

Constitution

of

Central Baptist Church
Quincy, Illinois

*(First Baptist Church, organized in 1835, and
Vermont Street Baptist Church, organized in 1856,
incorporated in 1916 to form Central Baptist Church.)*

Article I Name

The name of this church shall be the Central Baptist Church of Quincy, Illinois.

Article II Purpose

We are a body of baptized believers committed to the teachings of God's Word, the Holy Bible, and to working together in unity, faith, and love by the indwelling Holy Spirit. As believers we are committed to use our gifts to build up the Body of Christ and to share the Gospel, the Good News of redemption through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to our community and throughout the world.

Article III Government and Affiliation

This church's government is vested in the body which composes its membership; but because its parish is world-wide, it recognizes the obligation and privilege of cooperation with other religious bodies having the same general objectives. It shall therefore, be affiliated with the Quincy Baptist Association, the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, and the American Baptist Churches of the USA.

Article IV Declaration of Belief and Practice

This church receives the New Testament as the all-sufficient basis of doctrine and practice, in that we believe that there is but one God, revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe the Bible is God's book, the inspired record of Divine revelation, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who interprets its divine truths to us. Its author is God, its message is grace, its motive is love, and its purpose is salvation. It came from God to lead us back to God.

We believe that Christian baptism is immersion in water, of believers, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; it is a symbol of our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour; and it is a symbol of our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is a prerequisite to the privilege of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is for all believers, and the invitation is open to all to examine themselves as to their worthiness to partake of this symbolic ordinance.

We adopt the church covenant commonly accepted by Baptist Churches (see bylaws Article I, Sec. 3).

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 solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 to maintain family and secret devotion, to educate religiously our children; to see the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to honor God with our bodies and our minds, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules 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 Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord, and who have acknowledged Him in baptism, the initial act of obedience.

Article VI Officers

The officers of this church shall include a pastor, a moderator, one or more deacons, deaconesses, trustees, one or more treasurers, a clerk; and such other officers as may be provided for in they Bylaws, to be elected, their duties prescribed and their work carried on in accordance with the Bylaws hereinafter provided, or as they may be amended from time to time.

Article VII Amendments

This constitution may be amended or revised. However, said revision must be recommended by the Advisory Council, then read at an annual business meeting and voted on at the following annual business meeting, provided notice of the nature of the amendment and the designated time of voting shall have been submitted to the church at two consecutive Sunday morning worship services preceding the annual business meeting. Three-fourths vote of duly qualified members present is necessary to carry an amendment.