

Heritage Bible Church DECLARATION OF FAITH

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Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. Ps. 119:111

Established September 17, 2000

Amended: May, 2015

Article I – The Bible

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, was, as originally given, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; that it is verbally inspired of God; that it is inerrant, sufficient, and eternal, and therefore of supreme and final authority in faith and life **(2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21)**

Article II – God

Section 1- The Tri-Unity

We believe in the Triune nature of God: that there is but one God existing in three Persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- Who are co- eternal, and co- equal. **(Jn. 16:7-15; 1 Jn. 5:6-8)**

Section 2- The Father

We believe that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Heavenly Father of all who have come to a saving knowledge of His only begotten Son. **(Jn 20:17; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)**

Section 3- The Son, Jesus Christ

We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ, His incarnation by means of Holy Spirit begettal and virgin birth, His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth, His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men, His bodily resurrection from among the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate, and His personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return to bring into consummation His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts.

(Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-23; Lk. 1:30-35; 2:6-11; Heb. 4:15; 20:30-31; 1 Cor. 15: 3-5, 12-28; Heb. 9:24)

Section 4- The Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that it is by His power that sinners are brought under conviction of sin and are drawn to Christ for salvation, that through Him men are regenerated and sanctified, that by Him the saints are indwelt with the Divine Presence, and that by His endowment and enduement God's people are enabled to serve the Lord acceptably. We believe that He is the Divine Witness, Seal, Earnest, Anointing, Guide, Comforter, Teacher, and Administrator. **(Jn. 14:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27)**

Article III – Creation

We believe that the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the great Triune God. **(Gen. 1:1--2:1-3, 3; Jn. 1:1-3)**

Article IV – Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, “the old serpent, the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the world”, that he is the arch-enemy of God and man, and that in God's own appointed time, he will suffer ultimate defeat at the hands of the Lord, Jesus and will be tormented throughout eternity in the fires of hell. **(Is. 14:12-17; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9-10, 20:1-2, 7-10)**

Article V – Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sin nature, and became alienated from God; that man is totally unable to remedy his lost condition apart from God's grace. **(Gen. 1:26-27; Rm. 3:22-23, 5:10-19)**

Article VI – Sin

We believe in the universality and exceeding sinfulness of sin and that there is no remission of sins apart from the shedding of the blood of the Son of God and man's repentance. **(Ez.18:4; Lk. 24:46-47; Rm. 3:20-26, 6:23)**

Article VII – Salvation

Section 1- The Atonement

We believe in the single, substitutionary, sacrifice of the Lord, Jesus Christ, for sinners, one for all and once for all; that salvation is wholly of divine grace apart from any works of merit of the sinner; that it is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ, wrought by God, and is received by a sinner when he puts his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior and repents towards God; that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by personal faith as Savior are thereby born again and have eternal life through the indwelling Christ. **(Jn. 3:16, Rm. 5:8, Tit. 3:4-7; Heb. 10:10)**

Section 2- The Eternal Security and Assurance of the Believer

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus in Christ forever. **(Jn. 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)** We believe that it is the privilege of the believer to rejoice in assurance of his salvation through the testimony of God's word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. **(Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Tit. 2:11-15)**

Section 3 - The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the spiritual nature over the carnal, fleshly, soulish nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature *in this life* are unscriptural. **(Rm. 6:13; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-18, 24-25; Eph. 4:22-24)**

Section 4 - Sanctification

We believe in the positional sanctification of each believer in Christ at the time of salvation and a practical sanctification, which is progressive, depending upon the believer's appropriation of divine grace. **(Jn. 17:17)** We believe in righteous living and good works, not as a means of salvation, but as its evidence and fruit. **(Jn. 15; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:14-16)**

Article VIII – The Church

Section 1 - The Universal Church

We believe in the universal Church (the body of Christ, the bride of Christ), which includes all true believers, whose purpose is to glorify God through worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, witnessing of Christ, and observing the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's table. **(Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39; I Cor. 11:23-24; Col. 1:18)**

Section 2 - The Local Church

We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament scriptures; that a local New Testament church is a body of believers in Christ that have followed the Lord through the waters of baptism, associated together under the direction and government of the Holy Spirit for worship, instruction, fellowship, service, and the spread of the Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth; that is absolutely sovereign, under the administration of the Holy Spirit, in the handling of its own affairs and in determining its own relationship; that its relationship with other ecclesiastical bodies is one of fellowship only. **(Mat. 16:17- 18; Acts 2; 14:27; Titus 1: 5)**

Section 3 - Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the edification and perfecting of the saints today. Prophesying and the giving of knowledge beyond that revealed in Scripture ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established; therefore we will not allow the exercising of any so-called gift of speaking in tongues, extra- Biblical prophesying, or healing. **(Eph. 4:11)**

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted, but that healing is not in the atonement (*reconciliation*).
(James 5:13-16)

Section 4- The Blessed Hope

We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of living church saints and resurrection of dead church saints-- at which time both companies will meet the Lord in the air to forever be with Him. **(1 Thes. 4:13-18)**

We believe that all the Old Testament saints and the martyred Tribulation saints will be resurrected at the end of the tribulation at the Second Advent. **(Dan. 12; Jn. 5:28-29)**

Article IX – Ordinances

Section 1- Baptism

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolic, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth in picture the essential facts of redemption – the death and resurrection of Christ, the essential facts in the experience of the believer – death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life, and the essential facts in the hope of the believer – that should he experience physical death, he will be raised from the dead to participate in the eternal glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:4)

A person, who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and professes Him publicly at any worship service, shall be received for baptism.

Section 2- The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper- We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed till He comes; that the elements – the bread and the fruit of the vine are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the crucified Savior and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self-examination. **(Mat. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:17-30)**

Article X – Civil Government

We believe that all governmental authority is ordained of God for the good of the citizens under its jurisdiction, that believers in Christ are to be the most ardent to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake, and that we are to faithfully pray for those who occupy positions of civil authority and lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **(Mat. 22:17-21; Rm. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-4, 1 Pet 2:13-17)**

Section 1 - Civil Disobedience

The position held by the Scriptures is one of Biblical submission. Thus:

We believe that only when our Biblical conscience is violated, in that we are commanded or compelled to commit evil, may we disregard the rule of civil law.

We believe that civil disobedience is permitted when the government's laws or commands are in direct violation of God's laws and commands.

We believe that if a Christian disobeys an evil government, unless he can flee from the government, he should prepare to suffer the consequences for his actions.

(Exodus 1:17-21, Daniel 3:4-12; 6:4-11, Acts 5:17-20; 25-29, I Pet 2: 18-23)

Article XI – Evangelism

We believe that it is in the heart of God to save sinners, that He has committed Himself to the faithful witness of His redeemed children to reach them with the gospel, and that He has commissioned us to be diligent and zealous in publishing the saving message of Jesus Christ throughout the world so that sinners may be persuaded to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of their sins and be saved. **(Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 1:8; I Tim. 2:3-6)**

Article XII - The Resurrection

We believe that there will be two resurrections and that all the dead will be raised: that the righteous dead will have part in the first resurrection which will issue in eternal life, and that the wicked dead will have part in the second resurrection which will issue in eternal damnation. **(Jn. 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:20-26)**

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. **(Lk. 23:43; Rev. 20: 4-6; 1 Thes. 4:16-17)**

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. **(Lk. 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15)**

Article XIII – Eternity

We believe that eternity will be composed of Heaven and Hell: that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that Hell is a place of eternal suffering; that all true believers in Jesus Christ will be fully redeemed from sin's penalty, power, and presence, will be glorified with the Lord when He comes, and will enjoy the blessing of unbroken fellowship with God in Heaven forever; that all unrepentant sinners will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ according to their deeds, without respect of persons, by the glorious Gospel of God, and will be cast out from God's presence to suffer the torments of the lake of fire in Hell forever. **(Mat. 25:46; Lk. 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:1; Rev. 20:1-15)**

Article XIV – The Separated Life

Section 1- Life Message

We believe in the separation of believers unto Christ and from the world so as to maintain good works and to have no fellowship with the evil works of darkness but rather reprove them; that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded by God. We, therefore, encourage every member of Heritage Bible Church to abstain from every questionable thing, keeping himself/herself from every "appearance of evil", according to the teaching of God's Holy Word. **(Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:14-18; 16-23; Eph. 2:10, 4:17-29; Phil. 2:12-16; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Tit. 3:1-8; Jam. 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:14-17; 1 Jn. 2:15-16; 2 Jn. 1:9-11)**

Section 2- Marriage

We believe that marriage is an inseparable union until death parts, in spite of divorces allowed by society; our Lord Himself teaches that at the beginning, God made them male and female for which cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall become one flesh. He also taught that, "*whomsoever shall put away his wife, and marry another committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery*". We further believe that any form of sodomy, fornication, and adultery, are sinful perversions of God's design for marriage. **(Gen. 2:24, Rom. 1:24-32; Heb. 13:4)**

Article XV- The Family

We believe in the importance of the family. With the knowledge that the family was the first established unit in God's divine order on earth, we are committed to the fact that all endeavors of Heritage Bible Church should have a family overtone and should tend toward keeping the family intact at every cost. We will encourage heads of families to nourish and instruct family members in the things of the Lord and will seek to develop and provide materials, which would facilitate this process. We will seek to remain sensitive to this priority and seek to avoid planning such programs that would violate this principle. **(Gen. 2:18-24; Tit. 2:1-8)**

We acknowledge that the above declaration of faith in no way exhausts the content of our faith, which is the entire Word of God. We do believe that these statements are representative of the sound doctrine taught in the Bible.

Becoming a Member of Our Church Family

We believe many elements of New Testament Christianity can best be obeyed within the context of a scriptural relationship to a local church, and, in fact, a believer cannot obey many Scriptural admonitions without his commitment to being a part of a local assembly of believers. For example, though Scripture does not command membership, it does command submission to the authority of a local church (Heb. 13:17; 1Thes. 5:12-13), warns against the forsaking of assembling with other believers (Heb. 10:25), urges the exercise of spiritual gifts for the edification of others within the body (1Cor. 12:7; Eph. 4:16), commands financially supporting the ministry (1Cor. 16:1-2), and makes possible the practice of church discipline for the purity of the body of Christ (Mt. 18:15-18; 1Cor. 5:1-13). In the context of a local church, a believer is also better enabled to fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

If the Lord is leading you to consider becoming part of the Heritage Bible Church family, you may contact us at 813.966.8933 or hbcoffice@gmail.com to let us know. We will arrange a time for you to meet with the Pastor and or Elder to share your testimony of salvation and subsequent baptism by immersion and to go over membership information. There will be follow-up meetings to read and discuss material in the Church Constitution and Declaration of Faith. If you can wholeheartedly support the doctrinal positions of the church, we will arrange a time for you to share your testimony publicly with our church family so that we can reaffirm our covenant together with you.

Covenant

Having been brought, as we believe, by divine grace to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, having been baptized, upon the confession of faith, into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now most joyfully and solemnly enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage, therefore, as the Holy Spirit shall enable us, to walk together in brotherly love; to exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another; to participate in one another's joys; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; to consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; and to forsake not the assembling of ourselves together. We further engage to strive for the advancement of the gospel through grace, knowledge, and holiness; to promote Christ and the edification of the Church by sustaining its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to contribute cheerfully and liberally to the financial support of the ministries of the church as we have opportunity by giving attention to the ministries of world evangelization and doing good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. We further engage to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of the lost; and to avail ourselves of the great privilege of prayer for one another and all men. We further engage to walk sober and circumspectly in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to refrain from gossip, backbiting, and anger; to flee from all appearance of evil; to maintain a clear line of separation from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations; and ever remembering our relationship to Jesus Christ our Lord and seek to live to His glory.

Heritage Bible Church Constitution

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Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution to govern the body in an orderly manner with the understanding that only by living out the principles of our faith can this constitution be preserved or secured.

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – Name

This local assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be known as Heritage Bible Church of San Antonio Florida.

Section 2 – Affiliations

Heritage Bible Church shall not hold organized affiliation with any association, convention, conference, or council of churches but shall be an independent, fundamental, local assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ retaining the right and assuming the responsibility to act for itself according to the teaching of the Word of God under the counsel of the Holy Spirit. This church shall, however, welcome the fellowship of the saints everywhere who give evidence of true conversion by the orthodoxy of their doctrine and separated life.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose for which Heritage Bible Church is established shall be to bear a united witness to the faith of its members that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God; to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints; to accept as its supreme task the evangelization of the world; to yield unto God so as to be a constant Spirit-filled witness to those around us; to build up the Body of Christ in its most holy faith; and “presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus” by equipping him with the Word of God.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE

The appended doctrinal statement shall be designated as the Heritage Bible Church Declaration of Faith and shall constitute the doctrinal basis on which this assembly is founded and by which it shall function.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Definition

Every individual who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior is a member of the Universal Church also called the body of Christ. (1Cor. 12:12, 13, 27) The local Church is a portion of the Universal Church at a given locality. (Phil. 1:1; Rev. 1:11) The scriptures teach that every believer should be identified with a local assembly. (Heb. 10:25; 1Jn. 2:19)

Section 2 – Qualifications

The requirement for membership in Heritage Bible Church is the same for that in the Universal Church, that is, knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Rom. 10:9,10,13) The only distinction being:

1. Before candidates are considered for membership, they will meet with the pastor and/or appointed elders.
2. A profession of faith in Christ Jesus and baptism must precede all candidacies.
3. Every believer who expresses his/her desire to be identified with this local church fellowship must be in agreement to abide by the authority of the scriptures as presented in this Constitution and Doctrine Statement.
4. Non-members are welcome to attend business meetings, but may not participate in discussions or final decision-making.
5. Before membership, candidates shall give testimony of their salvation experience before the assembly.

Section 3 – Termination

Membership in Heritage Bible Church may be dissolved in one of the following ways:

1. By death
2. By letter of recommendation: such a letter shall be considered in one of the regular Church Family Business Meetings. Request will be granted for any member in good standing and who is transferring to a church of like faith and practice.

3. By personal request
4. By the request of the Pastor and/ or Elders after Scriptural discipline has failed to correct hurtful conduct and false doctrine. In case of persistent repetition of conduct unbecoming to professing Christians and in every case involving gross immorality, a member shall be excommunicated from the fellowship of Heritage Bible Church and his/her name removed from the roll.
5. By inactive participation: any member who has been inactive for a period of six months or more shall be removed from the church membership roll at the discretion of the leadership.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

Section 1- Form

The government of Heritage Bible Church shall be congregational, while acknowledging the headship of Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:13-18, 2:19**) and its obligation to adhere to His headship. (**Eph. 5:23-24**) As the head is elevated on the body and all issues and determinations issue from it for the rest of the body's members, so is Christ to His own body, the church. The Elders shall transact all interim business, except in such cases as should require special sessions of the congregation. The action of the Elders shall be subject to the entire body. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the pastor and elders are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Section 2- Officers

In order to insure the purity of faith and unity of the body, including all support activities such as the conduct of its necessary business, management of its property and the supervision of its work, God has ordained certain offices as described herein.

A. Classification: The officers of Heritage Bible Church shall be composed of the following and shall be selected by the congregation from its membership as the need may arise and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit:

1. Administration – Pastor and Elders

There is a close connection between elders and pastors, but not all elders are pastors since “*elder*” is an office and “*pastoring*” is a gift. Paul said, “*If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work*” (**1Tim 3:1; Acts 1:20**). Pastoring is a gift that some elders have (**Eph. 4:8, 11**), so a pastor is a unique elder gifted with pastoring and teaching: “*Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the Word and doctrine*” (**1Tim 5:17**).

- a. As the Church leadership, the group of elders confers and agrees on the direction for the Church. The congregation acts as checks and balances.

- b. The congregation consents, responds, and confirms the major decisions of the eldership.
- c. The Senior Pastor presents final decisions for the congregation and speaks for the eldership as the senior elder.
- d. The congregation shall select the Senior Pastor whenever a vacancy occurs. The elders will serve as Pastor Search Committee.
- e. Term of Office – The term of office of the Elders and Deacons is indefinite in time, as the scriptures do not indicate a time limit to his commitment. As such, the term of office will continue until such time as he can no longer hold to the commitment, and is released from the duties of the office.

2. Service – Deacons

B. Qualifications: The officers of Heritage Bible Church shall be selected from among the members who give evidence of the qualifications laid down in the Word of God.

- Personal endowments (*Rom. 12:1-8; I Cor. 12:1-14, 30; Eph. 4:1-16*)
- Moral and spiritual standards (**1Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-11**)

1. Elder Qualifications – An Elder shall be qualified if he meets the standard as given in **1Tim. 3:2-7 and Tit. 1:6-9**. He shall be a man of spiritual maturity as recognized by the Church. His Christian character and qualifications shall be consistent with the principles of faith and doctrine of this church.

2. Elder Role – The office of an elder is one of authority, honor, maturity, and wisdom

- Position of authority (**Mt. 26:3; 1 Pet 5:5; Acts 22:5**)
- Position of honor (**Pr. 31:23; 1Kgs. 21:8**)
- Position of maturity (**1Tim. 5:1**)
- Position of wisdom (**Ezek. 7:26**)

3. Elder function – The elder’s many functions included being an overseer, ruler, shepherd, teacher, apologist and watchman.

- Overseer (**1Pet. 5:1-4**)
- Ruler (**Heb. 13:17a**)
- Under-shepherd (**1Pet. 5:2**)
- Teacher (**1Tim. 3:2**)
- Apologist (**Titus 1:9**)

- Watchman (**Heb. 13:17b**)
4. Elder Gender – Elders at Heritage Bible Church shall be male, and shall be “*the husband*” of one wife (**1Tim. 3:2**). This does not necessarily mean that the elder must be married. The elder is in a position of authority, and women are not “*to usurp authority over the man*” (**1Tim. 2:12**). The reason given clarifies that this is not merely cultural, but is based on the order of creation and elsewhere on the nature of the Godhead (**1Cor. 11:3**). However, *women are not inferior in nature, redemptive status, or spiritual gifting; they differ only in function.*
- C. Deacon Qualifications- A deacon shall be qualified if he meets the standard as given in **1Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-5**. He shall be a man of spiritual maturity as recognized by the Church. His Christian character and qualifications shall be consistent with the principles of faith and doctrine of Heritage Bible Church.
- The Primary responsibility of a deacon is to assist the Pastor and elders by serving the Church, strengthening the unity of the body, and enabling the leadership to fulfill their roles as elders (**Acts 6:1-4**).

Section 3- Discipline

Should any member of Heritage Bible Church become an offense to the church, its name, and our Lord by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his/ her covenant vows, by gross impropriety, misdemeanor in office, or by willfully promoting schism or discord among the brethren, the church may censure, reprimand, and/ or excommunicate him/her from membership. Such action shall be taken only after every reasonable Christian means of reconciliation has been exhausted, and after due notice has been given of the charge made, and full opportunity provided for the person charged to speak in his/her own defense. Before taking action, the church shall hear all evidence that may be produced on both sides. However, any person thus excommunicated may afterwards be restored to fellowship on confession of his/her sin and after having given evidence of true repentance. The purpose for church discipline is redemptive in nature with the specific design of restoration. (**1 John 5:16; Gal. 6:1-2; Matt. 18:15-17; Tit. 3:10-11; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Cor. 5:1-13**)

ARTICLE VI – FINANCES

Section 1 – Offerings

Regular offerings shall be received for the Lord’s work at Heritage Bible Church at the worship services, each Lord’s Day. Special offerings may be taken at any meeting for whatever cause the Pastor and/ or Elders under the direction of the Holy Spirit shall deem worthy. No one will be solicited by Heritage Bible Church for funds. However, we shall preach, teach, and practice the Scriptural principle of voluntary tithes and offerings, expressing love and gratefulness to the Lord and His work.

Section 2 – Indebtedness

We understand that the scriptures warn the borrower from becoming a servant to the lender. Heritage Bible Church shall remain debt-free and commit to be servant to Christ alone. Borrowing money from a bank, individual or any financial institution will not be considered an option. Our trust will be in the Lord's faithfulness. He will supply the needs of the Church according to His riches in glory. **(Prov. 22:7)**

ARTICLE VII – LICENSING AND ORDINATION

Any male person giving evidence of a divine call to the gospel ministry by the possession of gifts and graces belonging to the ministry and accepting without reservation the Statement of Faith at Heritage Bible Church may be licensed or ordained to preach. Such person must be recommended by the Pastor and elders. The ordination council will consist of the elders of Heritage Bible Church and any other ordained minister that may know the man being ordained.

ARTICLE VIII- SUPPORTING MINISTRIES

The following qualifications shall be considered for every ministry/missionary that is financially supported by Heritage Bible Church:

- A. Submission to God-given authorities. **(Rom. 13:1-2)**
- B. Submission to the authority of a local church. **(Heb. 13:7,13)**
- C. Agreement with the statement of faith as stated in the Heritage Bible Church constitution. **(Amos 3:3)**

ARTICLE IX - DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

We believe that God has created each person as a male or female. These two distinct genders reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. Therefore, we believe that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. **(Gen. 2:18-24; Lev. 18:22; Matt. 19:4-6; Rom. 1:21-27)** We believe that God sanctions only the union in marriage of a man to a woman. Therefore, this Church sanctions only a ceremony compatible with those standards.

Policies:

1. Because of our belief in the Biblical teachings about marriage, same-sex couples will not be married in any facilities or on any properties owned by Heritage Bible Church.
2. Ministers of Heritage Bible Church will not perform any same-sex marriages or civil unions whether on or off church-owned properties. Doing so would be grounds for termination.

3. Because of our beliefs, Heritage Bible Church will not use its property for participating in homosexual gatherings or activities.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This document may be amended so long as the proposed amendments are consistent with the teaching of the Word of God, do not violate the purpose for which Heritage Bible Church was established and the doctrinal basis on which it was founded. Any proposed alteration or amendment to this document must be presented in writing by the Pastor and/ or Elders. The amendment to be considered must be reviewed and discussed by the members of the congregation at a Church Family Business meeting before being accepted.

ARTICLE XI – PROPERTY

Decisions relative to the acquisition or sale of real property shall be brought before the members of the congregation at Church Family Business meetings. The Elders of Heritage Bible shall act as trustees of all properties owned by the church and shall be authorized to execute the decisions of the church regarding such properties.

ARTICLE XII -- DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Heritage Bible Church shall be distributed, in accordance with a plan of distribution adopted by the Elders, exclusively to one or more religious, charitable, or educational organizations which are not for profit and which are engaged in affairs substantially similar to those of Heritage Bible Church and which would qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations.

Church Goals

Matthew 16:18 declares that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church. This declaration expresses a continuous warfare. For many generations our nation's families have been led to believe in the world's destructive design for this world. We have exchanged the glory of God for the praise of men and His Word for the philosophy of men. The day we live in calls for sincere repentance and a return to the biblical purpose of the Lord's church.

1. Our goal is to encourage each person to put his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and to love Him with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. (*Rom. 10:9-13; Luke 10:27*)
2. Our goal is to bring the Light of the gospel to them that sit in darkness and are without the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. (*Pr. 11:30; Acts 1:8*)
3. Our goal is to encourage the character of Christ in individuals, in marriages, and in families that we may be above reproach. (*Titus 2:7-8*)
4. Our goal is to teach every man how to delight in meeting his wife's needs even as Jesus did for His church. (*Eph. 5:25*)
5. Our goal is to teach every wife how to love her husband and children, to be discreet, chaste, and keepers at home that the Word of God be not blasphemed. (*Titus 2:4-5*)
6. Our goal is to turn the hearts of the fathers towards their sons and daughters. (*Malachi 4:4-6; Luke 1:16-17*)
7. Our goal is to prove our love for the Lord and our loyalty to each other by giving only a good report of each other. (*Gal. 6:1*)
8. Our goal is to teach and apply God's principles of finances so that God can give specific direction and illustrate His supernatural power through the church and family. (*Malachi 3:10; Luke 16:1-12*)
9. Our goal is to encourage women (widows and single mothers) to a life of Godliness and faithfulness by providing meaningful ministries and financial support in that they are without a husband. (*1Tim. 5*)
10. Our goal is to help Christians discover their spiritual gifts and encourage them to exercise their gifts to strengthen the body of Christ. (*1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4*)
11. Our goal is to train believers to edify one another and strengthen the Church by giving testimony of what God is doing in their lives. (*Eph. 5:19; Rev. 12:11*)
12. Our goal is to encourage believers to study and meditate on Scripture; showing ourselves approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (*2 Tim. 2:15*)