternity past and became incarnate in the person of Jesus of
18 Nazareth. Jesus, who is the Christ, the preexistent Son of God, in the flesh is fully God and
19 fully man. Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He taught and worked mighty
20 works, wonders and signs as recorded in the four Gospels. He was crucified, died as a
21 propitiation for our sins, and was later raised from the dead, bodily, on the third day. Later, He
22 ascended to the Father's right hand where He is head of the church and intercedes for
23 believers. He will come again personally, bodily, and visibly to this earth (Matt. 16:27; Acts
24 1:11; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-8; Heb. 1:2, 2:17, 4:15).

25
26 **3. God the Holy Spirit**

27 The Holy Spirit is God and possesses all the divine attributes. He exists to bring glory to the
28 Father and the Son. He convicts the world of sin, indwells all believers, and baptizes and seals
29 them at the moment of salvation. He uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building
30 up of the body. He guides believers in understanding and applying the Scriptures and
31 empowers them to lead a life of Christ-like character (Jn. 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph.
32 4:30; Gal. 5:22-23).

33
34 **C. Providence**

35 God, from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs,
36 and governs all creatures and all events; yet He is not the author or approver of sin nor does He
37 destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures (Prv. 16:33; Isa. 46:9-11; Col. 1:17; Heb.
38 1:3; Jas. 1:13-15).

39
40 **D. Man**

41 Man is the special creation of God, made in God's own image. God created them male and female as
42 the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his
43 Creator with freedom of choice. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created
44 man in His own image; therefore, every person of every ethnicity possesses full dignity and is worthy
45 of respect and Christian love (Gen. 1:26-30).

46
47 **E. Sin**

48 By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the
49 temptation of Satan, man transgressed the command of God and fell from his original innocence,
50 whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin and evil. Therefore, as

1 soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation
 2 (Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32, 3:10-23, 5:6-19, 6:6; Eph. 2:1-3).

4 F. **Salvation**

5 God the Father, by His sovereign choice and His love for mankind, sent His Son, Jesus, into the world
 6 to bring people back into fellowship with Him through regeneration. Regeneration is a change of
 7 heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening
 8 their minds to understand the word of God, and renewing their whole nature in the act of salvation.
 9 This salvation, with its forgiveness of sin, is a gift, wholly a work of God's grace, not the result of
 10 human works, and this salvation must be personally appropriated by repentance and faith, resulting in
 11 God declaring believers righteous through the merit of Christ. Through sanctification, beginning in
 12 regeneration, the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and
 13 spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace
 14 should continue throughout the regenerate person's life. All those whom God has regenerated will
 15 never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end.
 16 Though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, they shall be renewed again unto
 17 repentance and be kept by the power of God through faith unto the culmination of salvation. (Mk.
 18 1:15; Jn. 6:37-40, 10:28-29; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 12:5-6; 1
 19 Jn. 5:12-13).

21 G. **The Church**

22 The Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is
 23 invested supremely all power for its government. There is one universal church which is comprised of
 24 all who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. According to His commandment, Christians
 25 are to associate themselves into particular, local churches; and to each of these churches He has given
 26 needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The
 27 regular officers of a church are elders (pastors) and deacons; the regular ordinances of a church are
 28 baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Mt. 26:26-29, 28:19; Jn. 10:16; Acts 2:38, 20:17, 28; Rom. 6:3-5; 1
 29 Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-34, 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17-18; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25)

- 31 1. Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is
 32 immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign
 33 of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving
 34 himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church
 35 membership.
- 36 2. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of
 37 bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It
 38 is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death and to be a bond, pledge
 39 and renewal of a believer's communion with Him, and of their church membership, preceded
 40 always by solemn self-examination.

43 H. **Marriage and Sexuality**

44 The gift of sex as male and female is part of the goodness of God's created order and is the
 45 fundamental and universal biological distinction of the human race. This divinely-ordained distinction
 46 is therefore a part of the core of the body-soul unity that determines the essence of human nature and
 47 is significant in its image-bearing capacity. Consequently, this biological distinction is integral to God's
 48 design for self-conception as male or female. It is therefore not possible to sever the connection
 49 between one's gender and one's biological sex.

50 Marriage is the covenantal union of one man and one woman, before God, in an exclusive, lifelong,

1 public relationship, meant to reflect the beauty of Christ’s love for his redeemed church and God’s
2 ordained means for procreation. Sexual intimacy, when enjoyed within the confines of marriage, exists
3 as a good gift from God and serves as a metaphor for the intimacy of our spiritual union with Christ.
4 Any form of sexual intimacy outside the marriage covenant corrupts this divine intention and
5 therefore constitutes immorality. Sexual immorality includes lust, pornography, adultery, polygamy,
6 fornication, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, pedophilia, bestiality, incest, and disagreement with
7 and attempts to change one’s biological sex to fit self-conceptions of gender (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt.
8 15:18-20; Mark 7:21-22; Rom. 1:21-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 6:18; 7:2-5; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; Heb.
9 13:4; Jude 7).

10
11 **I. Last Things**

12 The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the
13 righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved for the final judgment. The bodies of all the
14 dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by
15 Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting
16 and conscious punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life (Mt. 25:46; Jn. 5:22-29; Acts 17:31; Rom.
17 2:6-11; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 7:13-17, 14:9-11).

18
19 In addition, Crosspoint Church affirms *The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000*.

20
21
22 **ARTICLE IV**
23 **Affiliation**

24
25 This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the
26 benefits of cooperation with other churches, this church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist
27 Convention [SBC], also known as Great Commission Baptists [GCB].
28

29
30 **ARTICLE V**
31 **Membership**

32
33 **A. Qualifications for Membership**

34 It is the desire of Crosspoint Church to freely extend its fellowship to all individuals. At the same time,
35 Crosspoint desires to uphold the principles of commitment to Christ and to His church that Scripture
36 teaches must accompany true membership in the body of Christ. To qualify for membership in this
37 church, a person:

- 38
39 1. Must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration
40
41 2. Must have been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ, following his or her
42 regeneration
43
44 3. Must be sixteen years of age or older (see Article V Section G for further explanation)
45
46 4. Must hold without mental reservation the doctrines of our church as expressed in the
47 Statement of Faith
48
49 5. Must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the *Crosspoint Church Covenant* (see
50 Appendix A)

1
2 B. **Procedure for membership.** The elders shall be responsible for determining each person's
3 qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person's profession of
4 faith and other evidence, as the elders deem appropriate. To be admitted into church membership,
5 applicants shall be recommended by the elders (pastors) for affirmation by the church upon
6 completion of the following:
7

8 1. **Membership class**

9 Membership classes shall regularly be offered to provide the following instruction:

- 10 a. The Crosspoint statements of faith and mission
11 b. The Scriptural principles of commitment to the body of Christ
12 c. Crosspoint's principles of government and ministry
13

14 2. **Covenant Signature**

15 A potential member expresses intent to join by signing the *Crosspoint Church Personal Commitment*
16 *Form*.
17

18 3. **Membership Interview**

19 Following the candidate's affirmation of the church covenant, this candidate desiring
20 membership shall submit to an elder (pastor) or appointed leader his/her personal testimony
21 to determine the integrity of his/her faith and desire to be committed to Crosspoint Church as
22 a local body of believers.
23

24 4. **Admission of Members**

25 To be admitted into the church membership, applicants shall be recommended by the elders
26 for admission and accepted with a two-thirds vote of the members at any regular or special
27 meeting of the members and shall at that point relinquish membership in other churches.
28

29 5. **Letter of transfer**

30 For candidates who are currently members at another SBC/GCB Church, Crosspoint will
31 contact that church and request a letter of transfer. Receiving them into membership at
32 Crosspoint is pending until a letter of recommendation from that SBC/GCB church is
33 received.
34

35 C. **Duties and privileges of membership**

36 1. **Minister**

37 In accord with the duties enumerated in the Church Covenant, each member shall be
38 privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church,
39 consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received
40 from God. Only those shall be entitled to serve and lead in the ministries of the church who
41 are members of this congregation; non-members may serve on an informal basis with the
42 approval of the elders (pastors). Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the church for
43 purposes of administration and professional consultation.
44

45 2. **Decision Making**

46 Under Christ, this congregation is led by its elders (pastors) under the authority of the
47 members. It is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend all members' meetings
48 and vote on the following matters: the appointment and removal of all elders (pastors), the
49 annual budget of the church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the
50

1 church, the merger or dissolution of the church, acquisition of property, amendments to the
2 Constitution and Bylaws of the church, and other matters that the elders (pastors) deem
3 necessary for the congregation. An affirmative vote would consist of two-thirds of the
4 members present.
5

6 **3. Covenant Living**

7 Members covenant together to live corporately under the authority of Christ and His Bride,
8 the Church. As a result, members are encouraged to live in mutually sanctifying relationships
9 with other believers where the art of care and correction is practiced. At the point where a
10 member strays from this covenant lifestyle into unrepentant sin, the church will exercise
11 discipline for the purpose of the member’s restoration according to the *Crosspoint Church*
12 *Discipline Policy* as developed and interpreted by the elders (pastors). [see Appendix B]
13

14 **D. Voting limitations**

15 Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
16

17 **E. Amendments**

18 This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members present at a duly
19 called members meeting called for the purpose of amending this Constitution. Should a member
20 identify a subject of the constitution, which he deems in need of amending, he ought to bring his
21 proposal and rationale to the elders (pastors). If the elders (pastors) affirm the recommendation, they
22 shall bring this proposed amendment before the congregation at the following members meeting. If
23 the elders (pastors) do not affirm the proposed amendment, they shall offer to the member an
24 explanation, at which time the member should take thirty days to prayerfully consider his amendment
25 request in light of the counsel of the elders (pastors). Following this time of reflection, should he still
26 desire his amendment proposal to be considered, he may re-approach the elders (pastors) with his
27 amendment request or modified amendment request. The elders (pastors) shall allow this proposed
28 amendment to come before the church, though they may do so with declared reservation.
29

30 **F. Associate membership**

31 Students and others temporarily residing in the Clemson, SC, area who are members of a SBC/GCB
32 Church may apply for associate membership. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership
33 as set out above, except that home church membership must be retained. A letter of commendation
34 will be sought from the applicant’s home church.
35

36 **1. Limitations of associate membership**

37 Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for members with the following
38 exceptions:
39

- 40 a. When absent from the Clemson, SC area for extended periods of time, associate
41 members are released from the responsibility to attend our church services
- 42 b. While associate members are encouraged to participate in members’ meetings, they
43 will not be eligible to stand for any office (elder (pastor) or deacon) or to vote.
44

45 **2. Termination of Associate Membership**

46 Termination of Associate Membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other
47 members, except that the elders (pastors) shall notify the pastor or elders (pastors) of the
48 home church of that termination. Associate membership will normally terminate immediately
49 upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the Clemson, SC area.
50

1 **G. Fellowship membership.**

2 Affirming that children under the age of sixteen can have a credible testimony of regeneration and
 3 gifts to serve in the church, Crosspoint desires to prepare them for the responsibilities of church
 4 membership through this category of lesser responsibility and corporate accountability. Additionally,
 5 the tragic effects of the fall render some to a mental disability such that they are able by God's grace to
 6 understand and believe the gospel, yet are not capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of membership
 7 entailed in the church covenant. Recognizing that all people are image bearers of God, that God has
 8 sovereign control over every disability, and that God has good purposes for every one of his children,
 9 Crosspoint desires to affirm evidences of grace and accept shepherding responsibility for such
 10 brothers and sisters (Gen. 1:27, Ps. 139:13, Rom. 15:1).

11
 12 1. **Qualification for fellowship membership**

13 Persons who meet the following qualifications shall be eligible for Fellowship Membership:

- 14 a. Must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration
 15 b. Must have been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ, following his or her
 16 regeneration

17
 18 2. **Procedure for fellowship membership**

19 The procedure for one to be admitted into Fellowship Membership is the same as that of
 20 members.

21
 22 3. **Limitations of fellowship membership**

23 Fellowship Members shall not exercise the responsibility to vote nor will be candidates to
 24 administer nor receive church discipline.

25
 26 4. **Transition from fellowship membership to membership**

27 Following a Fellowship Member's sixteenth birthday and prior to his receiving membership,
 28 he shall request of the elders (pastors) a membership interview to pursue covenant
 29 membership.

30
 31 **H. Termination of membership**

32 The church may recognize the termination of a person's membership in any regular or special
 33 members meeting upon the following circumstances:

- 34
 35 1. Death
 36
 37 2. Transfer of membership to another church or ceasing to be an active participant in the body
 38 of Crosspoint, as determined by the elders (pastors).
 39
 40 3. By personal request of the member, except when that member is in the process of church
 41 discipline. If it appears to the elders (pastors) that a member has requested removal merely to
 42 avoid church discipline, that request may not be honored until the disciplinary process has
 43 been properly concluded.
 44
 45 4. As an act of church discipline in accord with the *Crosspoint Church Discipline Policy*.

46
 47
 48 **ARTICLE VI**
 49 **Meetings of Members**
 50

1 **A. Worship Meetings**

2 Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the week as the elders
3 (pastors) determine.
4

5 **B. Members Meetings**

6 In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving
7 consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Members meetings of the
8 members shall proceed according to a reasonable order according to the occasions, in the manner, and
9 for the purposes set forth below.
10

- 11 1. An annual members meeting of the Church will be held to adopt an annual budget and
12 conduct any other business deemed appropriate by the elders (pastors).
13
- 14 2. A special members meeting of the Church may be called at any time by the elders (pastors) or
15 at the written request by 5% of the voting membership, submitted to the elders. In the event a
16 special meeting is requested by the members, the elders shall call a special meeting to be held
17 within one month of the receipt of the request. The date, time, and purpose of any special
18 meeting shall be announced at all public services of the church and emailed to all church
19 members at least one week prior to the meeting.
20
- 21 3. Notification of a members meeting shall be given to members by any one of the following
22 methods:
23 a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at all Sunday
24 services
25 b. Announcement of the meeting in the church newsletter or email
26 c. Oral announcement to the congregation at corporate worship services on a given
27 Sunday
28 d. By first-class letter to members
29
- 30 4. Members shall be notified no less than two weeks prior to a members meeting.
31
- 32 5. A quorum shall require a minimum of ten percent of covenant members present and voting
33 on a given matter.
34
- 35 6. The elders (pastors) will preside over the members meeting.
36
- 37 7. A motion shall be adopted upon the agreement of two-thirds of the members present and
38 voting on the matter.
39

40
41 **ARTICLE VII**
42 **Church Government**
43

44 Scripture indicates that the responsibility for shepherding and leading the church under Jesus
45 Christ belongs to the elders (pastors) (1 Ti. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
46

47 **A. Elders (Pastors)**

- 48 1. **Qualifications and Responsibilities of Elders (Pastors)**
49
50

- 1 a. Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders (pastors) shall provide broad
2 oversight to the ministry, financial management, and resources of the church. In
3 keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17, Tit. 1:5-9, Jas.
4 5:14, and 1 Pet. 5:1-4, the elders (pastors) shall seek the mind of Christ through the
5 guidance of the Holy Spirit and the word of God as they undertake the work of
6 shepherding God's flock. The elders (pastors) shall teach and exhort; refute those who
7 contradict the truth; pray for the sick; care for the church's members; devote
8 themselves to prayer, to the government of the church and to ministry.
- 9 b. The elders (pastors) shall be comprised of a number of men determined by the current
10 elders (pastors) who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder (pastor) set forth in
11 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:6-9. Only men may serve as elders (pastors) in accord with 1
12 Tim. 2:12, 3:2. The duties of an elder (pastor) shall be as follows:
- 13 i. He will be responsible to manage or administrate the local church before
14 Almighty God, exercising leadership and authority (1 Tim 3:4-5; Tit 1:7).
 - 15 ii. He will be responsible to be a guardian to the truth and to care for the
16 welfare of the members of the local church in every area and will give account
17 to God (1 Tim 3:1-2; Tit 1:7; Heb. 13:17).
 - 18 iii. He will be responsible to hold fast to the Scriptures and to be able to apply
19 them to life situations (Tit. 1:9).
 - 20 iv. He will be responsible to reprove, rebuke, and exhort according to the
21 principles of Scripture as necessary (2 Tim. 3:16; Tit. 1:9-13).
 - 22 v. He will be responsible to "feed the flock," by ministering the Word of God
23 whether publicly or privately (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:2; 1 Pet 5:2-3).
 - 24 vi. He will be an example to the membership of the church. (1 Pet. 5:3)
 - 25 vii. He will be responsible to "shepherd" (pastor) the members of the local
26 church (Acts 20:28).
- 27 c. No elder (pastor) shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure. Those elders
28 (pastors) not receiving compensation from the church will be called "lay elders" for the
29 purpose of this constitution, although biblically and functionally there is no difference
30 among the elders (pastors).
- 31 d. The elders (pastors) may establish and oversee ministry positions and committees to
32 assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders (pastors) shall also have
33 primary responsibility for the hiring, supervision, evaluation, and termination of non-
34 elder staff members. The outworking of this responsibility may, on a case-by-case
35 basis, be delegated to deacons or another staff member.
- 36 e. A paid or volunteer staff position does not in and of itself constitute an elder's
37 (pastor's) position.
- 38 f. The elders (pastors) must have at least two-thirds approval of the elders (pastors) in
39 order to proceed with an action.
- 40 g. The elders (pastors) will appoint an elder or elders to serve as chairman or chairmen of
41 elders' meetings and as moderator(s) of members meetings.
- 42 h. Should a member desire to add an item to the agenda of the elders' meeting, he shall
43 make this request in writing to the elders (pastors) no less than fourteen days prior to
44 the meeting.
- 45
- 46 **2. Selection of Lay Elders (Pastors)**
- 47 The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance
48 with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of
49 Christ to His church and set apart as elders (pastors). A lay elder (pastor) may request a
50 sabbatical, up to one year, from his responsibilities or resign from the role of elder.

1 The selection process shall be as follows:

- 2 a. The elders (pastors) shall provide the congregation with Biblical teaching concerning
- 3 the tasks and qualifications of elders (pastors).
- 4 b. The congregation shall submit names of nominees to the elders (pastors) for their
- 5 consideration.
- 6 c. The nominees shall perform extensive self-evaluation based upon the
- 7 Scriptural teaching concerning elders (pastors).
- 8 d. The elders (pastors) shall interview those nominees who remain in the process
- 9 following the self-evaluation.
- 10 e. The elders (pastors) shall recommend to the congregation the nominees they feel best
- 11 fulfill the Biblical requirements for elders (pastors).
- 12 f. The congregation shall then evaluate the recommended nominees. Any
- 13 concerns shall be taken up with the nominee in question and/or with the current
- 14 elders (pastors).
- 15 g. Following the congregational evaluation a time of dedication and congregational
- 16 affirmation shall be held for the new elders (pastors).

- 17
- 18 3. **Dismissal of Lay Elders (Pastors).** Any member with reason to believe that an elder
- 19 (pastor) should be dismissed should express such concern to the elder in question and/or
- 20 to the elders (pastors). Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions
- 21 of 1 Tim. 5:17-21. In the event of a potentially disqualifying accusation against a lay elder
- 22 (pastor), the elders (pastors) may suspend the accused from elder meetings and decision-
- 23 making for a season of inquiry. An elder shall be removed from office upon the vote of
- 24 the congregation according to constitutional provisions.
- 25

26 B. Deacon Ministry

27 1. Role of Deacons

- 28
- 29 a. The office of deacon is described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 (cf. Acts 6:1-7). The church shall
- 30 recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, men who are
- 31 giving of themselves in service to the church, who possess gifts of ministry, who are
- 32 called to further service and care for the church's members, and meet the qualifications
- 33 of a deacon as described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. The number of deacons shall be determined
- 34 by the needs of the ministry and the call and qualifications of men in the church.
- 35 b. Deacons shall assist the elders (pastors) in any service that shall support and promote
- 36 the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care of
- 37 the members of the congregation. The deacons may be organized in the most fitting
- 38 way to accomplish the mission of the church.
- 39

40 2. Selection of Deacons

41 The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with

42 the constitutional provisions on elections. Deacons shall serve three-year terms and are subject

43 to elder evaluation at the end of each term with congregational input. There is no limit placed

44 on the number of consecutive terms deacons may serve. The selection process shall be as

45 follows:

- 46 a. The elders (pastors) shall provide the congregation with Biblical teaching
- 47 concerning the tasks and qualifications of deacons.
- 48 b. The elders (pastors) shall solicit from the congregation names of nominees for their
- 49 consideration.

- c. The nominees shall perform extensive self-evaluation based upon the Scriptural teaching concerning deacons.
- d. The elders (pastors) shall interview those nominees who remain in the process following the self-evaluation.
- e. The elders (pastors) shall recommend to the congregation the nominees they feel best fulfill the Biblical requirements for deacon.
- f. The congregation shall then evaluate the recommended nominees. Any concerns shall be taken up with the nominee in question and/or with the current elders (pastors).
- g. Following the congregational evaluation, a time of dedication and congregational affirmation shall be held for the new deacons.

3. **Removal of Deacons**

Any member with reason to believe that a deacon should be dismissed should express such concern first to the deacon in question and, if necessary, to the elders (pastors). Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Mt. 18:15-17. The dismissal of a deacon shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors). Action to dismiss a deacon shall require the unanimous consent of the elders (pastors).

C. **Clerk**

It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render reports as requested by the elders (pastors), deacons, or the church. In the absence or incapacity of the clerk, the elders (pastors) shall appoint a member to perform the duties of the church clerk. For purposes of compliance with the nonprofit corporation laws of the state of South Carolina, the clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation. The church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this constitution shall be available for all church members. The clerk shall be appointed by the elders (pastors).

D. **Treasurer**

The treasurer, who shall not be an elder (pastor) or a paid church staff member, shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the church. The treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The treasurer shall render to the elders (pastors) annually, or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church. The treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular members' meeting. The treasurer shall be appointed by the elders (pastors).

E. **Trustees**

The trustees shall serve the church as official representatives of the church in terms of business contracts and other legal matters. Trustees, under the direction of the elders (pastors) and congregational approval, may 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. The trustees shall be appointed by the elders (pastors) for a three-year term.

ARTICLE VIII

Paid Staff

A. **Qualifications of Paid Elders (Pastors)**

All pastoral staff shall meet the Biblical qualifications for elders (pastors). Reference Article VII, Section A above.

B. **Calling of Paid Elders (Pastors)**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of a paid elder (pastor), the elders (pastors) shall conduct a search for an acceptable candidate to present to the congregation, if filling this vacancy is deemed necessary by the remaining elders (pastors). Having selected the candidate, he shall be presented to the congregation for a congregational vote. The extension of a call shall be made upon an affirmative vote by a minimum of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a duly called members meeting.

C. **Dismissal of Paid Elders (Pastors)**

Any member with reason to believe that a paid elder (pastor) should be dismissed should express such concern to the elder in question and/or the elders (pastors). Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions in 1 Tim. 5:17-21. In the event of a potentially disqualifying accusation against a paid elder (pastor), the elders (pastors) may suspend the accused from elder meetings and decision-making for a season of inquiry. An elder shall be removed from office upon the vote of the congregation according to constitutional provisions.

D. **Calling of Support Staff**

The creation of support staff positions and hiring of support staff shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors).

E. **Dismissal of Support Staff**

The dismissal of a support staff member shall be the responsibility of the elders (pastors). Action to dismiss a member of the support staff shall require the unanimous consent of all of the elders (pastors).

ARTICLE IX
Indemnification

A. **Eligibility**

The Church shall indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to or witness in, any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, by reason of the fact that the person is or was a member, elder, deacon, employee, volunteer, or agent, or to such person’s heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives, against expenses (including attorneys’ fees), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding to the fullest extent and in the manner set forth in and permitted by the Act and any other applicable law, as from time-to-time in effect. Such right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such member, elder, deacon, employee, volunteer, or agent may be entitled apart from the foregoing provision. The foregoing provision of this Article shall be deemed to be a contract between the church and each member, elder, deacon, employee, volunteer, and/or agent who serves in such capacity at any time while this Article and the relevant provisions of the Act and other applicable law, if any, are in effect, and any repeal or modification thereof shall not affect any rights or obligations then existing, with respect to any state of facts then or theretofore existing, or any action, suit, or proceeding theretofore, or thereafter, brought or threatened based in whole or in part on any such state of facts.

1
2 **B. Exemption**

3 Indemnification shall not be made in respect to any proceeding in which the person has been found
4 liable for willful or intentional misconduct in the performance of his or her duty to the church. No
5 indemnification shall be provided to any person if the church is prohibited by law from paying such
6 indemnification.
7

8 **C. Standard of Conduct**

9 Indemnification and advancement of expenses for all fines, judgments, penalties and amounts paid in
10 settlement thereof are subject to the following conditions: such person conducted himself in good
11 faith, and he reasonably believed (i) in the case of conduct in his official capacity with the church, that
12 his conduct was in its best interest; (ii) in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to
13 the best interests of the Church; and (iii) in the case of any criminal proceeding, that he had no
14 reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of a proceeding by judgment,
15 order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself,
16 determinative that the member, elder, deacon, employee, volunteer, or agent did not meet the standard
17 of conduct herein described.
18

19 **D. Discretionary Ruling**

20 The rights to indemnification and advancement of expenses conferred by or pursuant to this article
21 shall be deemed contract rights, but only to the extent applied above. For all other categories of
22 persons eligible to potentially receive indemnification under this article, the rights to indemnification
23 and advancement of expenses shall be deemed contract right only to the extent approved by the elders
24 in its sole discretion but not otherwise.
25

26
27 **ARTICLE X**
28 **Dissolution**
29

30 In the event that the elders of the church determine that there is reasonable cause to dissolve Crosspoint
31 Church as a corporate entity, the elders shall recommend dissolution to the membership. The elders shall call
32 a special members’ meeting as set out in Article VI, Section B. Notice of the meeting shall be sent in writing
33 to the membership and posted at all entrances to the church building no less than sixty days prior to the
34 meeting. The notice shall state that the purpose of the meeting is to consider dissolution of the corporation
35 and how the assets of the corporation will be distributed after all creditors have been paid. At least two-thirds
36 of the members present at the meeting must vote in the affirmative to approve the proposal of dissolution.
37

38 After approval of dissolution by the members, all of the corporation’s debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its
39 assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably
40 designated, as approved by a simple majority of the members present at a members’ meeting, to one or more
41 religious organizations which meet the qualifications described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
42 Code and which are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Statement of Faith. Any such assets not so
43 disposed of shall be disposed of exclusively for such exempt purposes by a court of competent jurisdiction
44 where the principal office of the corporation is then located.
45

APPENDIX A
The Crosspoint Church Covenant

1
2
3
4
5 Having been, as we trust, brought by the grace of God to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to
6 offer ourselves to Him, and having been baptized by immersion upon our profession of faith, in the name of
7 the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, by His grace, solemnly and joyfully renew our
8 covenant together.¹

- 9
10 I. We will seek to walk together in the unity of the Spirit, praying for one another and exercising mutual
11 care as members one of another.²
12
13 II. We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, and we will make it a priority to attend
14 corporate gatherings. Under the Word of God, we will work together for the continuance of a faithful
15 gospel ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, doctrines, and the ordinances of Baptism and
16 the Lord's Supper.³
17
18 III. We will frequently encourage, exhort, and admonish one another to hold to our confession of Christ,
19 remembering that as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic
20 grave, so there is on us now a special obligation to lead a new and holy life.⁴
21
22 IV. We will work together to support the ministry of the church by: upholding its mission, submitting to our
23 elders (pastors), using our gifts for the edification of one other, and praying for its health. We will
24 contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief
25 of the needy, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.⁵
26
27 V. We will aim to make disciples of Christ in our own city and abroad, sending to the nations those from
28 among us and readying ourselves to go when called.⁶
29
30 VI. We will endeavor to bring up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord those who may be under our
31 household. In view of this calling, we will not neglect the Word of God in our homes.⁷
32
33 VII. We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can
34 carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.⁸

35 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us
36 all. Amen.⁹

^Adapted in part from Capitol Hill Baptist Church Covenant and New Hampshire Baptist Convention Covenant of 1833.

¹ Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Eph. 1:3-14

² Matt. 22:39; Ro. 12:5; 1 Cor. 1:10; Js. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11

³ 1 Cor. 11:17-34; Heb. 10:24-25

⁴ Matt. 4:19, 16:24; Rom. 6:4, 12:1; Eph. 4:1; Heb. 3:12-14

⁵ Matt. 18:15-20; Acts 2:45; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 8, 9:6-15; 2 Tim. 2:2; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5

⁶ Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Tit. 2

⁷ Deut. 6:4-9; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

⁸ John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 3:5-17; Heb. 10:24-25

⁹ 2 Cor. 13:14

APPENDIX B
Crosspoint Church Discipline Policy¹⁰

We must love each other with a biblical love – a love that discerns, desires, and does what is best for another person, according to Scripture. We have to value each other’s holiness more highly than we value our own comfort. Even more importantly, we must value the approval of our Lord more highly than we value each other’s approval. Otherwise, we will be unwilling to do the right thing when we fear that it might upset someone.

- Biblical Church Discipline Manual

God’s desire for His children here on earth is purity of life. It is impossible to study Scripture attentively and not be overwhelmingly convinced that God seeks above all else for His people to be holy and that He is grieved by sin of any kind. Directly quoting God’s command to His Old Covenant people Israel, Peter wrote the same command to Christ’s church: ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’ Because God is so concerned for the holiness of His people, they should be equally concerned. The church cannot teach and preach a message it does not live, and have any integrity before God, or even before the world.

- The MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Pursuing someone in sin is the most loving thing that can be done for that individual, the body of Christ, and the name of Christ.

- Shepherding the Church Family

Church discipline at Crosspoint is founded upon the holiness and the love of our glorious God, the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is the head of the church, and an understanding of the church as the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4-5; Col. 1:9-29)

Discipline is a courageous and compassionate act of love, desiring only good for the person caught in sin. Its aim is rescue, restoration, and reconciliation. Just as discipline is a mark of a healthy family, church discipline is a mark of a healthy church. The context and prerequisite for church discipline is authentic Christian community. (Prv. 3:11-12; 1 Cor. 5:5, 11:32; 1 Tim. 1:20; Heb 12:5-11; Rev. 3:19)

The primary teaching and hopeful desire of the elders (pastors) at Crosspoint is for believers to develop self-discipline, so that they may be lead godly lives characterized by obedient faith. We believe that love for God, the first and greatest command by our Lord Jesus Christ, is manifested primarily through diligent obedience to the Word of God and love for other believers. (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 7:1; Col. 3:5-10; 1 Thes. 4:3-8; Heb. 3:12-15, 12:14-17; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2 Pet. 1:3-11; Rev. 3:14)

Church discipline has 3 purposes: 1) To glorify and honor God through obedience to His Word. 2) To protect and maintain the purity of the local church by pursuing individual and corporate holiness. 3) To rescue and restore believers overtaken by sin.

We believe that church discipline should be exercised in every case of substantiated, habitual, willful, unrepentant sin when the erring party is not willing to make any attempt to resolve the matter. Though not an exhaustive list, the following sins are addressed by the New Testament church: divisiveness (2 Thess. 3:11; Tit. 3:10-11; Rom. 16:17-20), irresponsible and undisciplined living (1 Thes. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6-15), sexual immorality (1 Cor. 5:1-13), doctrinal heresy (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 2 John 1:10-11; Rev. 2:14-16).

The actions and heart attitude of the church, particularly the elders (pastors), are to be characterized by humility, compassion, mercy, gentleness, and fairness (Gal. 6:1-2; Js. 5:19-20; 2 Thes. 3:15; 1 Cor. 5:2; 2 Cor. 2:4-8; Mic. 6:8). Elders and deacons are held to an even higher standard of accountability (1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17-22; Jas. 3:1).

¹⁰ Adapted from the Church Discipline Policy of North Wake Baptist Church, Wake Forest, NC.

1 We believe that church discipline is applicable to all members and believers who fellowship with us. Withdrawal
 2 of membership or fellowship does not necessarily negate the process of church discipline, particularly where it
 3 appears that a person has done so to avoid church discipline. Such requests may not be honored until the
 4 disciplinary process has been concluded. If a believer fails to discipline himself and demonstrates no evidence
 5 of repentance, the Scriptures clearly indicate that loving confrontation is the responsibility of the church. Church
 6 discipline is a biblical process that is to be handled prayerfully, carefully, justly, and only after several individual
 7 attempts at correction have been attempted and have failed.

8
 9 The basic stages of church discipline, according to Mt. 18:15-20, are as follows.

10
 11 FIRST: If a Christian fails to discipline himself and is trapped in unrepentant sin, Christ commands the
 12 individual who is aware of the matter to go to him in private to lovingly confront, counsel, and encourage him
 13 to repent (“Go and show him his fault, just between the two of you” Mt. 18:15).

14
 15 SECOND: If he will not listen to the one person, especially after several attempts, and there is no evidence of
 16 repentance, “take one or two others along” to further address the matter and to continue to encourage him to
 17 repent. The intent of others being involved is to guarantee clear communication and to enlist others for prayer
 18 and discernment (Mt. 18:16).

19
 20 THIRD: If these personal and informal steps do not elicit repentance, Jesus says we should “tell it to the
 21 church.” Tell it to the church necessarily involves bringing the elders (pastors) into the process and requesting
 22 their direct assistance in resolving the problem, if they were not involved in the previous steps. In some cases,
 23 one or more elders (pastors) may repeat the previous steps and try to persuade the offender to repent. The
 24 elders (pastors), after confirming the information, a proper process, and continued refusal to repent may then
 25 inform the church when it is assembled (Mt. 18:17).

26
 27 The elders (pastors) will send a letter by registered mail warning the individual that the third or fourth step of
 28 church discipline will be taken if they have not received significant evidence of repentance by a specific date.

29
 30 “Telling it to the church” means that the congregation will be informed about the general nature of the sin,
 31 given a general description of the process that has taken place, and about the refusal to repent. They will be
 32 asked to pray for and plead with the offender to repent and to pursue the person for the purpose of restoration.

33
 34 Personal visits, telephone calls, and letters are examples of what it means to “pursue” them. The church is to
 35 keep on loving them and seeking their restoration.

36
 37 FOURTH: If the offender refuses to submit to the caring admonition of the church and continues to harden
 38 his heart, then Jesus says we are to “treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” This means that the
 39 person is publicly dismissed from the church with the hope of future repentance and reconciliation. In addition,
 40 this means that the person will be denied Christian fellowship, treated as an unbeliever, and delivered over to
 41 Satan in the hope that his soul will be saved (Mt. 18:17; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thes. 1:20, 3:6,14; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Tim.
 42 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10).

43
 44 If at any point during this process, the offender demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect will also be
 45 made publicly so that the church may rejoice and gently and judiciously restore the repentant believer to the
 46 fellowship of the church.

47
 48 We accept these stages as principles prescribed by our Lord and our Scriptures. The elders (pastors) of the
 49 church, after prayer and consultation with one another and the Holy Scriptures, may eliminate, compress,
 50 contract, or combine into one any of these stages. Elders (pastors) are commanded to protect the flock and

1 some forms of sinful conduct deemed harmful to the flock may require immediate action (Acts 20:28-31; Tit.
2 3:10; 1 Cor. 5:1-5).