

**BY-LAWS OF HEARTLAND  
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF  
SAINT CHARLES, MINNESOTA**

**ARTICLE I**

**Purposes**

The purposes for which the corporation is formed are those set forth in the Certificate of Incorporation. In furtherance of the purposes of corporation, its incidental purposes shall be as follows:

- 1) To worship, praise and give thanks to God (John 4:23-24; Heb. 13:15).
- 2) To teach the Word of God to believers so that they may be built up in the faith and equipped for the ministry, and to encourage believers in the exercising of their spiritual gifts. (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12).
- 3) To spread the Gospel by personal witnessing of individual believers, through our worship services and support of missionaries of like precious faith (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:14-15; 1 Pet. 3:15).
- 4) To meet for prayer and the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2: 41-42).
- 5) To provide for the fellowship of the Christians and to minister to their needs, both spiritually and materially (1 John 1:3; 2 Cor. 8: 4-7).

**ARTICLE II**

**Doctrinal Statement of Members**

**THE BIBLE.** We believe the Bible, consisting of 66 books, is the Word of God, and that both the Old and the New Testament are verbally inspired by God, inerrant and infallible. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writing —historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic — as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that the Bible is our supreme and final authority for what we are to believe and for the way we are to live (Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1: 20-21). Because we believe the above, we adhere to the following doctrines which are taught in the Bible.

- 1) **GOD.** We believe in one God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and

perfections. All three persons are God and are worthy of our faith, love, and service (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 13:14).

- 2) **JESUS CHRIST.** We believe that Jesus Christ is eternal, that He was with the Father “before the world was”, that He became man, being born of the Virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit, without ceasing to be God. We believe that He lived a sinless life, that He died as a substitutionary sacrifice, that He was raised bodily from the dead and then ascended bodily into heaven, where He is our intercessor, the only true Mediator between God and man (Micah 5:2; John 17:5; Matt. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 6:1; 53:5; 1 Cor. 15:3-8; Heb. 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- 3) **HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, convicts men of their need of Christ before they can be saved, and that He regenerates them, giving them eternal life. We believe that He permanently indwells every believer the moment he is saved, sealing them unto the day of redemption; that He baptizes into the Body of Christ all who are saved and that He fills believers who are yielded to Him and subject to His will. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives to every believer one or more spiritual gifts. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common nor necessary sign of the baptism or of the filling of the Spirit. (John 16:7-11; John 3:5; John 4:24; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 12:13; Eph. 5:18; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 28-30; Rom. 12:6-8; Heb. 2:3-4).
- 4) **SATAN.** We believe in the existence of Satan as a personal being and a fallen angelic creature of God who tempted Adam and Eve to first sin and who continues to tempt men to sin. He leads other fallen angels (demons) in opposition to all that has to do with God, His people and His purpose. Although Satan does his evil work in the world, he is a defeated and doomed foe who will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire (Job 1:6-7; Eze. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-20; Gen. 3; 2 Cor. 11:3, 14-15; Eph. 6:10-11; John 12:31; Rev. 20:10).
- 5) **MAN.** We believe that man was created by God in the image of God. We believe that man was created without sin, but that due to Adam’s disobedience, the whole human race fell under divine judgment. We believe that all men are born with a sin nature, totally depraved, alienated from God and unable to do anything by themselves to remedy that situation (Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:10-12, 23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3).
- 6) **SALVATION.** We believe that, in spite of man’s sin and rebellion against God, God has continued to love man, all men everywhere. Because of this love, God has provided for the salvation of men. We believe that the salvation God has provided is by grace through faith alone in Christ, utterly apart from any human merit or work. We believe that our salvation has been completely accomplished, solely through Christ, who died in our place. Once a person has truly trusted Christ for salvation, he can never lose this salvation (1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:28-39).
- 7) **THE CHURCH.** We believe that the Church, which began on the day of Pentecost, the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations. We further believe that by the Holy Spirit all believers in this age are baptized into the one Body of Christ. We believe that all true believers are to associate themselves with a local church, which is the people of God in a particular location, who meet together for instruction in Scripture, worship, fellowship and service (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 3:10; 4:11-16).
- 8) **THE ORDINANCES.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the following two ordinances which are to be observed by all believers until He returns.
  - a) **Water Baptism.** We believe in immersion, not for salvation and not even for membership in a local church, but as a personal testimony of the believer’s union with Christ in His death,

burial and resurrection. Baptism is commanded by the Lord and was practiced by the early church. It is to follow belief in Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; 8:12, 36-38; 10:44-48; Rom. 6:3-4).

- b) **The Lord's Supper.** We believe that the bread and the cup symbolically represent the broken body and shed blood of our Lord. This is done in remembrance of the Lord and to "show His death till He comes" (Matt. 26:26-30; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-28).
- 9) **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.** We believe in the personal, pretribulational, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own, the Church, and in His subsequent return to earth in power and glory to set up His messianic, millennial kingdom (Zech. 14: 1-11; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; 1 Thes. 1:9-10; 4:13-18; Matt. 24: 29-31).
- 10) **ETERNAL STATE.** We believe in a literal heaven and a literal hell. We believe that all who turn to God through Christ will spend eternity in heaven, while those who do not accept Christ will be eternally lost, suffering the torments of hell forever. There is no opportunity for anyone to be saved after death (Matt. 28:18; John 14:1-3; John 3:16; Matt. 10:28; 25:41; Rev. 20:10-15).
- 11) **CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY.** We believe that every believer should live for the glory of God. We are to know and to be obedient to the Word of God and to make prayer a vital part of our lives. We are to depend upon the Holy Spirit for power in our lives. We believe that it is the responsibility of every believer to witness by life and word to the truths of God's Word and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all the world. We believe that every Christian should live in such a manner so as to not bring reproach upon Jesus Christ, and that we are not to be "unequally yoked together with unbelievers". We are to live in the world, but we are not of the world, for our citizenship is in heaven. At the same time we are to exhibit love in all our relationships and to prove to the world the genuineness of our faith by our love for all true Christians. We are to be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (1 Cor. 6:9-10,19-20; 2 Tim. 2:21-22; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; John 17:11-23; 1 Pet. 2:11; John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:3).

There is a lack of consensus among believers as to whether the "sign gifts" are still in operation. Because the practice of these "sign gifts" is potentially divisive, we have chosen to ask those who practice such gifts to limit both the practice and promotion of these gifts from the ministries of the church in order to preserve both order and unity. (1 Cor. 14:19).

We recognize that the above statements are by no means exhaustive, but they do give the fundamental features of the basic biblical truths which we believe.