



HOPE CHURCH

Passionately Following Jesus

THE FAMILY ROOM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOPE CHURCH BY-LAWS	3
COVENANT PARTNERSHIP CLASS	15
GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH & COMMUNITY	16
THIS IS HOPE CHURCH	17
HOPE CHURCH DNA	18
COMMUNITY LIFE	19
VOLUNTEER MINISTRY TEAMS	21
COVENANT PARTNERSHIP	23
STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEF	25
COVENANT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT	26
COVENANT PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION	28



THE FAMILY ROOM By-Laws

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of the corporation is Blessed Hope Church, Inc. This organization will be further referred to in these By-Laws as the "Church," and also may be referred to in these By-Laws by and may do business as "Hope Church" or "Blessed Hope Church."

ARTICLE II. Vision & Mission Statement

The vision of Hope Church is "**Passionately Following Jesus And Making Him Visible.**" This statement cannot be changed by any individual or groups of individuals. It is now, and will continue to be the vision statement for all existing Hope Church locations and as well as all future locations.

The mission statement of Hope Church is "Passionately Following Jesus By Advancing The Cause Of The Gospel, Impacting Our Communities, Making Disciples, And Planting Local, Christ-centered Churches."

ARTICLE III. Offices

The principal office for business transactions of the Church is 1118 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540. The Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders of Hope Church Danville shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another. The Church secretary shall record any change in the location to the principal office.

Other Office

The Local Lead Pastors of Hope Church shall have power and authority to establish other offices, campuses, sites, and locations at any place or places where the Church is qualified under applicable law to conduct its business.

ARTICLE IV. Nonprofit Status

The Church is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ARTICLE V. Purposes

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Church's purposes also include the limited participation of the Church in any other activities, including taxable activities, but only to the extent the activities would be permitted by a tax-exempt organization. More particularly, but without limitation, the purposes of the Church are:

- (A) To promote the Christian religion by any appropriate form of expression, within any available medium, and in any location, through the Church's combined or separate formation, of a church, ministry, charity, school, or eleemosynary institution, without limitation;
- (B) To ordain, employ, and discharge ordained ministers of the Gospel, and others, to conduct and carry on divine services at the place of worship of the Church, and elsewhere;
- (C) To collect and disburse any and all necessary funds for the maintenance of said Church and the accomplishment its purpose within the Commonwealth of Virginia and elsewhere;
- (D) To make distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (E) To promote, encourage, and foster any other similar religious, charitable, and educational activities; to accept, hold, invest, reinvest, and administer any gifts, legacies, bequests, devises, funds, and property of any sort or nature, and to



THE FAMILY ROOM By-Laws

use, expend, or donate the income or the principal thereof for, and to devote the same to, the foregoing purposes of the Church; and to do any and all lawful acts and things which may be necessary, useful, and suitable, or proper for the furtherance of accomplishment of the purposes of this Church; provided, however, no act may be performed which would violate Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it now exists, or as it may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE VI. Affiliations

The Church is autonomous and maintains its right to govern its own affairs, independent of denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in the fulfillment of its purposes, the Church may voluntarily affiliate with other churches and conventions by passing a vote of the Lead Pastors (Elders), along with the Local Elders of each congregation.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings

Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held at such times and places as determined by the Local Lead Pastor and Local Elders of a specific congregation.

Church Business Meetings

The Local Lead Pastors, along with the Local Elders of each congregation shall have the authority to call a Church business meeting, or a special meeting for their specific Hope Church location as needed. Local Lead Pastors, as well as Local Elders are more aware of the needs of their local congregation, and therefore are rightly empowered to make this decision.

ARTICLE VIII. Articles of Faith

Statement of Biblical Authority

At the center of the Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world in the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the Christian Bible ("the Bible," "Scripture," or "Scriptures). **The Bible in an of itself ultimately serves as the By-Laws of Blessed Hope Church, Inc.; all of its actions and locations.** The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith, and morals. Though the various theological statements of the Church reflect succinct summaries of Biblical boundaries, it is the Bible itself to which we are in ultimate submission. Covenant Partners have the responsibility and opportunity to engage Local Elders and Church Staff on areas of theological disagreement. However, covenant partnership carries with it the implicit understanding that the Lead Pastors shall function as the interpretive authority on Biblical meaning and application for the purpose of Church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline.

Statement of Basic Belief

The following Statement of Basic Belief represents the core orthodox beliefs of the Church from a Biblical, historical perspective. While Covenant Partners are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of the Statement of Basic Belief, the explicit rejection of any part of it disqualifies one from covenant partnership in Hope Church. Revisions to the Statement of Basic Belief in order to more clearly align with Scripture shall be at the sole discretion of the Local Lead Pastors, with the understanding that such changes will be communicated to the Covenant Partners of the Church.

We Believe...

- The Scriptures are inspired by God, and therefore true, authoritative, and sufficient. (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- There is only one God. (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5)
- The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 28:17-20; 1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- I am, along with all humanity, a sinner (Christ excluded). (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 5:12-21, 7:18; Eph. 2:1-3)
- The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual. (Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:19; Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15)
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human. (Matt. 1:20; Luke 2:52; Jn. 1:1-4, 14; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-3)
- Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin. (Jn. 1:29, 10:1-18; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18)
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead. (Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; Jn. 1:20-21, 25; 1 Cor. 15:12-34)
- Jesus Christ physically ascended into Heaven, and one day will one day physically return. (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 1:7)
- There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment. (Matt. 25:31-46; Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
- Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy. (Jn. 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)

Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

It is the Biblical position that marriage involves the union of one man and one woman in permanent, sacred fidelity. Though various cultures and customs have evolving definitions of marriage, it is God alone who has the ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12)

Furthermore, sexual intimacy is only properly exercised and pursued within the confines of this one man, one woman marital relationship. Sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man and one woman, is clearly and expressly prohibited by the Lord and therefore by Hope Church. (Matt. 15:19; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Thes. 4:3; Heb. 13:4)

As a consequence, the Church regards any and all forms of sexual immorality as sinful and ultimately unsatisfying. Moreover, the Church also regards as sinful the intent or desire to surgically alter one's biological sex to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity and gender to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to Biblical standards. Disagreement with one's biological sex only leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos. We do acknowledge the existence of biological birth defects related to sexual identity that may require medical attention that does not relate to disagreement with one's biological sexual identity. (Gen. 1:27; Rom. 1:26-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

In order to preserve the integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church, volunteering in any capacity, or united to the Church in partnership should abide by and agree to this “Statement on Marriage and Sexuality” and conduct themselves accordingly.

Though sinful sexual expression is egregious (as is all sin), the Gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7)

Furthermore, there is a difference between temptation and unrepented sin. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet He never sinned. Partners, employees, volunteers, and attendees of the Church wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find a Church ready to point them to Jesus, and join with them to fight for their obedience to Christ. As a Church desiring to follow Christ fully, the Church will be a safe place for men and women fighting sexual temptations of all kinds, and we will provide love, care, and direction. (Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 2:17-18; Heb. 4:14-16)

The Church’s Statement on Marriage and Sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be considered as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the Church.

This specifically gives the Local Lead Pastors the right and authority to prohibit Covenant Partnership, use of facilities, use of resources, or financial support to any individual or organization who doesn’t reflect or isn’t in complete accordance with this statement on Biblical marriage and sexuality.

The Church’s Statement on Marriage and Sexuality is based upon God’s will for human life as conveyed to us through the Scriptures. This shall not be subject to change through popular vote, referendum, prevailing opinion of Partners or the general public, influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action, or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

This statement applies to all Hope Church activities, regardless of age. (E.g. Camp, gender specific activities, bathroom usage)

ARTICLE IX. Partnership (Membership) Requirements

Partnership within a local church carries both privileges and responsibilities. Partners of the Church are held accountable to the responsibilities of general Christian obligations comprehensively though not exhaustively outlined within the Church’s **Partnership Covenant**. These responsibilities include praying for and pursuing the health of the Church body and personal holiness.

In signing the **Partnership Covenant**, Partners affirm that they have completed the partnership process, and read the **Partnership Covenant**. Partnership is not forced on any individual, but should be entered into willingly:

To submit to the Scriptures as the final authority on all issues. (Psalm 119; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21) To pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines. (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Eph. 5:1-21; 1 Thes. 5:12-22)

To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church: by being baptized after conversion, and by regularly remembering the person and work of Christ through communion.

To steward the resources God has given each Partner, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This stewardship includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary. (Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

By God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3) Partners should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit. Below are a few examples of actions addressed in the Scriptures. (Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Cor. 6:15-20; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

To refrain from illegal drug use, abusive, legal prescription drug use, drunkenness, gossip, and other sinful behavior as the Bible dictates. (Rom. 1:28-32, 13:13; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:18; James 3:3-18)

To take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another. (1 Cor. 8:1-13)

To submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by: following the Biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another, the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.

To submit to receiving righteous instruction when approached Biblically by fellow believers as described in Scripture. (Psalm 141:5; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Heb. 12:5-11)

To do the following when the Partner sins: confess the sin to God and to fellow believers and repent and seek help to put the sin to death. (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:6-10)

To trust the leadership of the Elders and other appointed leaders of the Church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the Church. (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)

To do the following **should I leave the Church** for righteous reasons: to notify an Elder of the Hope Church congregation I attend. To seek another church with which I can carry out my Biblical responsibilities as a believer.

Voting by Partners

The Partners of the Church shall vote in the event the Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders determine that one of our congregations, or Hope Church as an organization needs to borrow money or make a large expenditure of church funds.

However, borrowing money will not be allowed if the outcome of the vote is less than 75% approval by Church Partners in good standing, in attendance at the time of the vote.

It is also required that the date and time of the vote be announced at least 2 weeks prior to the actual vote. The vote should occur on a Sunday morning following the main service or services.

Partners will also be given the opportunity to vote on accepting a new Local Lead Pastor. A vote that exceeds 75% approval by those in attendance at the time of the vote, who are Partners in good standing will be required. Each Hope Church congregation should also take comfort in the fact that no one will be presented to the Church body as a potential Local Lead Pastor until he first meets the approval and recommendation of the Local Lead Pastors of Hope Church.

Formal Dispute Resolution

Partners shall refrain from filing lawsuits against the Church and in keeping with 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, all disputes should be resolved in submission to God and His Word. Any conflict which may arise between any Partner of the Church and the Church itself, or between any Partner of the Church and any Elder, employee, volunteer, agent, or other Partner of this Church, shall be resolved by mediation. In the event mediation fails, the Local Lead Pastor of that specific location, along with the Local Elders shall strive to resolve the conflict in a way that glorifies God and protects the Church.

Church Discipline

Church discipline is a necessary mark of a healthy church and shall be applied in cases of sexual misconduct, gossip, divisive behavior, dishonesty, and various other expressions of sin. In accordance with the Biblical pattern generally outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, a person who evidences such sin will be confronted in an initial one-on-one meeting, followed by escalating engagement by pastoral staff and Local Elders.

Where the steps of discipline are exhausted in cases of unrepentant and/or habitual sin, the Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders, will consider removing a person from partnership with the hope of eventual reconciliation and restoration. This removal may or may not allow a person to attend Church services and events, depending on the circumstances. In addition, it might include public disclosure of removal from Partnership and the circumstances leading to this decision to the corporate partnership of the Church. Those so disciplined will in turn be restored to fellowship when the Local Lead Pastor and Local Elders have determined that appropriate repentance has occurred.

Termination of Partnership

Partners can be removed through the following: (A) a personal decision to leave their Hope Church location; (B) voluntary resignation of partnership; (C) death; (D) a decision by the Lead Pastor (Lead Elder), along with the Local Elders, as a result of church discipline.

ARTICLE X. Church Officers, Elders, Pastors, Staff, and Deacons

The overall policy, direction and oversight of the ministry, operations and finances of the Church shall be vested in the Local Lead Pastor, Local Elders, Church staff, and other men and women ordained, approved, empowered, and assigned by the Local Lead Pastor, who may include the Local Elders.

Local Lead Pastors

The Local Lead Pastors are entrusted with the guidance of Hope Church. The Local Lead Pastors' oversight includes, but is not limited to, teaching, protecting, leading, discipling, equipping, and caring for the corporate Church body and its individual Partners, as well as the oversight of all ministry, operations, staff hiring, and shares in the responsibility of the finances of the Church. The Local Lead Pastors are also responsible for being obedient to the Scriptures in the doctrine of the Church, establishing the overall vision of the Church and appointing Local Elders. Each Local Lead Pastor will also be required to involve the Local Elders in issues of direction, discipline, implementation, and important financial decisions.

Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for both Local Lead Pastors and Local Elders shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, including, without limitation, the requirement that Local Lead Pastors be men. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in Scripture, Pastors (Elders) must be Covenant Partners who fully subscribe to the Church's Articles of Faith and Doctrinal Statement, and are actively involved in the ministry of the Church.

Duties

The Duties of the Local Lead Pastors shall include, but not be limited to, leading the Church to fulfill its purposes of the Church as set forth in the Scriptures.

The Local Lead Pastors of the Church shall vote on the matters of: (A) appointment of any Local Lead Pastor or Church Planter; (B) doctrinal issues; (C) removal of any Local Lead Pastor; and (D) other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Local Lead Pastors. Votes on any matter may be communicated to the Church at the sole discretion of the Local Lead Pastors, other than a vote on the appointment of any Pastoral Candidate, which shall follow the correct procedure previously described in these By-Laws.

The Local Lead Pastors shall use the standards of: (A) the best spiritual, financial, and operating interests of the Church in light of the Bible and the needs and abilities of the Local Church they serve; (B) the furtherance of the religious purposes of the Church as discerned by the Local Lead Pastors according to the teachings of the Bible; and (C) by the wisdom and insight of the Local Elders.

Selection

The Local Lead Pastors shall have the sole authority to appoint new Church Planters and recommend new Local Lead Pastors. Each man considered for these positions will be required to pass a vote by all of the other Local Lead Pastors. This can only happen after he has been tested and proven to meet the qualifications stated above. If recommended for the Local Lead Pastor of a specific Hope Church congregation, he will be required to be approved by a 75% vote of approval of that local congregation. A Local Lead Pastor may also receive recommendations for Local Elder candidates from Church Partners or other Local Elders.

Once a man is appointed to the Local Lead Pastor team, he is expected to serve God and the Church to the best of his ability. If the Local Lead Pastors determine that one of their fellow Local Lead Pastors needs an extended Sabbath because of a legitimate need (e.g. illness or tragedy), this will be determined by a vote by the Local Lead Pastor team. Recommendations and insights regarding the physical or spiritual health of a Local Lead Pastor may be made by the Local Elders to the Local Lead Pastor team.

To resign from the Local Lead Pastor team, a Local Lead Pastor shall notify in writing the other Local Lead Pastors with a reasonable advance notice, unless for issues of moral failure. A vacancy in the Local Lead Pastor team because of death, resignation, removal, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manners prescribed in these By-Laws. Such vacancies may be filled as they occur.

Removal

Any Local Lead Pastor may be removed from the office of Local Lead Pastor for valid cause. Discipline of Local Lead Pastors or Local Elders must be consistent with the standards set forth in these By-Laws. The Local Lead Pastors will determine the specific procedure for the removal of a Local Lead Pastor working closely with the Local Elders and the Church body if necessary. This procedure may be altered, amended, repealed, or restated by a resolution of the Local Lead Pastors. The Local Lead Pastors shall have the authority to remove a Local Lead Pastor if just cause is found and proven. We acknowledge this process will likely include the Local Elders of a specific Hope Church location. However, this removal should comply with the set standards outline in these By-Laws unless immediate removal is necessary.

A written notice of the proposed removal of any Local Lead Pastor shall be given to such Local Lead Pastor at least 7 days prior to the meeting at which an action to carry out such removal is to be taken. This is done to ensure that the Local Lead Pastor is given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Local Lead Pastor shall

have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his accusers, but shall not be present during the discussion and vote of his removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Local Lead Pastors, and the Local Elders of that specific congregation. The Local Lead Pastor under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is being considered.

Local Lead Pastor Meetings

Regular meetings of the Local Lead Pastors shall be held in various locations, or an online meeting at an agreed upon time. All Local Lead Pastors participating by telephone or live video shall be deemed present at such meetings. A passing vote must be equal to or greater than 75% of the Local Lead Pastors present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Local Elders

As used in the By-Laws, the term “Local Elders,” is used to mean a group of Elders serving at and identifying with one of the congregations of Hope Church. Local Elders are entrusted with the authority to help guide and guard the local congregation they serve. Local Elders will be in tune with the needs of the congregation and be available to be engaged by the congregation. Local Lead Pastors also serve as Local Elders for the church location they serve as the Local Church Pastor.

Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for Local Elders shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, including without limitation, the requirement that Local Elders be men. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in Scripture, Local Elders must be Partners who fully subscribe to the Church’s beliefs and are actively involved in the ministry of the Church. It is required that they be found faithful in their service to God, their handling of the Word, their employment, their morals, their finances, as well as their families.

It is also required that the Local Elders complete the **Elders Training Manual**, and be affirmed by their specific Hope Church congregation as being worthy of the position.

Duties

Local Elders shall serve alongside the Lead Pastor (Lead Elder) to help shepherd, serve, and lead a particular congregation of Hope Church. Duties of Local Elders include:

- Shepherding Volunteer Leaders and Partners
- Oversight of campus discipline
- Care for campus missions and distribution of local benevolence
- Ministry contextualization and implementation
- Oversight of campus Deacons
- Oversight of campus discipleship
- Financial needs and issues brought into a meeting by the Lead Pastor (Lead Elder)

The Local Elders shall vote on campus-related matters within their authority, including the appointment of Deacons and local missions/benevolence.

Selection

The Local Lead Pastor, along with the existing Local Elders shall have the sole authority to appoint new Local Elders. A man shall be appointed as a Local Elder by a passing vote of the Local Lead Pastor and the current Local Elders. The vote shall take place after he has been tested and proven to meet the qualifications stated in above.

The proposed appointment of any Local Elder shall be communicated to the Church at least 14 days in advance, and Church Partners shall have an opportunity to submit questions, comments, and concerns, which will be considered by the Local Lead Pastor and the Local Elders on a case-by-case basis. Confirmation and appointment of a new Local Elder shall be at the sole and final discretion of the Local Lead Pastor and Local Elders and effectuated upon their passing vote.

If the Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders, determines that a Local Elder needs an extended Sabbath because of a legitimate need (e.g. illness, tragedy, or family issues), then such Local Elder may transition to being an active, but nonvoting, Local Elder for a set period of time determined by the Local Lead Pastor and the Local Elders.

To resign from the Local Elder body, a Local Elder shall notify, in writing, the Local Lead Pastor and the other Local Elders with whom he serves. The Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders, shall determine the most fruitful and edifying way to notify Church Partners. A vacancy in the Local Elder body because of death, resignation, removal, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manners prescribed in these By-Laws. Such vacancies may be filled as they occur.

Removal

Any Local Elder may be removed from the office of Local Elder for valid cause. Discipline of Local Elders must be consistent with the standards set forth in these By-Laws. The Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders, will determine the specific procedure for removal of a Local Elder. This procedure may be altered, amended, repealed, or restated by a resolution of the Local Lead Pastors.

A written notice of the proposed removal of any Local Elder shall be given to such Local Elder at least 7 days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal is to be taken to ensure that the Local Elder is given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Local Elder shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote on his removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Local Lead Pastor and Local Elders. The Local Elder under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is being considered.

Elder Meetings

Regular meetings of the Local Elders shall be held in a location that the Local Elders deem from time to time. Any meeting may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all of the Local Elders participating in the meeting can hear one another. All Local Elders participating telephonically shall be deemed present at such meetings.

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Local Elders may be taken without a meeting if all of the Local Elders, individually or collectively, consent in writing to the action.

The Local Lead Pastor

The Local Lead Pastor shall serve as the "first among equals." This means the role of Local Lead Pastor is respected and held in high esteem. The Scriptures make a distinction in the role of spiritual leaders of leaders, and Hope Church affirms that distinction. The Local Lead Pastor will also be a voting member of the Local Elders of the location he serves. The Local Lead Pastor must, for an extended period of time prior to his calling, give evidence of the spiritual maturity, derive, devotional life, and leadership qualities that are required for the position.

In addition, the President of Blessed Hope Church, Inc. will serve as the Lead Pastor “first among equals” among the other Local Lead Pastors. This does not mean that he shall have the ability to serve as a dictator in any capacity, but rather a Shepherd of Shepherds.

Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for the Local Lead Pastor shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, including without limitation the requirement that the Local Lead Pastor be a man. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in Scripture, the Local Lead Pastor must be a Covenant Partner who fully subscribes to the Church’s Articles of Faith and Doctrinal Statement.

Responsibilities

The Local Lead Pastor shall be in charge of the preaching and teaching ministry of the church, the oversight of the Local Elders, as well as the vision of the Local Church. He shall also administer the ordinances of believer’s baptism by immersion and communion, or appoint a Local Elder to fulfill those responsibilities. He must also perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set for the in the By-Laws.

Succession

In the event of a vacancy, for any reason, in the office of Local Lead Pastor, the other Local Lead Pastors and the Local Elders of that specific location shall serve as the Pastor Selection Team. The recommendation of the Pastor Selection Team shall constitute a nomination for the position of Local Lead Pastor.

A candidate for Local Lead Pastor as nominated by the Pastor Selection Team shall be approved by (1) the affirmative vote of at least 90% of the Pastors/Elders in attendance at a meeting of the Pastor Selection Team, and then (2) the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the Church Covenant Partners voting for that purpose. The Pastor Selection Team shall determine the method of voting, but secret ballot is strongly encouraged.

Selection

The vote on the nomination of Local Lead Pastor shall be communicated to the Church at least 14 days in advance, and Covenant Partners shall have an opportunity to submit questions, comments, and concerns, which will be considered by the Local Lead Pastors on a case-by-case basis. Confirmation and appointment of the new Local Lead Pastor shall be effectuated upon the 75% passing of the Church Covenant Partners. Once a man is appointed as Local Lead Pastor, he is expected to serve God and the Church to the best of his ability.

If the Local Lead Pastors determine that the Local Lead Pastor needs an extended Sabbath because of a legitimate need (e.g. illness, tragedy, or family issues), this will be determined by a vote of the Local Lead Pastors.

To resign from as a Local Lead Pastor, the Local Lead Pastor shall notify in writing the other Local Lead Pastors with a reasonable advance notice, unless for issues of moral failure. A vacancy in the Local Lead Pastor role because of death, resignation, removal, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manners prescribed in these By-Laws.

Removal

The Lead Local Pastor may be removed from the office of Local Lead Pastor for valid cause. Discipline must be consistent with the standards set forth in these By-Laws. The other Local Lead Pastors will determine the specific procedure for removal of the Local Lead Pastor, working with the Local Elders and the Church body. The procedure may be altered, amended, repealed, or restated by a resolution of the Local Lead Pastors. The Local Lead Pastors of Hope Church shall have the sole authority to remove a Local Lead Pastor if just cause is found and proven. This recommendation may come

from the Local Elders of a specific Hope Church congregation. Local Elders may also request a meeting with the Local Lead Pastors to discuss serious, credible issues regarding a Local Lead Pastor.

Deacons

Deacons of Hope Church will be viewed as lead servants in the Church. Deacons will attend to issues of personal care, property concerns, and people issues.

Deacons shall be appointed to various ministries and areas of ministry by the vote and appointment of the Local Lead Pastor, along with the Local Elders.

A passing vote must be equal to or greater than 75% of the Elders present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Removal

Any Deacon may be removed from their position of service if there is a valid cause. Discipline of a Deacon must be consistent with the standards set forth in these By-Laws.

A written notice of the proposed removal of any Deacon shall be given to such Deacon at least 7 days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal.

The Deacon shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote on their removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Local Lead Pastor and Local Elders combined.

ARTICLE XI. Church Disruptions

All Hope Church locations will have an individual or group of individuals known as a Safety Team. All Safety Team members will be trained and prepared to deal with threats, health, or safety issues. Any person deemed to be a threat by a member of the Safety Team, a Local Lead Pastor, or a Local Elder whether physical or psychological, or capable of causing disruption to the religious services and activities of the Church shall be considered a trespasser on Church property, and may be ejected immediately. No Church employee, Safety Team member, Local Lead Pastor, or Local Elder shall incur any liability for acting in good faith in the interests of the Church pursuant to this action.

ARTICLE XII. Ordination and Licensing

The Church will consider ordaining duly qualified pastoral and ministerial positions as determined by the Local Lead Pastors in accordance with the guidelines of Scripture. As a self-governing religious body, Hope Church holds the authority to ordain Hope Church Pastors and Elders as necessary for the advancement of the Gospel ministry.

The Church reserves the right to revoke ordination in such cases as moral failure or termination of employment. The decision to rescind or extend ordination shall be at the discretion of the Local Lead Pastors.

ARTICLE XIII. Dissolution and Mergers

“Dissolution” means the complete disbanding of the Church so that it no longer functions as a congregation or as a corporate entity. Upon the dissolution of the Church, its property shall be applied and distributed as follows: (1) all liabilities and obligations of the Church shall be paid and discharged, or adequate provision shall be made therefore; (2) assets held by the Church upon condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of the dissolution, shall be returned, transferred, or conveyed in accordance with such requirements; (3) assets received and not held upon a condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance by reason of dissolution, shall be transferred or



THE FAMILY ROOM By-Laws

conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign corporations, societies, or organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Church; this distribution shall be done pursuant to a plan adopted by the Local Lead Pastors and be approved by a passing

vote of the Local Elders of that specific Hope Church location; (4) no individual can personally profit from the sale of any property owned by any Hope Church location. Profits from the sale of any specific location should be gifted to Hope Church to be used for the advancement of the Gospel ministry.

In the event of a merger of the Church with another church, the net assets of the Church shall be contributed to the surviving entity.

ARTICLE XIV. Code of Conduct

Hope Church seeks to operate in a manner that is worthy of the Gospel. All books should be kept and business should be conducted in a way that honors Jesus' name and the testimony of His Church.

Application

These By-Laws should never be weaponized for the purpose of power or division. While they do serve as authoritative guidelines, they do not erase our need to live under the ultimate authority of Romans 14:19 as we pursue peace and mutual edification.

HANDOUTS

- Hope Church By-Laws
- The Family Room
- Statement of Basic Beliefs
- Covenant Partnership Information
- Covenant Partnership Agreement

WHAT IS NEEDED FROM ME TODAY?

- **Fill Out The Information Form**
Fill out this form in its entirety and turn it in at the end of The Family Room.
- **Affirm That You Are In Agreement With Our Basic Beliefs**
This is accomplished by signing the Covenant Partnership Agreement.
- **Sign The Covenant Partnership Agreement Form**
This can be done today or you can take additional time to prayerfully consider.

We are beyond excited that you are considering making Hope Church your home church. We know this is an enormous life decision and we want to do all we can to be as transparent as possible about who we are, what we value, and what we believe. Hopefully by the end of this Family Room experience you will feel confident that God has called you to be a part of this incredible community of believers.

GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH

The most important thing you could ever know about Hope Church is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is both the beginning and the ending of everything we do. The Gospel is our message, it determines our methods and it drives our mission. We are Gospel-centered Church. That means we apply the sinless life of Jesus, the sacrificial death of Jesus, and the supernatural resurrection of Jesus in and to every area of ministry. Our fellowship as friends is based on the Gospel. (Philippians 1:5) Our missions efforts, our Church gatherings, our singing, our serving, and our lives are all a reflection of the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:23; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:21-23)

Jesus came to earth to fulfill the Gospel (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the Church exists for the spread of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Romans 1:16). The Gospel isn't just a verse in the song of Hope Church - it's the entire song, and we pray God will teach us new ways to sing it more clearly, more loudly, and more boldly than ever before. If we yelled through an amplified megaphone, we still couldn't stress loudly enough the importance of existing, living, and functioning as a Gospel-centered Church.

It is so important, that you should never identify with a Church that isn't Gospel-saturated and Gospel-centered. The greatest demand that you should make of any church congregation is that they have a correct view of who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, and His authority over the Church that He purchased by shedding His own blood.

Please know that you can be completely confident that all of our Hope Church locations are now, and will continue to be fully committed to the responsibility of presenting the truth of the Gospel without deviation or compromise. Since the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1:16), we can't alter or abandon that truth.

For His Glory,

Pastor Brian Edwards

GOSPEL-CENTERED COMMUNITY

- Christians work together like a family. (1 Tim. 3:15, 5:12)
- Christians work together like a body. We have different functions, but we are all important. (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:16-17)
- Christians guard the well-being of other Christians. (Acts 2:44-45; Gal. 6:10)
- Christians strive to live peaceably with one another. (Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14)
- Christians confess to one another without fear of betrayal. (James 5:16)
- Christians apologize for their offenses against others. (1 Cor. 6:1-20)
- Christians faithfully attend services and intentionally exhort one another. (Heb. 10:25)
- Christians actively engage in discipleship - fulfilling the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Christians live to glorify God. (1 Cor. 6:20)

THIS IS HOPE CHURCH

Hope Church is not a building. Hope Church is people. It's always been people.

When there were six of us meeting in an old, dirty upstairs office room that smelled like the karate studio next door, we had not nothing more than great people. Now, all these years later there are hundreds more of us, in multiple locations, but Hope Church still believes that our most valuable asset is the only one Jesus died for: people.

That's why we are so excited that you feel God nudging you in our direction. What you will release as you make your way through the next several pages is that Hope Church is anything but ordinary and average. God has done extraordinary things through our Church, and the great thing is, He's still writing our story.

Hope Church is a Church where lives are changed - not just improved - changed! Families are put back together, broken, relationships are restored, and people who are far from God learn that God is not far from them.

Hope Church is a Church that doesn't just say to people, "we love you." But Hope Church gives sacrificially to the people around us to show our love because of God's love. Are we perfect? No! And we will never, not even for a second claim to be - we're a family with faults, but since we're a family, we love one another anyway.

Thank you for being willing to go beyond the front door. Thank you for being willing to check out The Family Room. Hopefully, you will find the information contained in this packet so aligned with where you are spiritually that you will feel complete peace in your heart about becoming a part of our family.

THIS IS HOPE CHURCH'S LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

- Jesus is the Senior Pastor of the Church.
- Pastors & Elders who are called by Jesus to lead the Church under Jesus' authority.
- Deacons are the lead servants in the Church, and according to Scripture have authority over servant ministry.
- Covenant Partners (Members of the Church) are the life of the Church and the continuation of the ministry.

No local church could ever move forward without committed families and individuals. People are the Church, and are ultimately empowered by Jesus to be the Church. (1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:1-3; Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

JESUS IS TO ALWAYS BE THE CENTER FOCUS OF THE CHURCH

- He is to be the only celebrity in the church.
- He is to always be the foremost object of our affection
- The pastor's identity should never be promoted beyond the identity of Jesus, church's identity or its commitment to the Gospel. (Col. 1:18; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20)

WE SUBMIT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE OVER THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

- Our pursuit is to be Biblical, not traditional
- We will not teach anything as doctrine that is not clearly defined in Scripture. (Gal. 2:20; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20)

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES

- A disciple is someone who is in a relationship with Jesus, is committed to obeying His teachings, is becoming like Him in character and behavior, and is engaged in making and training disciples. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Church leaders promote disciple-making by equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry. Healthy, equipped saints reach those who are lost and disciple those who are saved. (Eph. 4:12, 2 Cor. 5:18, Her. 13:21)

WE ARE NOT CALLED TO "GO TO CHURCH" BUT RATHER TO "BE THE CHURCH"

- Public worship should not be seen as "going to church" but rather the gathering of the church. Being outside of a church building doesn't make us less than "the church," but actually presents us with the opportunity to impact our community by living as the church.
- Jesus declares believers to be "the temple," which means He doesn't live in buildings, but His Spirit lives in those who are saved. (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:21)

WE ARE TO "ROLL AWAY" THE STONES THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF JESUS

- We believe in removing the unnecessary, legalistic, and religious stones that stand between people and the life-changing power of Jesus. (John 11:38-44; Matt. 15:1-14; Col. 2:8)

MISSIONS SHOULD BE A LIFESTYLE RATHER THAN A PROGRAM

- Christians are to give generously and serve generously
- We believe missions happens in our daily lives in our local communities, and planned trips that advance the cause of Christ and His Church. We are on mission everyday as we live with Gospel intentionality. (Matt. 25:35-46; 1 Cor. 4:11-13)

WE ARE DIFFERENT IN OUR PREFERENCES, BUT ONE IN OUR OBJECTIVE

- We believe in unity on the basis of the Gospel, and the shared common goals of advancing the Gospel. The world needs to encounter the message of a Savior who died and rose again to make it possible for sinful people to be accepted by a holy God. For us, that takes preeminence over every unscriptural preference. (Rom. 15:5-6; Phil. 1:27)

GOD HONORS PLANTING, NOT SPLITTING

- We are wholeheartedly committed to advancing the cause of Christ by multiplying the number of healthy, Gospel-centered, Biblical churches. (1 Cor. 1; Luke 10:2)

COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Life is the primary means by which we make disciples, and exists to help people learn the Bible and live out the practical Christian life together.

What exactly is Community Life? It's fellowship, it's eating, it's serving, it's studying, it's sharing, it's growing, it's becoming, it's praying, it's caring, it's loving, it's meeting the needs of a friend and having friend who can help when you're in need. Simply put, Community Life is beautiful because it is Christians living the Christian life together.

Community Life is a lot like a river, it flows. There isn't a one size fits all approach. There isn't even one geographical location or one gathering opportunity where everyone meets, but instead there are various times, places, and opportunities that best meet the needs of your specific group.

The hope is that as many people as possible would experience the life changing power of Biblical community. Community Life is a radical call amid a culture of mere attendance and casual involvement. It involves mutual love, care, consistency, and authenticity as we seek to adore the person and work of Jesus Christ with our lives.

*** While the following is ideal, it may vary from one Hope Church location to another.

GET PLUGGED INTO COMMUNITY LIFE

CONNECTION GROUPS (8-14 people who gather at a specific time)

Experience great conversations that give you the opportunity to share your highs and lows. Then there will be a time in God's Word or watching a video resource, prayer time, and an opportunity to connect as friends.

ORGANIC GROUPS (Groups based on existing friendships and relationships)

Almost everyone has a group of friends, but rarely do those friends meet for the purpose of Christian fellowship and Gospel conversations. Organic Connection Groups are an opportunity for you to take some time with your existing friends for the purpose of investing in one another spiritually. You provide the friends, and Hope Church will provide the resources.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We strongly desire to see men and women grow in their walk with God. By having men's and women's ministry, we are able to minister with greater intentionality, because we all know the spiritual needs of men and women are different. Our men's and women's ministry encourages strong relationships with God, as well as with one another.

INTENTIONAL FRIENDSHIPS (Meeting at local restaurant or coffee shop)

Why not connect once a week at a time that suits you and three or four of your friends best? You may enjoy connecting over lunch or coffee, and that time could be used for you to spiritually invest, and for your friends to spiritually invested in. Intentional friendships allow for your meeting times and locations to be more fluid. It's all about great friends making great disciples.

ONE-ON-ONE DISCIPLESHIP

This is a gender specific opportunity for men to disciple men and women to disciple women. This could mean a weekly meeting with a Hope Church pastor, elder, church leader, or being connected with a trusted mentor who will help you to learn to understand God's Word and grow spiritually.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

These are opportunities for individuals or groups of people to serve together by meeting the needs in our own local community.

WHERE DOES COMMUNITY LIFE HAPPEN?

We have many different groups at Hope Church that meet in several different locations across the area. Some groups meet on the church campus, others meet in homes, restaurants, and coffee shops. Community Life is less about the location and more about the connection.

WHAT DO THE GROUPS STUDY?

The leadership of Hope Church believes community shouldn't be controlled, but rather should be resourced. Whether a group meets in a home or in a classroom, we want to provide the best resources we possible can. That's why we offer RightNow Media, small group studies, and sermon-based discussion.

WHAT DO THE GROUPS DO FOR CHILDCARE?

A few of our groups do offer childcare, especially those that meet on Wednesday night at the church campus. We do encourage people to get a babysitter and make their Connection Group a "Date night." Please feel free to contact the office of your specific location to speak with a pastor to find our more about childcare.

IS THERE COMMUNITY LIFE FOR TEENAGERS?

The best way for your teenager to connect to Christian community is through Hope Students. Our church believes in groups so strongly that we promote community in every ministry we offer. This means your student will have an opportunity to connect with other people their own age to grow in their faith.

HOW DO I BECOME A GROUP LEADER?

At Hope Church, we take Community Life leadership very seriously because Community Life leaders function as the primary disciple makers in the church. IF you would like ti find out more about becoming a group leader, please contact the church office.

Hope Church is doing everything we possible can to promote community because we understand the incredible spiritual value of community. Hopefully, you will be as excited about Community Life as we are, and you will find a place to connect with the family of Hope Church.

PURPOSE STATEMENT OF MINISTRY TEAMS

The purpose of ministry teams is to provide a vehicle for followers of Jesus to use their gifts, talents, and abilities to serve their community, on Sunday mornings, in our neighborhoods, in our city, and around the world.

At Hope Church we believe in moving from spectators to participants in the mission of God. He has designed us for a specific purpose and equipped each of us with specific gifts, talents, and abilities. We strongly believe that God intends for all of us to use these attributes for His glory and purposes.

We have formed different Ministry Teams to fit each individual based on what God has equipped them with. Whether it's helping guests find a parking spot, greeting and escorting people, holding an infant, operating the sound booth or anything in between, our Ministry Teams are connection opportunities to the work of Jesus.

There is no greater joy than to know that you are being used by God in a way that is making an eternal impact on others. If you feel like it's time to get off of the sidelines and get into the action, then serving on a Ministry Team is the place to volunteer.

GUEST SERVICES MINISTRY TEAM

It has been said, "You only have one chance to make a first impression." The eternal value of our mission and message at Hope Church makes this quote a critical one. Our goal as the Guest Services Team is to allow the Holy Spirit to use us to break down the spiritual barriers that people have built up by providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our guests as they arrive. We are committed to excellence, and to providing an atmosphere where people can connect with Jesus in a real and personal way.

HOPE KIDS & HOPE STUDENTS MINISTRY TEAM

We want the children and students who walk through the doors of Hope Church to understand, and believe from an early age, that there is nothing in life better than Jesus. And from there, we desire to see them walk faithfully with Jesus every day of their lives. What would it mean for our church, our community, and our world if we raise up a generation committed to the Gospel?

Our purpose is to faithfully serve our children and students every week - teaching them to love Jesus, showing them they can have fun with Jesus, and making sure they stay safe in Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM

The Bible repeatedly calls for Christians to care for one another. According to Galatians 6:10, we take advantage of opportunities to do good to everyone, but we especially care for those who are of the household of faith. Hope Church takes this commission seriously, and we seek to live that out through caring for one another during times of need. The mission statement for Congregational Care is: providing connection, consolation, and comfort during seasons of sorrow, sickness, and setbacks.



THE FAMILY ROOM Volunteer Ministry Teams

MISSIONS & OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

The primary focus of missions and outreach is to practically take the Gospel message to local and distant groups through servant evangelism. Meeting people's felt needs, partnering with other churches, as well as planning and executing special events to show the world that Jesus loves them and we do too. Short-term mission trips to other cities and countries coinciding with local outreach in our own city or region.

PRAISE & WORSHIP TEAM

In order to help people fully embrace the majesty and glory of God, we must create an atmosphere where people can freely worship God through music. We believe that God honoring, praise filled music helps focus our attention on God. This allows the preaching and teaching of God's Word to more effectively penetrate our hearts.

MEDIA & PRODUCTION TEAM

In today's culture the most effective means of communication involves media and technology. The use of amplified instruments and creative images help set the atmosphere for an impactful worship service. Hope Church realizes that most people will visit our church online through our website and social media before they visit one of our locations in person. For those reasons, media and production ministry at Hope Church is a valuable part of fulfilling our mission.

BUILDING & FACILITIES MINISTRY TEAM

The upkeep of a Hope Church campus is a constant and ongoing project. For maintenance and janitorial needs, to making sure the lawns and parking lots look their best, it takes a lot of people, time, and effort.

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Hope Church believe prayer among the people of God should be constant and ongoing. Often an urgent prayer need arises during the week, and waiting till the weekend to pray is too late. That is why members of our Prayer Team are entered into a specific database and are notified via text message the moment we are made aware of an urgent prayer need. There is also a specific group of people within our Prayer Ministry Team who are trained and available to pray with people following our services.

WHY DO WE USE THE TERM COVENANT PARTNER?

At Hope Church we replaced the word “member” with the words “covenant partner.” These are the reasons:

- Member implies privilege and entitlement
- Member implies exclusivity and elitism
- Partner implies common mission and effort
- Partner implies belonging and commitment

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A COVENANT PARTNER?

Hope Church is made up of Covenant Partners. Without each partner’s contribution, the church cannot operate at full effectiveness. Fulfilling the mission of the Gospel in our communities, the work of the Gospel in our neighborhoods, and serving one another in way that honors God becomes impossible without the dedication of Covenant Partners.

Covenant Partners are those who have placed their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and have obediently surrendered to Christ’s command to be baptized.

Covenant Partners also commit to promote and serve the cause of Christ through Hope Church, working to ensure its health and wellbeing.

Covenant Partners individually reveal their love for the church by giving their time, talent, and treasure to help fulfill the mission of Hope Church.

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A COVENANT PARTNER?

- Covenant Partnership affirms your belief in the ministry of Hope Church. It shows that you are in agreement with our doctrinal statement, vision, and mission.
- Covenant Partnership takes you from being a spectator to a participator. We give together, we serve together, and we celebrate together.
- Covenant Partnership places you under the care and leadership of our Elders, who guide you in God’s Word and pledge to guard the wellbeing of those who make up the family of Hope Church.
- Covenant Partnership calls you to make a commitment. It also provides a healthy level of accountability and opportunity.
- Covenant Partnership allows the leadership of each of our congregations to identify those who are serious about our vision and mission.
- Covenant Partnership allows you to be obedient to the Word of God by partnering with a local church body of believers.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME A COVENANT PARTNER?

- Complete the Covenant Partnership Class (The Family Room).
- Affirm that you are a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Commit to baptism, if you haven't already been baptized.
- Agree with our Statement. Of Basic Belief and By-Laws
- Sign our Partnership Covenant

At Hope Church ministry is carried out by Covenant Partners who willingly labor in the Lord.
(Matt. 22:36-40; Gal. 6:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEF

The following Statement of Basic Belief represents the core orthodox beliefs of the Church from a Biblical, historical perspective. While Covenant Partners are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of the Statement of Basic Belief, the explicit rejection of any part of it disqualifies one from covenant partnership in Hope Church. Revisions to the Statement of Basic Belief in order to more clearly align with Scripture shall be at the sole discretion of the Lead Pastors, with the understanding that such changes will be communicated to the Covenant Partners of the Church.

We Believe...

- The Scriptures are inspired by God, and therefore true, authoritative, and sufficient. (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- There is only one God. (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5)
- The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. (Gen. 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matt. 3:13-17; Matt. 28:17-20; 1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- I am, along with all humanity, a sinner (Christ excluded). (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 5:12-21, 7:18; Eph. 2:1-3)
- The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual. (Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:19; Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15)
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human. (Matt. 1:20; Luke 2:52; Jn. 1:1-4, 14; Col. 1:15-20; Heb. 1:1-3)
- Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin. (Jn. 1:29, 10:1-18; Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18)
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead. (Matt. 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; Jn. 1:20-21, 25; 1 Cor. 15:12-34)
- Jesus Christ physically ascended into Heaven, and one day will one day physically return. (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thes. 4:16; Heb. 9:28; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 1:7)
- There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment. (Matt. 25:31-46; Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
- Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy. (Jn. 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:21-26; 1 Tim. 2:5-6)

Hope Church believes the local church is the means by which God is accomplishing His purposes in the world. The church exists to display the glory of God, because all things exist for His glory. Followers of Jesus are participants in God's redemptive purposes for the world through the church.

One of Hope Church's greatest convictions is that church membership should be meaningful. Therefore, we believe it is important to covenant together as a church family. As partners of Hope Church, we therefore covenant with God and with each other:

TO PROTECT THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH:

By acting in toward other members...By refusing to gossip...By following leadership

"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." (Rom. 14:19)

"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart." (1 Peter 1:22)

"Let not corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Eph. 4:29)

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." (Heb. 13:17)

TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOPE CHURCH:

By praying for its growth...By inviting the unchurched to attend...By warmly welcoming our guests

"To the church...We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers." (1 Thes. 1:2)

"And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.'" (Luke 14:23)

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Rom. 15:7)

TO SERVE THE MINISTRY OF HOPE CHURCH THROUGH:

Discovering my gifts & talents...Developing a servant's heart...Being equipped & choosing to serve

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another; as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-12)

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Phil. 2:3-4)



THE FAMILY ROOM Covenant Partnership Agreement

TO SUPPORT THE VISION, MISSION, & PURPOSES OF HOPE CHURCH:

By attending...By living a Godly life...By being generous through financial giving & serving

“Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Heb. 10:25)

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel.” (Phil. 1:27)

“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.” (1 Cor. 16:2)

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

Print Your Name Here

Sign Your Name Here

Date



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Are you involved in Community Life? Yes No (Please Circle)

Are you interested in joining a Ministry Team? Yes No (Please Circle)

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____