

**Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church  
Membership Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Responsibility of Members**

1. To pray regularly for the Church, its members, leaders and ministries, to aid each other when need arises, to be courteous in speech, and slow to anger. (I Timothy 2:1,2, James 1:19,20)
2. To willingly submit to the leadership and discipline of the Elders of the church, esteeming them very highly in love. (Hebrews 13:17, I Thessalonians 5:12-13)
3. To faithfully attend the services and meetings of the Church, (Hebrews 10:25), and serve in the total ministry of the church as they have been gifted and talented by God's grace to serve him.
4. To live a holy life according to the teachings of God's Word, refraining from that which is destructive to the Christian life and fellowship, and dishonorable to God. (Romans 14:13,21, I Timothy 4:12)
5. To financially support the Church according to the Word of God. (II Corinthians 9:6-7).
6. To seek to be present and to participate in congregational meetings.
7. To understand and follow the current Cornerstone Membership Covenant.

**Salvation:**

- Have you personally placed your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior? Yes or No
- Have you been baptized as a testimony to your personal faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Yes or No
- When (approx. date if you do not recall the exact date): \_\_\_\_\_  
Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine you are standing before Jesus Christ and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" How would you answer? (Please answer on the back of this page; complete the Testimony Template also)

**Request for Membership:**

*I have read the Constitution, By-Laws and Statement of Faith and I am in agreement with them. Yes or No*

*Having received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, and committing myself to fulfilling the responsibilities of a member (as outlined above) through the grace and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, I hereby apply to become a member of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application.

<b>Office Records:</b>
Interviewed by Elders ____/____/____, Publicly received into membership: ____/____/____

# Cornerstone Membership Covenant

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Protect the unity of the church by:
  - a. Acting in love toward other members.
  - b. Refusing to gossip.
  - c. Following Church leaders.

*Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads us to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19*

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus... Romans 15:5*

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 1 Peter 1:22*

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29*

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:17*

2. Share responsibility for the church by:
  - a. Praying for its growth and maturity.
  - b. Inviting the unchurched to attend.
  - c. Warmly welcoming those who visit.

*Then the master told his servant, "Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full." Luke 14:23*

*Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7*

*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2*

3. Serve the ministry of the church by:
  - a. Discovering gifts and talents
  - b. Being equipped to serve by the pastor
  - c. Developing a servant's heart

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12*

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others... but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:3-4,7*

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

4. Support the testimony of the church by:

- a. Attending faithfully.
- b. Living a godly life.
- c. Giving regularly.

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25*

*Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27*

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come, no collections will have to be made. 1 Corinthians 16:2*

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS CHANGE

The Pastor and Elders shall examine the membership roll periodically to evaluate the necessity of membership status changes. The procedure for changing membership status shall be as follows:

1. Absence: Any member who indicates a lack of interest in the ministry of the church for a period of one year or does not respond to written inquiry from the Elders shall have his membership terminated by the Elders. Written notice of said termination shall be sent to the individual.
2. Discipline: Any member who is found guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian and refuses to respond appropriately to discipline as outlined above shall have his membership terminated. The Elders, after due consideration and prayer, shall decide such termination. The reason for the termination shall be stated in a pastoral letter to the terminated member.
3. Voluntary Termination: Any member may voluntarily withdraw his membership by making written request to the church office.

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE

In the event of persistent unrepentant sin, it will be necessary to counsel and restore the sinning Church member. If satisfactory resolution does not occur, the Elders shall carry out the commands of our Lord as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. The final step in this action, if necessary, will be the presentation of the individual to the Congregation for their prayer and counsel. If it is necessary after this, the Elders will remove the meter from the church rolls. I have read and understand the above items in the By-Laws concerning membership responsibilities and agree by God's grace to fulfill them.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church  
Member Information Survey

The following information is requested to help us get to know you and shepherd you as a member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Members of the immediate family (Please list relationship & age):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Previous Membership:

Name and contact information of former church:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you previously a member of this church? Yes or No

Did you leave on good terms? Yes or No

If no, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

At Cornerstone we believe that ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve him and the needs of others. We believe that every believer is called to be a minister for Christ. Therefore, we feel that part of our shepherding responsibility to you is to help you find a meaningful place of service in the body of Christ. The following questions are designed to help us in fulfilling that responsibility.

What **desire/passion** for ministry has God placed in your heart?

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What ministries are of **interest** to you? (i.e. Evangelism, Community, Groups, Youth, Children, Worship, Greeter/Welcome etc.)

- ---
- ---
- ---
- ---

What **experience** in ministry has the Lord allowed you to have?

- ---
- ---
- ---

What **spiritual gifts** do you believe that you have received from the Lord?

- ---
- ---
- ---

What ministries have you become involved in at Cornerstone Church?

- ---
- ---
- ---

What else would you like to tell us about who you are, that might help us in ministering to you and helping you find a place of meaningful service?



1 **CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
2 **of**  
3 **PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

4  
5 **BY-LAWS**

6 (revised October, 2011)

7  
8 **PREAMBLE**  
9

10 We, as a people who have come together to form a local church for the purpose of bringing glory to  
11 our Lord Jesus Christ, do now set forth these By-Laws as an instrument of guidance in knowing and  
12 doing the will of God for the government of His Church. Working in concert with the Constitution of  
13 the Church and the spiritual leadership, it is our desire that these guidelines will provide a framework  
14 whereby individuals within the Body of Christ may be strengthened in their walk with the Lord. We  
15 have as one of our primary goals, the maintenance of a spirit of unity among ourselves as believers in  
16 order to bring glory to our Lord. We dedicate these By-Laws to this end. (Psalm 133)  
17  
18  
19  
20

21 **Article I**

22 **MEMBERSHIP**  
23

24 **QUALIFICATIONS**

25 Any person desiring membership in this Church shall meet the requirements for faith and conduct  
26 set forth in Article V of the Constitution of the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Prescott.  
27  
28  
29

30 **ADMISSION**  
31

32 Prospective members shall apply for membership by preparing and submitting a membership  
33 application form. Each applicant for membership shall be a self-professed follower of Jesus Christ  
34 committed to living according to the standards set forth in the Scriptures. Each applicant shall  
35 complete an appropriate class as determined by the Elders. Selected Elders or those whom the  
36 Elders designate shall hear the applicant's personal testimony of faith in Christ and of their present  
37 relationship with Christ. The names of applicants shall be made available to the membership of  
38 Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church at least one week prior to the Elder's decision on membership.  
39 Applicants shall be accepted into membership upon confirmation by a vote of the Elders. Following  
40 this vote of approval by the Elders, new members will be welcomed into the Church and presented  
41 to the congregation at a subsequent worship service. Pastoral staff and their spouses shall be  
42 accepted into membership when they begin their ministries with the church.  
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44  
45  
46  
47

51  
52 **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 53  
54 1. Protect the unity of the church by:  
55 a. Acting in love toward other members.  
56 b. Refusing to gossip.  
57 c. Following Church leaders.

58  
59 *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19*

60  
61 *May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as*  
62 *you follow Christ Jesus... Romans 15:5*

63  
64 *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your*  
65 *brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*  
66 *1 Peter 1:22*

67  
68 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others*  
69 *up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29*  
70 *Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an*  
71 *account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage*  
72 *to you. Hebrews 13:17*

- 73  
74 2. Share responsibility for the church by:  
75 a. Praying for its growth and maturity.  
76 b. Inviting the unchurched to attend.  
77 c. Warmly welcoming those who visit.

78  
79 *"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so*  
80 *that my house will be full. Luke 14:23*

81  
82 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7*  
83 *We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. 1Thessalonians 1:2*

- 84  
85  
86 3. Serve the ministry of the church by:  
87 a. Discovering gifts and talents.  
88 b. Being equipped to serve by the pastor.  
89 c. Developing a servant's heart.

90  
91 *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some*  
92 *to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ*  
93 *may be built up. Ephesians 4:11-12*

94  
95 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than*  
96 *yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others ...*  
97 *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*  
98 *Philippians 2:3-4, 7*

99 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's*  
100 *grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

- 101  
102 4. Support the testimony of the church by:  
103 a. Attending faithfully.  
104 b. Living a godly life.  
105 c. Giving regularly.

110 *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one*  
111 *another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25*  
112 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I*  
113 *come and see you or only hear about you in my 119 absence, I will know that you stand firm in one*  
114 *spirit, contending as one man 120 for the faith of the gospel. Philippians 1:27*  
115 *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his*  
116 *income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. 1 Corinthians 16:2*  
117  
118 *A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the*  
119 *LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27:30*  
120

## 121 **MEMBERSHIP STATUS CHANGES**

122  
123 The Pastor and Elders shall examine the membership roll periodically to evaluate the necessity of  
124 membership status changes. The procedure for changing membership status shall be as follows:  
125 1. Absence: Any member who indicates a lack of interest in the ministry of the church for a period of  
126 one year or does not respond to written inquiry from the Elders shall have his membership  
127 terminated by the Elders. Written notice of said  
128 termination shall be sent to the individual.  
129 2. Discipline: Any member who is found guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian and refuses to  
130 respond appropriately to discipline as outlined above shall have his membership terminated. The  
131 Elders, after due consideration and prayer, shall decide such termination. The reason for the  
132 terminations shall be stated in a pastoral letter to the terminated member.  
133 3. Voluntary Termination: Any member may voluntarily withdraw his membership by making written  
134 request to the church office.  
135

## 136 **CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

137  
138  
139 In the event of persistent unrepentant sin, it will be necessary to counsel and restore 151 the sinning  
140 Church member. If satisfactory resolution does not occur, the Elders shall carry out the commands of  
141 our Lord as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. The final step in this action, if necessary, will be the  
142 presentation of the individual to the Congregation for their prayer and counsel. If it is necessary after  
143 this, the Elders will remove the member from the church rolls.  
144  
145

## 146 **ARTICLE II**

### 147 **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

148  
149  
150  
151 Since this Church uses a congregational form of government, it is the responsibility of the  
152 Congregation to put in leadership positions those men who have been gifted by the Holy Spirit to  
153 provide leadership for the Church.  
154

155 Once they have been elected these men, known as Elders, will provide leadership for the total  
156 Church program.  
157

158 To them are committed the responsibilities of being examples to the flock, giving the church  
159 direction, teaching the people, and leading the Congregation. Scripture implies that individuals at  
160 any level of leadership involved in decision-making as it relates to Church policy or doctrine shall be  
161 under the Elders' authority. All church officers and committee chairs shall be members in good  
162 standing of the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Prescott.  
163  
164

169 **SECTION A**  
170 **PASTORAL STAFF**

171 The Pastor(s), with the Elders, shall be responsible to “shepherd the flock of God” and give spiritual  
172 leadership to the congregation of Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church. This should be  
173 accomplished through the study, preaching and teaching of the Word of God and setting an  
174 example for the flock. They will also promote and lead the church in its central purposes of  
175 evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and worship.

176 A Pastor must be a man of true Christian character, sound in the faith and doctrine, and qualified to  
177 preach and teach the Word of God (II Timothy 3:17, II Timothy 4:1-5) and shall fulfill the qualifications  
178 of an Elder.  
179

180 **SENIOR PASTOR**

181 The Senior Pastor shall give leadership to the Elders and the congregation as Pastor-Teacher. He  
182 shall give primary attention to the *“equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying (or*  
183 *building up) of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).*

184 1. The Senior Pastor shall be a voting member of the Elders.

185 2. He is accountable to the Elders and the congregation. The Elders shall evaluate his performance  
186 periodically.  
187

188  
189  
190  
191 **CALLING OF A SENIOR PASTOR**

192 When a vacancy occurs, the Elders shall make temporary provisions for filling the pulpit during the  
193 vacancy, and shall activate a Pastoral Search Committee. The Pastoral Search Committee shall  
194 recommend one or more candidates to the Elders. The Elders shall consider the candidate(s) and  
195 recommend an approved candidate to the congregation. A call to the candidate shall consist of a  
196 favorable vote by at least seventy-five percent of the voting members present at a congregational  
197 business meeting held within seven days after the presentation of the candidate to the  
198 congregation. The vote shall be by secret ballot. He shall be called for an indefinite period of time.  
199 For the termination of his ministry, two months notice must be given by the Pastor, or by the church,  
200 unless waived by mutual consent of both the congregation and the Pastor. This consent by the  
201 congregation requires approval of 75% of the members present and voting.  
202

203 **PASTORAL DISCIPLINE**

204 Discipline or removal of the Senior Pastor shall be in accord with the procedures set forth in Article II  
205 Section C concerning discipline or removal of an Elder. If dismissal of the Pastor is the result, the  
206 Elders must give a notice to the Pastor in writing thirty days in advance of the date of termination  
207 unless modified by mutually satisfactory arrangements. The Pastor shall be dismissed by a seventy-  
208 five percent vote of all members present at the special business meeting. In the event of resignation  
209 or dismissal of a Pastor, a two-month severance pay amount will be given unless the Elders modify  
210 this amount. Any severance pay amount greater than two months shall be approved by the  
211 membership.  
212

213 **OTHER PASTORAL STAFF**

214 The church may add additional pastoral staff to meet the needs of pastoral leadership and care as the  
215 congregation grows. The Elders will determine the process for adding additional pastoral staff.

216 1. Other pastoral staff shall work with and be a voting member of any committee as outlined in  
217 their job description, or as delegated by the Senior Pastor or the Elders.

218 2. They shall be accountable to the Elders and report directly to the Senior Pastor. Their  
219 performance shall be evaluated regularly by the Senior Pastor.

220 3. They shall be called for an indefinite period and may be terminated by action of the Elders.  
221

226  
227 **SECTION B**  
228 **NON-PASTORAL STAFF**  
229

230 Non-pastoral staff includes any paid employee other than Pastors. Job descriptions shall be  
231 maintained and include qualifications and responsibilities.  
232

- 233 1. All non-pastoral staff shall be hired by the Senior Pastor with the approval of the Elders. Pay and  
234 benefits shall be set at the time of employment by the Elders.  
235  
236 2. Supervision and regular evaluation of non-pastoral staff shall be determined by the Senior Pastor  
237 based on the nature of the position.  
238  
239 3. Employment of non-pastoral staff is for an indefinite period. Resignations and terminations shall  
240 be acted upon by the Elders.

241 **SECTION C**  
242 **ELDERS**  
243

244 The Elders shall consist of the Senior Pastor and at least three men elected by the congregation.  
245 The number of elected Elders may be increased or decreased from time to time by the Congregation  
246 on recommendation from the Elders without amendment to the By-Laws. The number of Elders shall  
247 never be less than four. (Articles of Incorporation, Section 9).  
248

249 The Elders shall lead in the spiritual oversight of the Church, aiding in and providing direction for  
250 matters related to worship, visitation, church discipline, Christian education, evangelism, pastoral  
251 ministry, and church unity. (Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 4:3)  
252

253 The Elders may, at their discretion, place one Elder on any committee of the church. He shall have  
254 full voting rights.  
255

256 **ELDER QUALIFICATIONS**  
257

258 Men who have been equipped and gifted by the Holy Spirit with the qualifications found in I Timothy  
259 3 and Titus 1 will be eligible for election as an Elder. These men will also fulfill the responsibilities and  
260 duties of church members as set forth in Article 280 I.  
261

262 **ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE**  
263

264 Nominees for Elder shall be selected by the nominating committee and approved by the Elders.  
265 These nominees shall then be presented to the congregation for approval and voting thereon. A call  
266 as an Elder shall consist of a favorable vote by at least seventy-five percent of the members present  
267 and voting.  
268

269 The term of office shall be for one year. An Elder may succeed himself providing that he recognizes  
270 that his service has been within the will of God, and in addition, the nominating committee must  
271 concur.  
272

273 Accusations against an Elder shall not be considered unless supported by two or more witnesses. (I  
274 Timothy 5:19-20). Should it be proven that he has erred in doctrine or conduct, he shall be  
275 admonished in the spirit of love by the other Elders. If this does not achieve the desired effect, he  
276 shall be temporarily relieved of his post as an Elder (or as Pastor if he is the Elder in question) and the  
277 matter shall be brought to the attention of the congregation at a properly called business meeting.  
278  
279  
280

285 The Elders shall choose officers annually, a Chairman and Secretary. The responsibility of the  
286 Chairman shall be to organize and facilitate the activities of the Elders and to preside at all  
287 congregational meetings. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Elders and Congregational  
288 meetings and be responsible for the necessary Elders records and correspondence. The Secretary of  
289 the Elders shall also function as the Corporate Secretary for all legal functions.  
290

291 The Pastor shall not serve as Chairman of the Elders at any time.  
292

## 293 **SECTION D**

### 294 **STANDING OFFICES**

295  
296  
297  
298 The officers of this congregation shall be the Senior Pastor, the Elders (see Article II, Section C), the  
299 Treasurer, and the Financial Secretary.  
300

#### 301 **TREASURER**

302  
303 The term of office is one year and is not limited in terms of consecutive terms. The Treasurer shall  
304 have the following duties:  
305

- 306 1. Be responsible for the disbursement and payment of all bills.
- 307 2. Keep adequate records of all receipts and disbursements by account.
- 308 3. Submit a monthly report to the Elders.
- 309 4. Submit financial records for audit as directed.  
310

#### 311 **FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

312  
313 The term of office is one year and is not limited in terms of consecutive terms. The Financial  
314 Secretary shall have the following duties:  
315

- 316 1. Keep a detailed report of all funds received by the Church.
- 317 2. Deposit and receipt all monies given to the Church.
- 318 3. Submit reports to the Treasurer.
- 319 4. Submit financial records for audit as directed.  
320

## 321 **ARTICLE III**

### 322 **COMMITTEES**

#### 323 **SECTION A**

#### 324 **PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

325  
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327  
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330  
331  
332 Chairmen of all permanent committees shall be elected for one year and be eligible 348 for  
333 successive terms. All committees shall report to the Elders.  
334

##### 335 **1. The Nominating Committee**

336  
337  
338  
339 This committee shall be composed of at least four members; the Pastor, one Elder, and additional  
340 members chosen at large from the congregation and elected by the Church membership at the

345 annual meeting. Quorums for all committee meetings shall be at least one-half of the committee  
346 membership. The nominating committee is to prepare a list of candidates for all elective offices and  
347 standing committee chairpersons to be submitted to the Elders for approval. Approved candidates  
348 are to then be presented to the congregation to be voted on.  
349

## 350 **2. Missions Committee**

351  
352 This Committee shall have the responsibility of providing direction for the church family regarding  
353 missions activities under the overall direction of the Elders.  
354

### 355 **SECTION B**

## 356 **TEMPORARY COMMITTEES**

357  
358 From time to time, special committees may be formed by the Elders for specific purposes and time  
359 periods. These committees will report to the Elders as requested. Examples of ad hoc committees  
360 are those for building, pulpit, audit and social; there may be others. The chairpersons and  
361 membership of such committees shall be appointed by the Elders.  
362  
363  
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366

### 367 **ARTICLE IV**

## 368 **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

### 369 **SECTION A**

## 370 **BUSINESS MEETINGS**

371  
372 The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held during the month of January. Annual reports  
373 shall be received, elections held, and other business may be transacted at the annual meeting. The  
374 fiscal and business year shall end on December 31.  
375

376 One-quarter of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.  
377 All matters shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of those voting except matters covered by the  
378  
379

380 Constitution and By-Laws. Voting by absentee ballot is not permitted. Only members 18 years or  
381 older will be permitted to vote.  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389

### 390 **SECTION B**

## 391 **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

392  
393 Such meetings may be called by the Elders or by notice signed by one-quarter of the voting  
394 membership. Special meetings will be organized and conducted by the Elders with only those  
395 matters to be considered that have been identified in such notices. Notice of a special meeting shall  
396 be made in the Church Bulletin for the two Sundays preceding such meeting.  
397  
398  
399

403  
404 **ARTICLE V**

405  
406 **AMENDMENTS**

407  
408 These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at any regular or  
409 special business meeting, provided that notification of the proposed amendment in written form has  
410 been made to each member by mail at least one month prior to such meeting. Approved  
411 amendments shall take affect immediately.

412  
413 File: By Laws.doc

**CONSTITUTION**  
**of the**  
**CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**  
**of**  
**PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**  
(revised 2021)

**PREAMBLE**

As members of this church, we band ourselves together in order to carry out the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, and do ordain and establish this Constitution to which we do voluntarily submit ourselves.

Name and Location:

The name of this church shall be the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, located in or near Prescott, Arizona.

**ARTICLE II** Purpose:

To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Matt. 22:37-39)  
We will manifest this love by:

1. Public worship of God and the proclamation of the Scripture.
2. Nurturing and discipling young people and adults for spiritual growth and service.
3. Supporting and encouraging personal evangelism and missions at home and abroad.
4. Supporting, encouraging, loving and praying for one another.

**ARTICLE III** Affiliation:

The church shall be associated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Southwest Border District Conference. It may send delegates to their conferences, support their home and foreign missions, and unite in mutual efforts for the furtherance of the Gospel in whatever measure the church may decide. Such affiliation shall in no way abrogate the autonomy of the local congregation.

**ARTICLE IV** Statement of Faith:

The following statement of faith, adopted at the annual Conference of the Evangelical Free Church of America, June 19, 2019, at Minneapolis, Minnesota, shall be the statement of

faith of the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Prescott, Arizona.

The Evangelical Free Church of America is an association of autonomous churches united around these theological convictions:

### **God**

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

### **The Bible**

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

### **The Human Condition**

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

### **Jesus Christ**

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

### **The Work of Christ**

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

### **The Holy Spirit**

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

### **The Church**

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

### **Christian Living**

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

### **Christ's Return**

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

### **Response and Eternal Destiny**

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

### **ARTICLE V** Membership:

Any person shall be eligible for membership who confesses Christ as Saviour, whose conduct is in accord with his confession, who accepts the Bible as the final authority for his life, and who subscribes to the Constitution and the Statement of Faith of this church. (I Peter 1:22-23, James 1:21-22, Eph. 4:1-6). All applicants shall be reviewed by the Elders according to the by-laws.

### **ARTICLE VI** Property:

1. During the existence of this church, the ownership and control of all property shall remain with the congregation.
2. In the event this church shall ever dissolve, which God forbid, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the church, all of the property, real and personal, shall be given to the Southwest Border District, or to any successor Evangelical Free Church District in which this church is located.
3. If a division occurs in the church, the name and all property shall be retained by those adhering to this Constitution and Statement of Faith. In the event of a dispute as to which faction is adhering to this Constitution and Statement of Faith, the Southwest Border District Conference Board shall review the dispute and make a decision binding on both factions.

### **ARTICLE VII** Amendments:

A motion to amend this Constitution may be considered only after it has been presented in writing to the Elders. All amendments will be discussed at a special business meeting 60 days prior to the annual business meeting.

Amendments may be adopted at an annual meeting only with a three-quarter vote of approval of active members present.

**ARTICLE VIII** Corporate Seal and Legal Signature:

The corporate seal of this church shall contain the name of the church with the date and state of incorporation. On all legal documents requiring an official signature for the church, the signature of the chairman or of the statutory agent shall constitute the legal signature.