

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2700 HARVARD DRIVE
FARMINGTON, NM 87402

THE COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON, NM BY THIS INSTRUMENT DECLARES ITSELF TO BE AN INDEPENDENT, FUNDAMENTAL, BIBLE-BELIEVING BAPTIST CHURCH AND SHALL REMAIN AS SUCH.

ARTICLE I--OUR NAME

The name of this organization, as incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico, shall be the College Heights Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II--OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be:

To carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as given in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Acts 1:8.

To administer the ordinances of the New Testament which are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

To edify and strengthen the saints of God through the preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God's Word; said preaching and teaching shall be in accord with the Articles of Faith of this church.

Means of promoting the purposes:

In order to fulfill these purposes, this church shall engage in activities and conduct ministries which may include, but are not limited to, worship services, evangelistic services, prayer meetings, youth activities, radio and television programs, a day school, a Sunday school, a bus ministry, missionary activities, nursing home services, and a Bible Institute.

ARTICLE III--OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH
REVISED AND ADOPTED MAY 2, 1993

WE BELIEVE that the Bible was supernaturally given by inspiration of God and that It is the final authority in all matters of faith, doctrine and practice. We believe that the Bible reveals God, the fall of man, the way of salvation and God's plan and purpose through the ages. We

believe that God has supernaturally preserved His Words in the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible) of the Bible.

WE BELIEVE that there is only one true and living God, existing as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and that each is the same one true God.

WE BELIEVE in the Deity, virgin birth, sinless life, vicarious death, bodily resurrection, and physical return of Jesus Christ."

WE BELIEVE that salvation is "by grace, through faith" plus nothing and minus nothing. The conditions to salvation are repentance and faith.

WE BELIEVE that men are justified by faith alone and are accounted righteous before God only through the merit of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and that those thus justified are saved forever.

WE BELIEVE that every saved person should follow the Lord in baptism by immersion and should join and maintain an active membership in a local, New Testament Baptist Church.

WE BELIEVE that the ordinances of the New Testament Church are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

WE BELIEVE in the visible, personal and premillennial return of Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE in the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit reproves of sin, converts the repentant, is God's seal in and upon His children, fills and endues them with power, and uses them for His own Divine purposes.

WE BELIEVE the so-called charismatic experience (speaking in unknown tongues, and claiming to receive new Divine revelations) is both a doctrinal and practical error and, therefore, neither to be sought or practiced.

WE BELIEVE that the Word of God is sufficient for doctrine and instruction in righteousness and that both Armenian and Calvinistic doctrines are to be shunned in favor of Bible Doctrine.

WE BELIEVE that this church is to respect our government, but have complete separation from its control in all matters regarding our faith and the free-exercise thereof. We believe that we cannot conscientiously accept any government license or funding for any ministry of this church.

WE BELIEVE God has declared homosexuality to be an abomination and to be against nature; therefore we believe we cannot permit a person guilty of this sin to hold any staff or ministry position in this church; or to become or remain a member of this church.

ARTICLE IV--OUR COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love;
2. To strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort;
3. To promote its prosperity and spirituality;
4. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
5. To give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin;
6. To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage:

1. To maintain family and secret devotions;
2. To religiously educate our children;
3. To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
4. To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment;
5. To avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger;
6. To abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage
7. To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage:

1. To watch over one another in brotherly love;
2. To remember each other in prayer;
3. To aid each other in sickness and distress;
4. To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
5. To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE V--OUR AUTHORITY

The Holy Scriptures *as preserved in the Authorized Version of 1611 (King James Bible)* shall be accepted as the final authority on all matters relating to faith, doctrine and practice by all members of the COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE VI--OUR MEMBERSHIP

The COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH shall be composed of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been baptized by immersion.

Membership may be acquired, by a majority vote of the church, in the following manner:

By Baptism, upon profession of their faith in Jesus Christ may be received into the membership of the church after baptism by immersion in water.

By Letter from another baptistic church of like faith and practice.

By Statement, having already professed Jesus as Savior and having been scripturally baptized (immersed) by another baptistic church of like faith and practice.

By Restoration; excluded members may be restored to membership on confession of their error and giving evidence of repentance.

ARTICLE VII--OUR GOVERNMENT AND ORGANIZATION

The government of the COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH shall be according to the Word of God. Christ is the head, the Pastor is the undershepherd with all business to be conducted according to the will of God.

THE OFFICERS SHALL BE:

PASTOR: The Pastor of this church shall have responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the congregation and shall at all times be the president of the corporation. Thus, the Pastor shall preside at all meetings of the deacons, trustees and membership. He (Pastor) shall have general charge and control of the affairs of this church, subject to the church body.

Furthermore, the Pastor of this church shall:

1. Meet the qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and Acts 6:4.
2. Preach the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ regularly.
3. Administer the ordinances of the church.
4. Supervise all ministries of this church.
5. Fill all staff positions with the authority to employ or remove staff members. Staff members are responsible to the Pastor.

In the event this church is without a pastor, the deacons and trustees shall act as a pulpit committee, with a chairman being elected from among them.

All candidating is to be done on Sunday. Each candidate shall preach both morning and evening. Each candidate shall be voted upon the following Wednesday.

The Pastor shall be called by a three-fourths majority vote of the active* members present at a Wednesday night meeting announced in church services the previous Sunday. (*active=those who regularly attend at least one service per week.)

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term which may be terminated upon a thirty day written notice by either the Pastor or the church.

The Pastor's salary is to be determined by the deacons and trustees. His salary shall be reviewed yearly.

DEACONS: The deacons are to be servants to the Pastor and the church. The qualifications of the deacons are as found in Acts 6:1-7 and I Timothy 3:8-13. The term of office for a deacon shall be permanent. They shall help prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's supper.

The deacons shall be members of this church selected in a Scriptural manner which is as follows:

1. It shall be announced to the church that there is a need for a deacon (or deacons). Members are to "look out among" themselves for men who meet the Scriptural qualifications (cited above) and make such recommendations to the Pastor as they feel led.
2. The Pastor shall compile the list of men suggested to him. He and the deacons shall discuss the list to discern if any names should be removed, for Scriptural reasons only.
3. The remaining list shall be presented to the church as the official nominees. Then, the church shall vote on them. Only those who receive a simple majority vote are elected.
4. Those men who are elected to the deaconship shall undergo a questioning regarding faith, doctrine and practice by the Pastor and Deacons.
5. Subsequently, those who satisfy the Pastor and Deacons as to their faith, doctrine, and practice shall be ordained by this church.

TRUSTEES: The Board of Trustees shall consist of three to seven members whose duty it shall be to acquaint themselves with the laws of the state pertaining to churches and church property, and to see that the church faithfully complies therewith. They shall exercise general oversight of the church property and shall make recommendations to the church concerning needed repairs. Trustees are wholly subject to the will of the church regarding the church property.

CHURCH CLERK: The Church Clerk shall aid the Pastor in receiving members into the church. She will receive and record all needed information from those coming forward in the services, and she will write for and send all letters of membership that the church has duly acted

upon. She will record the minutes of all official business meetings. This will be a staff member hired by the Pastor.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall receive and supervise the counting of all money coming into the treasury of the church, and shall deposit money in the proper accounts at the bank designated by the church. He shall be selected from among the Deacons and Trustees by the same and approved by the Pastor. This staff member shall pay the legal debts of the church as directed by the Pastor, shall maintain the financial records and prepare a financial report to be handed out monthly. The financial records are open to any adult member who is a regular contributor to church causes.

ALL OFFICERS must be faithful to all the services of the church. They must live clean and Godly lives, and not be addicted to worldly pleasures. They must honor God by giving the tithe. In the event that any officer ceases to conform to these qualifications, he may be removed from office by the Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII--OUR BUSINESS MEETINGS

The church shall have business meetings as deemed necessary by the Pastor. When the church is without a Pastor, the Chairman of the Pulpit Committee shall preside over the business meetings.

ARTICLE IX--OUR VOTING

Members in good standing and 16 years of age and older may vote. Members in good standing are those who attend regularly at least one service per week.

ARTICLE X--OUR AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any business meeting of the church upon a majority vote of the members present. Notice of the nature of the change shall be made the preceding Sunday Morning.