

# URBANCREST BAPTIST CHURCH

## CHURCH CONSTITUTION

*“To turn everyone we touch into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ”*



This constitution, for the

**URBANCREST BAPTIST CHURCH**

2634 Drake Road  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

has been revised, by the following:

Tom Pendergrass, *Senior Pastor*  
David Bickers, *Associate Pastor of Music & Worship*  
Doss Estep, *Minister of Missions*  
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Shawn Peoples, *Pastor to Students*  
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*Deacon Ministry*

Aaron Allen  
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Dave Grove  
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Dawayne Hundley  
Jeff Novak  
Tony Overbey  
Dave Wheeler  
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and approved by its members, in the month of

**December, 2009**

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# **CHURCH CONSTITUTION**

## **PREAMBLE**

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body and its relation to other churches.

## **I. NAME**

This body shall be known as the Urbancrest Baptist Church.

## **II. AFFILIATION**

This church shall be affiliated with the Southern Hills Baptist Association in Ohio, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and the Southern Baptist Convention, and such other churches of our Baptist faith as the Holy Spirit leads.

## **III. ARTICLES OF FAITH**

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, infallible in its entirety, and the sole basis for our beliefs. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation with a lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are Believer's Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

#### IV. CHURCH COVENANT

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

##### For the Advancement of this Church

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine.

##### As Christian Stewards

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the gospel through all nations.

##### Alone and at Home

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and our acquaintances.

##### Before the World

To walk circumspectly in the world; and to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and/or use of illegal or recreational drugs, and intoxicating drink; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

##### Toward One Another

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to respect God's gift of human life; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

##### When We Move

We moreover engage that when we remove ourselves from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith and order.

## V. CHARACTER

### SECTION I. POLICY

The government of this church is vested solely in the body of believers who compose it. It shall be subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but shall recognize and sustain the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptists.

This church shall regularly contribute to and support both the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, and the Southern Hills Baptist Association.

### SECTION II. FELLOWSHIP

So long as we continue to fellowship with the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, the Southern Hills Baptist Association, and such other churches of our Baptist faith as the Holy Spirit leads, the church shall send the staff and their spouses, whomever is available as recommended by the deacons and pay their expenses to the annual meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

### SECTION III. DOCTRINE

This church recognizes and accepts the Holy Scriptures as its only authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with beliefs of Baptist churches as indicated in Chapter III, Articles of Faith.

## BY-LAWS

### SECTION I. MISSION STATEMENT

To turn everyone we touch into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

### SECTION II. MEMBERSHIP

Church membership is granted to those individuals who have first, professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and then been baptized by immersion. Then after indicating the desire to join the church during an invitation at a worship service, that individual must complete the New Members Class.

Request for church membership, by letter from another Baptist church, will be granted, provided the person has been baptized by immersion, upon the completion of the New Members Class.

Request for church membership, by statement, will be granted, provided the person has been baptized by immersion, upon the completion of the New Members Class. It shall be the duty of the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and Deacon Ministry to inquire that the one desiring membership has been scripturally saved (by grace, through faith alone), and if both found to be scripturally correct, they shall then be accepted as a member of our church. (This will apply when no letter is obtainable or when coming from another denomination).

#### Note

The New Members Class is a class designed to educate persons desiring church membership, about biblical and denominational beliefs.

#### Responsibilities

Members are expected to be faithful in all of the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend faithfully the services of the church; to give regularly for its support and causes; and to share in its organized work. All regular members, 18 years of age and older, in good standing may act and vote in the business of the church.

#### Termination

Membership may cease as follows:

By letter of dismissal to a church of like faith and order (The letter of dismissal shall not be granted to the individual).

By dropping from the roll, (1) when joining orders of another faith, (2) when written request is made.

Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by breach of its covenant vows, the church may terminate their membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment.

By death.

### Restoration

Any person whose membership has been terminated for any reason may be restored by vote of the church upon evidence of their repentance.

## SECTION III. MEETINGS/SERVICES

### Worship

Public services shall be held upon the Lord's Day (Sunday), with at least two services: one in the A.M., and one in the P.M., and on some other regular evening each week as prescribed by the church.

Other religious meetings, such as revivals, bible study, etc., may be appointed by the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and the Deacon Ministry.

### Business

The church shall hold an annual business meeting on the first Sunday in the month of December, following the evening worship service. The church will only vote on the annual budget and the legal Trustees.

Since the church has annual business meetings, motions that any member would desire to bring during the calendar year, must be signed and submitted in writing to the Stewardship Ministry for consideration.

Any motion not delegated to a ministry will be examined to make sure it fits the Mission Statement of the church.

Any member not satisfied with the decision and direction of the Stewardship Ministry can call for a special business meeting of the church, after meeting with the Senior Pastor and Staff. Announcement must be made at two regularly scheduled services prior to the special called meeting.

The rules of order in “Parliamentary Law”, Roberts Rules of Order, shall be followed in all church business meetings.

#### SECTION IV. AMENDMENTS

##### Church Constitution

The Church Constitution, Name and Affiliation of the church may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in a specially called business meeting, provided the amendment has been signed and offered in writing. The Articles of Faith, Character, and Covenant of the Church shall never be amended.

The Church Constitution shall be reviewed at least every five years by the Deacon Ministry.

##### Policy & Procedures

The Policy & Procedures may be amended by a majority vote of the respective ministry or governing personnel, and approved by the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and the Deacon Ministry.

The Policy & Procedures shall be reviewed regularly by the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Deacon Ministry, respective ministry and/or governing personnel.

#### SECTION V. MINISTRIES

All ministries of the church shall be under control of the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and Deacon Ministry, and must align with the Church’s Mission Statement.

The Senior Pastor shall be ex officio member of all ministries and his leadership shall be recognized in all of them.

#### SECTION VI. DISCIPLINE

Should any differences arise between members, they shall follow, in tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in the eighteenth chapter of the book of Matthew.

#### SECTION VII. MODERATOR

The moderator of the annual business meeting shall be the Senior Pastor. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor shall preside. And in the absence of the

Associate Pastor, the Chairman of Deacons shall preside. In the absence of all three, the church shall call the church to order, and a moderator pro tem, shall be elected.

#### SECTION VIII. BAPTISMAL ORDINANCE

In the Ordinance of Baptism, the church shall observe the following:

- Repentance and faith shall precede baptism.
- Baptism shall be by immersion.
- Baptism shall be administered by the authority of the church.

This ministry shall be made up of a selected group of active Deacons, and their wives, and their responsibilities shall be to assist the Pastor(s) and the church at times of baptism.

#### SECTION IX. LORD'S SUPPER ORDINANCE

In the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, the church shall observe the following:

- The Lord's Supper shall be open and made available to all Christians, in the proper relationship to God, in attendance at such time.
- The Lord's Supper shall be observed as prescribed by the Pastor(s) and the Deacons.
- The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once each quarter.

This ministry shall be made up of a selected group of active Deacons, and their responsibilities shall be to assist in the preparations for the Lord's Supper, whenever it is taken by the church.