

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



Doctrinal Statement:

1. The Word of God - The Bible is God's Word to us. It tells us of God's initiative to rescue us from sin and its consequences through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the key to the interpretation of the whole Bible. The Holy Spirit of God directed human authors to write down just what He wanted. When the Bible was originally written, it was without error. The Bible is true and trustworthy, telling us everything we need to know to please God and find meaning and fulfillment. It is the highest authority for everything we believe and do. (Mk 13:31; Jn 8:31-32; Acts 20:32; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21)

2. The Trinity - There is only one true God, and God simultaneously exists in three persons. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are equally deserving of worship and honor. The three persons of the Trinity have distinct, but complimentary roles in the fulfillment of God's flawless plan. (Gen 1:1,26; Deut. 6:4; Matt 28:19; Jn 1:1,3; 4:24; Rom 1:19-20; Eph 4:5-6)

3. The Father - The Father is the first person of the Trinity. He is infinite (having no beginning or end) and knows all things (past, present, and future), yet He wants to interact with you on a personal level. The Father is perfect in every quality and virtue. He has the power and integrity to keep all of His promises. (Mt 23:9; Lk 10:21-22; Jn 3:16; 6:27; Rom 1:7; 1 Tim 1:1-2; 2:5-6; 1 Pet 1:3; Rev 1:6)

4. The Son, Jesus Christ - Jesus is the second person of the Trinity. He is the unique Son of God who always existed with the Father. Jesus entered human history: God became man, and was born to Mary while she was still a virgin. Jesus lived his entire life free from any sin. He performed miracles and taught with authority, giving evidence of His position in the Trinity. Jesus was murdered by being nailed to a cross. He died willingly and His blood provides the perfect and only sacrifice for sin. Jesus was buried in a tomb. Three days after His death He came back to life, demonstrating the greatest evidence His sacrifice for sin was accepted by the Father. Jesus returned to heaven and is our advocate in the presence of the Father. (Mt 1:18-25; 20:28; Lk 1:26-38; Jn 1:1; 20:28,30-31; Acts 1:11; Rom 5:6-8; 6:9-10; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 1:4-5; 1 Pet 2:21-24; Heb 7:25; 9:28)

5. The Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is the One who shows people how they violate God's standard of perfection. He shows them what is good and right and lets them know there will some day be a judgment. He gives God's people spiritual life and special abilities for service. The Holy Spirit lives in every person who has their sins forgiven by Jesus Christ. He is consistent in His help, teaching and causing people to change from the inside out until they are like Jesus. (Jn 3:6-8; 14:14-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-14; Rom 8:8, 13-14, 26-29; 12:4-8; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:11,19; 12:1-31; 2 Cor 3:16-18; Gal 4:29; 5:18; Eph 3:16; 4:1-13; 2 Th 2:13; 2 Tim 1:7; Tit 3:5; Rom 15:16)

6. Spiritual Birth - Every person has broken God's standard of perfection. Every person has sinned. We have chosen to do things that are wrong and we have inherited an inner nature from our forefathers that has been in rebellion against God since the first person, Adam. Sin requires death which is why Jesus died on the cross. Jesus gave His own blood to provide the only way of forgiveness. When the Holy Spirit shows a person that the blood of Jesus Christ is the only satisfactory price for sin, He also gives the power to turn from sin and trust Jesus Christ for new life, bringing that person into God's family forever. We believe those who have turned from their sin and trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have new and eternal life. (Gen 1:26; 2:17; 3:19; 5:2; Psa 51:7; Prov 28:13; Ecc 2:11; Jer 17:9; Jn 1:12-13; 3:14; 5:24,30; 8:12; 10:26-28; Rom 3:19-20; 5:19; 8:1-17; 9:14-24; 2 Cor 5:17; 2 Th 1:9; 2:13; Tit 3:5-7; 1 Jn 1:9; Jam 1:14; Rev 20:10, 14-15; 21:1-8)

7. The Church - The Church is people and includes everyone who has experienced spiritual birth evidenced by personal faith in Jesus Christ. Followers of Jesus Christ also come together to form local churches that worship, serve and grow together. We grow in relationship to God through the study and application of His Word, which also leads us to love one another. Jesus is Head of the Church. The Church is to do the things Jesus gave us to do and help others learn about the Good News of forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:8; 2:41-42; Eph 2:19-22; 5:19-21; Col 1:18; Heb 10:23-25)

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



8. How Christians should live - Christians have the privilege of living free of the control of sin that had us trapped before the Holy Spirit gave us new life. We can now make progress in living in a way that pleases God, maintains our freedom and lets others know God does change lives! It is for our best that we learn to live what the Bible teaches. As we grow we will see God changing our character to be more like the character of Jesus. People around us will see that God real and that He is good. (Jn 14:15, 23-24; Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 9:6-13; Eph 4:13; Col 1:9-10, 28; Heb 12:1-2; 1 Jn 2:3-6; 1 Th 4:1)

9. Two practices Jesus gave the church - Jesus gave the church two "pictures" that remind us and show others what God has done for His people. One is baptism. This "picture" is to tell those around us what God has already done in us. Baptism illustrates dying to our old life, receiving new life and rising from the dead to live as a new creation of God and parallels Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. The new believer is "buried" or submerged in water symbolizing death and then brought up out of the water demonstrating new life in Christ. (Mt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-42; 8:36-39; Rom 6:1-11). The second "picture" is called communion, or the Lord's Supper. This is meant to help us repartner that Jesus died for us. The family of God shares bread, which is a symbol of Jesus' body; and wine (or juice), which is symbolic of Jesus' blood. The Bible tells us to continue this commemorative practice until He returns. (Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:17-20; 1 Cor 10:16-17; 11:23-26)

10. We have been given freedom and responsibility - When a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit lives in that person and will teach him/her according to the Bible. Each person can speak and relate directly to God and is accountable to God. The local church also has freedom and accountability before God and is to be controlled solely by the authority of Jesus Christ (not denominational or political authorities). (Acts 5:29; 20:28-32; Rom 14:7-9; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-20; Eph 2:20-22; 2 Cor 3:7-18; Col 1:18; 1 Tim 2:5)

11. The end of time - Some day Jesus Christ will make a visible return to the earth to set up His kingdom. Every person who has ever lived will be brought before God for a final judgment. Those who have not come to faith in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Hell, separated from God's loving favor where there is nothing but evil and endless suffering. Those who have experienced spiritual birth (see #6) will live in the joyous presence of God forever. (Mt 16:27; Mk 14:62; Jn 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor 4:5; 15:20-24,35-58; Phil 3:20; 1 Th 4:14-18; 2 Th 1:6-10; 2 Tim 4:1; Tit 2:13; Rev 20:4-15)

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, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We pledge, 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 faith; to promote its well-being and spiritual maturity; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, in the measure that God prospers each of us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also pledge to maintain family and private devotions; to teach our children the Christian truths; to seek the salvation of our family and friends; to walk with discernment in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, a godly example in our behavior, and zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love; to partner each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to seek God's help in avoiding anything that might harm our own or another's faith; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and to seek it without delay.

We moreover pledge as individuals that when we move from this community, we will as soon as possible seek out some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



Constitution

Article 1 - The Name

The name of this church shall be CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe) located in or near Orlando, Florida.

Article 2 - The Purpose

CrossPointe exists to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

Article 3 - The Criteria for Partnership

Partnership shall be open to anyone who has personally received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, who has been baptized by immersion as a believer, and who desires to be committed to CrossPointe as a local body of believers in Christ (including agreement with CrossPointe's Statement of Faith, Church Covenant, and policies of partner discipline). □(1 Cor 1:2; Acts 2:41-42)□

Those holding a reasoned biblical conviction regarding mode or timing of baptism which varies from that stated above may be received as Partners and hold all the benefits of partnership with three exceptions:

(1) Holding the Office of Elder. (2) Voting on amendments/revisions to the CrossPointe Doctrinal Statement or Constitution. (3) Serving as delegates to FCBC and BGC conferences (see Article 17). These partners will be received according to the same method described below.

Article 4 - Procedure for Admission to Partnership

Those meeting the above criteria for partnership, may become partners of CrossPointe through the following procedure:

- A. Completion of at least three months of regular attendance and consistent participation in the life and ministry of CrossPointe.
- B. Completion of a Partnership Class. From time to time partnership classes will be offered to provide teaching on our statement of faith, partnership expectations and principles of church government.
- C. Personal Interviews. Following attendance at partnership classes, individuals desiring partnership shall meet with an elder or appointed leader to verbalize their personal testimony, to determine the integrity of their faith and desire to be committed to CrossPointe as a local body of believers.
- D. Signed Statement of Commitment. A signed Statement of Commitment shall be used as an instrument to affirm an individual's desire for partnership and to serve as a formal record of partnership.
- E. Renewal of Partnership - Annually each partner shall sign a Statement of Commitment to reaffirm his/her continued desire for partnership. In the event that a Statement of Commitment remains unsigned for a period of three months partnership will be considered terminated. The process for reinstatement shall be the same as the procedure for admission to partnership.

Article 6 – Discipline of Partners

- A. Personal Grievances. In all cases of grievances between partners, the persons involved shall follow the rules set forth in Matthew 18. If this procedure does not lead to reconciliation, charges in writing shall be submitted to the Board of Elders for consideration, counsel to the persons involved and appropriate church action, if necessary. (Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 6:8)

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



- B. Unchristian Behavior, Delinquency, Non-support.** Each partner will be encouraged to maintain their Christian obligations as stated in the Church Covenant; to regularly attend the services of the church (Heb. 10:25); and to share in the financial support of the church as the Scriptures teach (Mal. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Prov. 3:9-10) and as the Holy Spirit moves their heart. When the actions of a partner in any of these areas are determined to be detrimental to the church or any other partner, the matter shall be considered by the Board of Elders or its appointed agency. Such consideration shall include confidential inquiry, counsel to the partner(s) and recommendation to the church for appropriate action, if necessary. The spirit of this inquiry and counsel is to be supportive and expressive of the acceptance, help, and forgiveness of the church. If the partner responds favorably to the inquiry, demonstrating acceptance of forgiveness through repentance and change of life, no report to the church shall be necessary and the matter shall be considered closed, except that counsel may continue to be given as needed. Should the partner fail to respond to the inquiry or fail to demonstrate the acceptance of forgiveness through repentance and change of life, the Board of Elders shall recommend to the church that his or her name be removed from partnership. If possible the partner must be notified of the meeting and given the privilege of speaking on his or her own behalf. Upon evidence of restoration to the faith and/or the church, a dismissed partner may be reinstated through the regular procedure for admission.

Article 7 - Selection of Elders

While sharing equally in the blessings of salvation, men and women are given distinctive, complementary roles by God as part of the created order. The primary teaching ministry and governing authority of the local church is to be entrusted to men who meet the standards of godliness and maturity described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. This designation is not a matter of giftedness or ability but the sovereign design of God (1 Tim 2:12). The following steps shall be followed in the selection of elders:

- A. The name of any potential elder candidate who senses God's call and meets the standards of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, may be placed before the Elder Board by any partner of the congregation.
- B. Two representatives of the Elders will interview the candidate to provide an initial determination of desire, qualifications, calling, as well as a gift mix and personality that will strengthen and compliment the Elder Board.
- C. If the candidate is approved for consideration, his name will be submitted to the entire Elder Board. Upon the unanimous agreement of the Elder Board, the candidate will be announced to the congregation as an elder candidate and will begin a candidacy of not less than 6 months or more than one year. The candidate will be assigned to serve alongside one of the elders who will coach, guide, evaluate and encourage him.
- D. At the beginning of the candidacy, the name will be presented to the congregation at any regular worship service. The congregation should observe, encourage and evaluate the candidate's suitability to serve in the office of elder throughout the candidacy.
- E. If after the candidacy, the candidate still believes God is calling Him to serve as an elder and upon a unanimous confirmation of the Elder Board, the candidate's name will be announced to the congregation as a nominee to the office of elder. Any partner of the congregation may present concerns of any nominee's suitability to any partner of the Elder Board for a period of thirty days following nomination.
- F. If concerns are raised, issues will be evaluated by the elders in light of 1 Tim. 3:2-7 and Tit. 1:6-9.
- G. Following the thirty-day nomination period, with all concerns resolved, the name of the nominee will be considered by the Elder Board.

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



- H. Upon unanimous confirmation of the Elder Board, the nominee shall be presented to the congregation for approval. The nominee must receive at least three-fourths majority vote for approval.
- I. This process may be discontinued at any point by the candidate, or by unanimous agreement of the Elder Board.

Article 8 - Terms of Elders

Since the Bible indicates no fixed term for elders, no specific fixed term of office is recommended. Instead, each elder, upon appointment, will be subject to review, recommitment and re-affirmation by the congregation each year. An individual's service as an elder may be discontinued by his own decision or a vote of dismissal by a two-thirds vote of all remaining Elders. The decision of an elder to leave the Elder Board would not preclude his service as a future elder, subject to the regular elder selection process.

If, at any time, it is confirmed by two or three witnesses (1 Tim 5:19-20) that an elder is involved in sin that would disqualify him from office according to 1 Timothy 3 or Titus 1, he will be publicly rebuked and removed from office as soon as the Elder Board becomes satisfied the charges are true. It is the intention of the church that a sinning brother be restored in his relationship to the Lord and the church family. Any elder who is removed from office due to sin cannot be a candidate for any office for a period of at least five years. It is most critical that a meaningful relationship with the Lord, a godly lifestyle and the confidence of the church family be restored.

Article 9 - Role of Elders

Elders are charged with the biblical responsibility of the oversight of the church. All policy, staff, budgeting and ministry plans are ultimately the responsibility of the Elder Board. The Elder Board may appoint individuals or special teams for limited periods of service to complete assigned tasks when the council determines delegation to be the most appropriate method.

The Elders shall approve and accept the annual financial budgets of the church or any changes in or additions to such budgets; authorize any expenditure of the funds by the church Treasurer for any purpose when such expenditure is not covered by an accepted budget (up to 10% of annual budget per expenditure). Non-budgeted expenditures of more than 10% of annual budget require congregational approval.

Article 10 - Role of Deacon/Deaconess

The deacon/deaconess may serve a wide variety of practical tasks within the church family as directed by the Elder Board. The prototype of the deacon ministry is found in Acts 6:1-7. Biblical qualifications for deacons/deaconesses are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Article 11 - Ministry Staff Partners

In accordance with New Testament principles of leadership, paid ministry staffs are not to be selected solely on the basis of performance or professional credentials. Rather, we acknowledge the following criteria for the selection of ministry staff partners:

- A love for the Lord and the display of a consistent godly walk.
- A specific commitment to the CrossPointe body and co-leaders.
- Gifts, abilities and credentials that qualify this individual for the ministry responsibilities as well as a personal style that will strengthen and compliment the ministry staff of CrossPointe.

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



- Any ministry staff partner not called as an elder, will be expected to meet deacon qualifications. Ministry staff partners serve as role models for other believers. Therefore, spiritual qualifications and lifestyle are of the utmost importance.

The elders shall be responsible for the oversight of ministry staff, including staff selection and dismissal, when necessary. Each ministry staff partner will be accountable to one supervisor. The roles and job descriptions for staff partners require approval of their immediate supervisor and the elders. Staff salaries shall be determined annually by the Elder Board.

Article 12 - The Role of the Lead Pastor

Consistent with the New Testament teaching regarding spiritual gifts, it is evident that the Lead Pastor, like any partner of the body, is uniquely gifted and should seek to serve within his gift area. (Eph. 4:11ff; 1 Cor. 12)

In addition to his shepherding role as an elder, the Lead Pastor is primarily to be a teacher of the Word of God, the Bible. He is to teach and exhort with words and by example. His goal is to help bring people to maturity of faith through insightful and accurate presentation and proclamation of the Bible, equipping them to be the true ministers of the body. As a teacher he must stress both the understanding and the application of God's Word.

The Lead Pastor should not be responsible to serve in areas unrelated to his primary function as a teaching elder and should maintain a proper balance of prayer, teaching, shepherding and leadership. (Rom. 12:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:15; 1 Thess. 2:4-5,10-12; Tit. 1:7; Eph. 4:11-12; Jas. 2:22)

As shepherds of the church, it is one of the roles of the elders to appoint other leaders with complementary gifts to undertake areas and aspects of the ministry that cannot and/or should not be filled by the Lead Pastor.

Article 13 - Selection of the Lead Pastor

In the event of vacancy in the office of Lead Pastor, the elders shall be responsible to conduct a search for candidates to fill the position.

Once the elders have selected a candidate, evaluated and approved him according to the elder qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, he will be presented to the congregation as a nominee for the office of Lead Pastor. No candidate may be presented to the congregation who has not first been closely evaluated and approved by the Elder Board. A suitable process of exposure and evaluation by the congregation will be developed by the Elder Board. At the conclusion of the congregational evaluation, a three-fourths majority vote of the partnership in attendance at a meeting called for that purpose, will be required for approval and appointment.

Notice will be given to all partners at least two weeks prior to a meeting to be held for the purpose of voting on a Lead Pastor. It should be understood that a congregational vote does not constitute a call from God but gives indication of a desire and willingness to follow the leadership of this man and affirms his role as an elder.

Article 14 – Indemnification Statement

CrossPointe will indemnify any and all persons who may serve or who have served at any time as a Pastor, Associate Pastor, or in another executive level staff position in the church, as a church officer or partner of a church board or committee, as a youth leader for a church youth organization, or as a teacher or counselor of the church elected or appointed by the church of any board or committee of the church, against any and all expenses, including amounts paid upon judgments, counsel fees, and amounts paid in settlement (before or after suit is commenced) actually and necessarily incurred by such persons in connection with the defense or settlement of any claim, action, suit, or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, or which may be

CrossPointe Church Orlando, Inc. (CrossPointe)

Constitution & Bylaws (12/10/07)



asserted against any such person be adjudged in any action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for duties. Such indemnification will be in addition to any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any law, bylaw, agreement, or otherwise.

Article 15 - Property Acquisition and Disposition

The Elder Board is responsible to guide the process of property acquisition and disposition. Prior to making any legal agreement to purchase or sell real property, the elders are required to present the proposal to the partners. A majority vote of the partners present will be required for approval of acquisition or disposition. In the event God should lead CrossPointe to disband, the Elder Board will present the recommendation to the partners with a proposal to use any remaining assets to further the purpose of CrossPointe in church planting.

Article 16 - Procedure for Amendment

This document was drafted by faithful but fallible people. Should the Spirit of God point out the need to revise this document in any way, the Elder Board will present suggested revisions to the partnership of this body for ratification by majority vote of the partners present at a meeting called for that purpose. Notice of the meeting will be given to all partners at least two weeks in advance.

Minor revisions not effecting change in the theology, ministry philosophy or overall structure and government shall be made at the discretion of the elders (i.e. grammar, clarification of ideas considered confusing, added Scriptural support, etc.)

Article 17 - Statement of Cooperation and Partnerships

Planting new churches that seek the transformation of their communities through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a primary method God has chosen to advance the kingdom of His Son and thus change the world. Therefore CrossPointe is committed to partnering with Vision 360. Vision 360 is a multi-denominational church planting movement seeking to saturate influential and rapidly growing cities across America with impacting churches.

In order to further accomplish what Jesus has given us to do, we network with other churches of similar doctrine and objectives through an association of churches. Our local church is voluntarily a part of the Baptist General Conference (national) and the Florida Caribbean Baptist Conference (district). If it ever becomes necessary CrossPointe may withdraw from the conference at the discretion of the Elder Board. This association exists and functions to help local churches make more and better followers of Jesus Christ. We also join with independent churches and churches of other denominations when we believe this relationship will help us do what God wants us to do. (Acts 15:36,41; 16:5; 1 Cor 16:1; Gal 1:1-3; Rev 1:4,10-11)

Status: DRAFT #2 – December 10, 2007