

# **CONSTITUTION AND STATEMENT OF FAITH OF CENTRO CRISTIANO MOREH**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, therefore, better fulfilling its purpose of carrying out its obligations to God, the world, and one another, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church and freedom of action of this body with its relation to other Churches, we do declare and establish this Constitution, which shall supersede any and all previous rules, Constitutions, and By-Laws.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

This body shall be known as Centro Cristiano Moreh, (the “Church”) Killeen, duly incorporated as a religious corporation under the corporate laws of the State of Texas and shall be an independent, autonomous, self-governing body.

It is located at 4201 Turner Ave., Killeen, Texas, 76543.

### **ARTICLE II. NON-PROFIT STATUS**

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, unless any law shall be repressive in scope and/or nature, that it is our duty to democratically oppose it on the basis of the right of free exercise of religious beliefs and peaceable assembly. The Church is formed for any lawful purpose or purposes under the laws of the State of Texas, including any purpose described by Section 2.002 of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

### **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE**

**“For the King and His Kingdom, through the expression of family... we move to outreach and restoring, fellowship, discipleship, worship and acculturating the world.”**

## **ARTICLE IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **GOD**

The only One and True God, the “I Am”, the Person that has always existed from eternity and will be for eternity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is the Creator and King of all created and existent realms. Self-existent, loving, perfect, holy, just, faithful and true.

### **THE FATHER**

God the Father is the same yesterday, today and forever. His character and nature never changes, yet, his decisions, and dealings with humans are very dynamic, wise and relevant to every epoch of mankind. God’s heart is always for reaching everyone in our prodigal orphan world.

### **THE SON**

Jesus Christ is the one and only *Son of God* who being God, took form as the *Son of Man* and was conceived of *Holy Spirit* and born from a virgin *Mary*. 100% God, 100% Man, Jesus lived a sinless life and showed an example to all of us on what a *normal* Christian (follower of Christ) is like. He died for sins to ensure that we can be forgiven and restored to follow his example and adhere to the Great commission to share the good news and make disciples to all nations. Jesus also came to show us the Father, He is the “Face” (Mark 1:2 KJV) and exact express image of His person (Hebrews 1:3). He is “perfect theology” and all the Bible from beginning to end points to Him. Therefore, the acquired perception of this Jesus in the Bible above any other perception, is the foundation of one’s theology and will be reflected on the character and Christianity of a believer. As A.W. Tozer explained best ““What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

Jesus is alive today, in Spirit and human glorified body and is our priest and intercessor with God the Father. Jesus has all power and authority [Matt. 28:18] and has commissioned a Kingdom to the church [Luke 22:29] to fulfill an assignment. Explained later in the article below concerning The Church. At the end of time, Jesus will be Lord over all things, and He will submit all to the Father. (1 Cor. 15:24-28)

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit, God himself, a person an expression of the very heart of the Father is promised to be available for all Christians. He was sent after Jesus ascended to the Father. He is our Comforter, our Teacher and Guide of all Jesus meant for us to know (John 14:26) and who searches all things that are in the heart of the Father and reveals them to us. (1 Cor. 2:10). Holy Spirit *dwells* in all believers, yet, the invitation is for the promise of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, evidence that can manifest in any supernatural way He desires. However, we believe that the evidence of Him *resting* in the life of a believer, is mainly: love, power and God given courage. The Holy Spirit always glorifies and points to God, helping the living Church of Christ with her Kingdom assignment. The Holy Spirit also imparts supernatural gifts to the believer as

He desires and appoints, and helps the believer conform to the image of Christ in character every day, bearing the fruit that God is expecting from us. Grieving the Holy Spirit has to do with character while quenching the Holy Spirit has to do with gifting, which neither should be done, but totally the opposite, grow more and more flowing in all gifts and fruit available. The Holy Spirit does speak and it is the privilege of every believer to hear from God. Yet the perception of hearing from God is something that the believer grows into and should be encouraged. The voice of the Holy Spirit will never be in conflict with Scripture but rather will be confirmed by it and by the testimony of any direction He gives.

### **ABOUT SALVATION**

Salvation is God's gift to man. Cannot be obtained through any rites, merits, works, or efforts, but is only acquired by grace and faith in Jesus Christ, which includes confession and belief as said in Romans 10:10, acknowledging and welcoming his redemptive work for us and living in a transcending affirmation to our initial confession by following him for the rest of our mortal lives.

The Greek word: *Sozo*, includes: forgiveness of Sin (and secure assurance of salvation), healing (of our bodies) and deliverance of torment (creating instead a joyful identity). Jesus' victorious work on the cross provides abundant life to God's children upon salvation and ultimately eternal life and crushes the works of the devil in our lives (John 10:10, 1 John 3:8).

### **ABOUT THE END TIMES**

While views on Eschatology are complex and varied in the body of Christ, our Church's Eschatology is to be founded on "The Hope that does not disappoint" and the revelation of Christ. We are not letting the world go while waiting to go to heaven, but we are to work on establishing God's Kingdom while the King returns, through peace or persecution. While God's clarity on the subject will properly unfold over His church as the time approaches, there are facts and instructions clearly defined in the Bible for us to know and follow until the end: Jesus, the Glorified King will return physically to Earth in a time and day that God only knows and no man can ever claim to know. The only and true Jesus Christ the Messiah will look for the results of every talent and mina left under our care in order to bring His assignment to Earth. Factually, there are many theories on the coming of Christ and how end-times will unfold, yet we are to always center on the clear mandate in the three distinct messages of Matthew 25: To '*wait and remember his coming*', get to *work and bear fruit and learn to love*.

### **THE BIBLE**

It is the inspired, infallible and authoritative word of God. The Bible is a collection of books which were written along thousands of years by human authors inspired by Holy Spirit. It is the record of God's covenants with man through the ages. Every covenant and canon is very particular, nevertheless, congruent on message and pointing to Jesus. The Bible is the source and anchor of all instruction, prophecy, matters of faith, christian living, and guidance over any moral matters, ever, in the history of humankind. The Holy Scriptures are a timeless book; however, historical context and proper hermeneutics are very useful for interpretation, however, it is not understood by mere study, but also by remaining in faith and dependency on Holy Spirit to

interpret it accurately. The Scriptures are not an end of themselves but means to an end: To *experience* communion with the person of God as Jesus imperatively disclosed it in John 5:39-40. The Bible is not only for our information, but for our transformation and it is the foundation of our very Statement of Faith and our Church will be forever committed to its law, precept and testimony.

### **MANKIND**

Man: Both *male* and *female*, were created to God's image and likeness (Genesis 5:2). They were given authority over all creation to represent God and rule with love through the expression of family (Genesis 1:27-31). While humans are still made to God's image, likeness was corrupted by the choice to sin and all creation is bound to experience the effects of such election. Salvation, forgiveness and restoration are available through the sacrifice of Jesus in the Cross. It is the revealing of the glory of Jesus by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures that transforms us day by day to the likeness of Him. (2 Corinthians 3:17). We have the privilege to co-labor and partner with God to fulfill His desire on this Earth.

### **ABOUT ETERNITY**

*Heaven* and *Hell* are real places and our destination to either or, is determined by our choice in this life. We live anchored on eternity, since God's final judgement will come upon all men and will divide those who chose to live in sin on earthly life and ultimately live apart from God, from those who lived in union with Him in life and remained following Jesus until their last breath and ultimately have eternal life. Life eternal is not merely the hope of a place of joy and never-ending life, but it is living eternality married to the Bridegroom forever. God Himself is the chief joy and reason for going to Heaven. Without Jesus, there would be no true Heaven.

### **THE KINGDOM**

The Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven: By definition, "The King's domain", was announced to come along with Jesus (Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 3:2) and that is how Jesus opened his proclamation of the good news, including the proclamation of the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 4:17) This was a main concept in Christ's teaching and he assigned us to further His Kingdom on Earth (Luke 9:1; Matthew 10:7-8), including, but not limited to the preaching of the gospel, and making disciples of all nations, using all the means and resources that God's domain has, including: salvation, healing and deliverance, etc., as the word salvation (*gr.* Sozo) really means. Freely giving what we have freely received. The Kingdom is not limited to any human practice, exercise of human making or under anyone's control, but within its divine nature, it is "righteousness, peace and Joy the Holy Spirit brings with Him" (Rom. 14:17) and encompasses any the expression of God's goodness manifested tangibly on Earth, illustrated clearly in every miracle and sign that Jesus did, as He was "seeing and hearing the Father" doing His will. The Kingdom is moving and advancing on Earth and is bound to keep growing as God will jealously will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7) Jesus's clear direction is to pray that "His Kingdom will come and His will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven" (Matthew 6:9-10), therefore this Church partners with this prayer and moves accordingly to fulfill this command by bringing Jesus's abundant life and crushing the works of the devil on people's lives as Jesus did. Congruent with the above

mentioned, Jesus established that the Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a mustard seed that grows into a mighty tree and also it is to be compared to leaven (*living bacteria*) that is to be inserted in the meal (flour or dough, type of *the world*) until it all leavened. (Mathew 13:31-33). Finally, the Kingdom of God will eventually be established physically and fully on Earth and will conquer and cover it all. (Habakkuk 2:14, Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:9)

### **THE CHURCH**

The community, if the redeemed of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. Birthed by the victorious work of Jesus in the cross, is founded on the revelation of “Jesus Christ *is* the Son of God” and will never be overcome by the evil one. (Matthew 16:15-18) Grows and matures, age by age, as an organism and purity of faith as it defends its unity, even though there is versatility as explained clearly and explicitly in Ephesians 4. The very nature of God’s gifts is polarized according to the very nature of the gift, but they are perfectly able to work together for the commonwealth of the body. “So Christ himself gave the apostles (acculturators of the Kingdom), the prophets (who speak to man the message of God, along with the heart of God), the evangelists (bearers of the good news), the pastors (the shepherds and nurturers) and teachers (the instructors and translators of the Kingdom), to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up *until we all reach unity* in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:4-13 (*explanations added*). The balance, purpose, yielding and unity of all gifts will keep the church from false doctrine and focused on the task. The church has families and tribes which is part of its versatility, but we are not to divide from other brethren that have confessed and are under the salvation of Jesus Christ, because they celebrate different than we do. Rather, we take very seriously John 17, where we are to be *one* with God and with one another. Rather, we live as the ancient phrase says: “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, freedom; but, above all things, love”. The church was given an example per Jesus and an assignment: While Heaven is our destination, “Bringing Heaven” (God’s Kingdom and His will be done on Earth *as said on* Matt. 6:10) is our assignment as explained in the article above regarding The Kingdom of God. The Church *will fulfill* her assignment of taking the gospel and making disciples of all nations, and this has to bring transformation of nations along with it. A far more interesting and accurate concept of a sustained “revival” throughout the world that will unfold as the time of the King Jesus return nears. It is the united Church, without spot or wrinkle that cries to Jesus in one voice with the Holy Spirit: “Come” (Rev. 22:17)

### **THE MESSAGE**

The message of the gospel, which commences with the good news of salvation and extends to all Biblical themes, begins with its solid foundation found in John 3:16 mingled with *the heart of God* clearly stated on verse 17. The *message of God* needs to be dispensed along with *the heart of God*. Also, the message needs to be relevant to the people. The message is unchangeable and non negotiable, however, the methods need to be changed and relevant to reach the people, clearly, without conforming to the world. This is best described in the Baptist Faith and Message from May 9th 1963 which quotes:

“Baptists are a people who profess a living faith. This faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Therefore, the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is Jesus Christ whose will is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

A living faith must experience a *growing understanding of truth and must be continually interpreted and related to the needs of each new generation*. Throughout their history Baptist bodies, both large and small, have issued statements of faith which comprise a consensus of their beliefs. Such statements have never been regarded as complete, infallible statements of faith, nor as official creeds carrying mandatory authority.”

And so, as only the One and only King unfolds more clarity on every Biblical subject, to dispense life with “wineskins” of relevancy given to the church to change and use according to every age of our world, line upon line and precept upon precept, the message will be effective to penetrate the world that God intends to reach.

### **THE FAMILY UNIT AND MARRIAGE**

Family is the foundational unit of human society and is also what God uses to illustrate the relationship between Himself and His church. The covenant of matrimony is God’s design and the foundation of *family*. Not limited to a paper or ratified certificate, but it is also a covenant of love before God and present witnesses of living as one flesh. Written in the very design of nature, there is a clear biblical institution and particular design established by God Himself and it is to be between a man and a woman and it remains above human preference.

Accordingly, this church’s pastors and staff will not officiate in anything less than the pure state of matrimony as stated in the Bible between two people, a natural born man and a natural born woman. The Church’s staff will not be engaged in performing same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor will its property or any resources be used for such purposes.

### **ARTICLE V. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute membership. All organizations created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable to the church. This church is autonomous and it is not subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches. Centro Cristiano Moreh, insofar as is practical, will, in a democratic sense, cooperate with and support the Bell Baptist Association, Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Southern Baptist Convention, provided such cooperation does not conflict with the church's own best interests.

### **ARTICLE VI. CHURCH COVENANT**

This covenant represents a goal which the church body should strive to attain. Therefore, having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, 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 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 doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, maligning, gossiping, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our effort to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian 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.

We, moreover, engage that when we, as members, remove ourselves from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the Spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

All members of the Church Council have approved unanimously the acquisition of this documents today Sunday, August 26, 2018.