

Restoration City Church
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear upon the church roster under date herein, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local church in fellowship with and a part of the Pentecostal Church of God, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

As a Christian constituency of New Testament believers, we, the Pentecostal Church of God, subscribe to the following declaration of the things which are more surely believed among us (Luke 1:1), praying that there be not harmful nor divisive difference of belief to the injury of any, nor the disturbance of the peace and harmony of the church, and that we may be all of the same mind and same judgment, speaking the same things in love (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42) and with one voice glorifying God, to the edification of His people, and to give Christian witness to the world.

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and constituting the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:21).

2. The Godhead

We believe, there is but one true and living God, who is everlasting, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness; that he is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and preserver of all things (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16). In the unity of this Godhead, there are three persons of one individual essence, who are co-equal, co-existent and co-eternal; namely, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:16; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; 15:26; John 10:33).

The Son is the eternally begotten of the Father; and accepted earthly limitations for the purpose of incarnation, being true of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on High as our great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His kingdom of righteousness and justice.

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, Executive of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to indwell, to guide and to teach the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and the image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (1 John 3:8).

4. Salvation

Salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross and through Holy Spirit conviction. Godly sorrow works repentance and makes possible the experience of the new birth, and Christ formed within us is the gift of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

Man is a free moral agent and can at any time after the new birth experience turn away from God and die in a state of sin; with the consequences of hell to look forward to.

5. The Church

The true Church, built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20), is the Body of our Lord (Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 12:27); Christ being the Head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). Its earthly constituents are all true believers, born again of the Spirit (John 3:6) and of the Word (1 Peter 1:23), who are living an overcoming Christian life (Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:27). To the Church, through its members, is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27, 28) which are necessary for the successful evangelization of the world and the perfecting of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11, 12).

This Universal, invisible sanctified Church is the chaste virgin Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:1, 2; Ephesians 5:26, 27; Revelation 21:9b, 27) and it is for this Bride for whom Jesus Christ returns, just prior to the Great Tribulation, to catch her away and take her to heaven (John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

6. Ministry

God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls such as he desires to serve as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and specifically endues the one called with the talents and gifts peculiar to that office or offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). Under no circumstances should anyone be ordained or set apart to any such office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

7. Water Baptism

Baptism in water by immersion, and is a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19), and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptism formula is adopted, to wit: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

8. Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11), is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth (John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38, 39; 10:44-48).

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied by the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance as the initial physical sign and evidence (Acts 2:4).

9. Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (Hebrews 13:12, 2 Thessalonians

2:13, 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:23)

10. Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and being a memorial to His death and resurrection, is strictly limited to Christian believers (1 Corinthians 11:27). The time and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each congregation (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Only unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine, as recommended by our Lord (Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18) shall be used in connection therewith.

11. Foot Washing

Foot washing is recognized among many believers as a Christian practice; and the time, manner and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each local congregation (John 13).

12. Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14, 15); it is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is available to all who truly believe.

13. The Resurrection of the Just

The Bible promises, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). His coming is imminent; when He comes, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth, as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints,

who shall be kings and priests He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

14. Setting a Time for the Lord's Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing, and it is also unwise to teach, preach or publish visions of numbers and dates which would tend to fix the time of the second coming of the Lord (Mark 13:32, 33).

15. The Coming of the Lord

We believe the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal imminent, pretribulational and pre-millennial. We further contend that this position alone admonished watchfulness, incites holy living, prevents spiritual declension and provides maximum incentive and motive for urgency and zeal in evangelizing the unsaved. As demonic and satanic darkness deepens, we urge our ministers to maintain and proclaim this doctrinal viewpoint as the "blessed hope" of the Church.

Furthermore, we recommend that should any of our preachers hold to the mid- or post-tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected

16. Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the gospel or for repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The lake of fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew

25:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

17. Tithes

We recognize the scriptural duty of all our people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes as unto the Lord (Hebrews 7:8). Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11, Hebrews 7:2, 1 Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2).

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I.NAME

The name of this church shall be

RESTORATION CITY CHURCH

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. This church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... till we all come in unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:3-13.

Section 2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, sue, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

This church shall voluntarily enter into the full cooperative fellowship with churches of like precious faith associated in the Pentecostal Church of God, with general headquarters in Bedford, TX; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

This Church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD and as set forth in ARTICLE III SECTIONS I to I7 inclusive, of the CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS of the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, and shall never be changed, but shall be held inviolate permanently. A copy of the CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS of the

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, shall be attached to, and become a part of, this instrument for the purpose of reference.

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who have given clear evidence of their salvation. Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12.

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly, as enjoined in the Scriptures. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Section 3. Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the church. Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16.

Section 4. The sick should be prayed for, with the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, upon their request. Mark 16:18; James 5:14.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this church shall be available to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and either have received or are actively engaged in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4 and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws as herein set forth.

Voting Membership

All Those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the church at the time the church was first organized together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the church, provided they are sixteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Voting members must be a consistent tither for a period of at least 3 months prior to the meeting. If married, and tithes are paid on one income, both husband and wife may vote.

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the service of the church for a period of three consecutive

months or more, and/or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, and/or who may be out of harmony with its teaching or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct (all charges to be in writing, sent to the pastor and official board), or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as not eligible for voting privileges. They may be restored as members in good standing upon the definite action of the church through its elected officers.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

The officers of this church shall consist of the pastor, a secretary-treasurer, three to seven representatives who shall serve as the church board. If desired, one of said representatives may serve as secretary-treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the pastor and the board.

Section 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be read. This meeting shall be held at a time and place to be announced by the pastor. Due notice is to be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings of the church may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the pastor or by the secretary of the church, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the board.

Section 4. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meeting of the church shall be made unless a majority of the active voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The board with the pastor shall meet at regular intervals for the transaction of routine business for the church, time and place to be announced by the pastor.

Section 6. If the pastor, officers, or the church does not comply with the tenets set forth by the Pentecostal Church of God herein as well as in the Bylaws, the District Superintendent of the East Texas District, Pentecostal Church of God, may, through the secretary of the church, call a meeting of the church to protect the right of either the minority or majority that does desire to adhere to these

agreements. Such a meeting may be called any time after one (1) announcement at a Sunday service.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The church shall hereby provide for the establishment of a Youth Ministries department, Women's Ministries department, relief committees, home and foreign missions committees, or any other departments or committees as the needs of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the church shall be provided by the voluntary contributions of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the church at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the pastor and board, and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction. Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

ARTICLES XI. PROPERTY

All property of the church, both real or chattel, shall be deeded to, and held in the name of the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, EAST TEXAS DISTRICT.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

- 1. This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the church who are in attendance at any regular or special called meeting for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.*
- 2. Any constitution change by a local church shall first be approved by the Executive Committee of the district.*

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. ORDER

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love, courtesy and fellowship.

It shall be recognized that the great purpose of all rules and forms is to subserve the will of the church rather than to restrain it; to facilitate and not to obstruct the expression of its deliberative sense.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all of its activities. He shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the church and of the board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and/or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the church and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival meetings. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church without his approval.

Section 2. The Board shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinance. They shall act in the examining of applicants for membership and also in the administration of the discipline of the church.

A majority present at any meeting of the Board shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the Church is temporarily without a pastor, or the pastor is unable to be present, the board shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the church.

Section 3. The secretary-treasurer shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the board and of the annual and special business meetings of the church. He shall keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents of the church.

He shall be entrusted with all the finances of the church which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible

bank in the name of the church, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the pastor and board. All checks shall keep an itemized report at the regular meetings of the board and a summarized report to the church at its regular business meetings. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the pastor and board.

ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1. The pastor shall be elected by secret ballot at an annual business meeting of the church or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

Section 2. The secretary and the treasurer shall be elected annually. They shall be chosen from the membership of the church and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election.

Section 3. The board shall be chosen from the membership of the church. They may be nominated by the pastor, by a nominating committee, or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election.

Section 4. VACANCIES

(a) The pastor:

(1) The pastor shall be a member of the Pentecostal Church of God, in good standing. Should he sever his affiliation with the organization, he shall automatically relinquish the pastoralship of the local church.

He shall be elected for indefinite term. When a vacancy in pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1. In the case of a pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the district office. Such action is not to be considered as otherwise affecting the standing of the pastor with the Pentecostal Church of God fellowship.

(b) Other Officers:

Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority membership at any regular or special business meeting.

Ground for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct. (2) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith. (3) Incompetency in office.

(4) For any other good and sufficient cause.

Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the church, if he so desires.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. THE STANDARD OF MEMBERSHIP. The stand of membership of this church shall be: (a) Evidences of a genuine experience in regeneration (the New Birth) John 1:1-13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25. (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. Romans 6:4; 3:14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15, 1 John 1:6-7. (c) Be filled with the Holy Spirit or actively engaged in seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. (d) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution. (e) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability.

Section 2. THE RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

(a) Persons desiring to become active members of the church shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.

(b) The pastor and church board shall pass upon all applicants for membership and shall render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the church publicly at any of the regular services, and their names inscribed on the roster.

Section 3. DISCIPLINE.

(a) Any member of the church who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership, pending investigation and final decision in his case.

(b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Matthew

18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-5.

Section 4. Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the church, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the pastor and board, said letter to be signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church.

Section 5. The pastor and board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the church annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the church. If a name is removed for a cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action by the pastor and board through the secretary. If appeal is made to the board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the church by a majority vote shall be considered final. Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-15 2 Thessalonians 3:6.

ARTICLE VI YOUTH AND WOMEN MINISTRIES

The youth of the church shall be affiliated with the Pentecostal Church of God Department of Youth Ministries, and the women with the Department of Women's Ministries and shall be under the general supervision of the pastor. It shall be conducted as a branch of the activities of the church and shall have the right to elect its own officers.

ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY RIGHTS

All real and chattel property of the church shall be deeded to, and held in the name of the PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD, EAST TEXAS DISTRICT.

ARTICLE VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the church shall be as follows.

- 1. Devotional*
- 2. Reading of previous minutes by secretary.*
- 3. Report of treasurer.*
- 4. Reports of committees.*
- 5. Unfinished business.*
- 6. Election of officers.*
- 7. New business.*
- 8. Adjournment.*

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

The assets of RESTORATION CITY CHURCH are irrevocably dedicated exclusively for religious, charitable and/or education purposes. In the event of dissolution of the church, the trustees/board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the church, transfer all remaining assets to the East Texas District of the Pentecostal Church of God which is exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

1. The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the church by two-thirds vote of the membership present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, announcement to be made by the pastor or the secretary.

2. Any bylaws change by a local church shall first be approved by the Executive Committee of the district.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 20 _____

_____ ***Pastor***

_____ ***Secretary-Treasurer***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***

_____ ***Board Member***