**PREAMBLE**

 This document represents the governing of the Centennial Valley Community Church. The constitution is an important document defining who we are, what we believe, and how we operate as a church. It also relates to our theological and ministry philosophies, and the manner in which we conduct church business. The Centennial Valley Community Church’s internal government guidelines and the procedures to be followed are also stated within.

**ARTICLE I**

 The name of this body of believers shall be the Centennial Valley Community Church (thereafter referred to as CVCC), a nonprofit organization based in Centennial, Wyoming.

**ARTICLE II**

 Our purpose is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 4:16). We purpose to preach and teach the Word of God, proclaiming Christ Jesus (Acts 4:12; 5:42, and Colossians 1:28), “equipping the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ …” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

 We further purpose to extend the Gospel and our ministry to the community and the world according to Scripture (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). This includes a ministry of love in deed and truth according to 1 John 3:16-18.

**ARTICLE III**

**BASIC BELIEFS**

**The Bible**

We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God without error in the original writings and of supreme and final authority in faith and life **(2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21).** *“We affirm that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic text of Scripture, which in the providence of God can be ascertained from available manuscripts with great accuracy. We further affirm that copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent that they faithfully represent the original.*

*We deny that any essential element of the Christian faith is affected by the absence of the autographs. We further deny that this absence renders the assertion of Biblical inerrancy invalid or irrelevant.”* *(from Article X, Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy)*

**God**

God, who being one essence, exists in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are the same in nature, but distinct in function, each relating to mankind in a unique way. **(Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:21-22; 2 Cor. 13:14)**

**Jesus**Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God **(John 1:1-4, Heb. 1:8)** who was born of a virgin **(John 1:14-18; John 14:8-12; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:16, 20-21; Luke 1:34-35)** and literally rose from the dead **(Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:6, 34; John 2:22)** and ascended to heaven **(Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:20)**. He is undiminished deity and perfect humanity permanently united in one person. It was through His sacrificial death on the cross that He removed once and for all the barrier of sin between God and man, providing our access to God through Him **(Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Tim. 2:5-6).**

**The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead who permanently indwells every believer from the moment of salvation **(John 3:1-8; 14;16-17, 26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14)**. He provides every believer with gifts for service and with the fullness of God’s power to make him adequate for living **(1 Cor. 12:1-31)**. As the believer acts in dependence upon the Spirit, he will progressively grow into maturity. **(Gal. 5:16-26)**

**Mankind and Sin**

We believe that man was created in the image of God **(Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6c)**, but in Adam’s sin the human race fell and incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God **(Gen. 3:1-24)**. Man inherited a sinful nature causing all human beings to be born with a sinful nature **(Rom. 5:12-14; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:9-12, 23; Eph. 2:1-3).**

**Salvation**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice acceptable by God; and that all who receive Him by grace through faith are justified on the basis of His shed blood **(Matt. 20:18; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 2:2; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rom. 3:23-26; 5:8-10).** Salvation Is by Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone, In Christ Alone. No good deed, no church membership or attendance, no water baptism, and no amount of morality can save man **(John 3:15-16; 5:24; 6:40, 47, 51; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:24-25; 5:11-16).**

We believe that all true believers, once saved, are forever secure in their salvation; and that the abiding presence of the Holy spirit as a seal and pledge is one’s guarantee of his inheritance **(John 10:27-30; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 Pet. 1:3-5).**

**Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, is positional, practical, and permanent. Positionally, it is already completed since the believer is in Christ. However, since he retains his sinful nature in this world, there is need for practical sanctification in his daily experience, whereby the Christian grows in grace by the power of the Holy Spirit. Permanent sanctification will occur in the presence of the Lord with the absence of the sin nature, where position and practice will be consistent **(John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 10:10; 1 Pet. 1:13-16).**

**Assurance of Believers**

Every believer can have absolute assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as a basis for sinful behavior **(John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13; Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 5:13).**

**The Church**

We believe that the church (regardless of organizational affiliation) is the body of Christ **(Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:24-30; Col. 1:18)** and that God has called believers to gather together in local church families **(1 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 10:24-25).**

**Ordinances of the Church**

We believe water baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the two ordinances of the church to be observed by all believers **(Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).**

**Baptism**

We believe in baptism by immersion **(Acts 8:36-39a)** as a public identification with Christ for those that have placed their faith in Him and Him alone for salvation – this being a testimony of the believer’s spiritual new-birth **(Acts 16:31-33).**

**Lord’s Supper**

We believe the Lord’s Supper is a symbolic remembrance of the death and resurrection of Christ, not for the purpose of forgiving sins or maintaining salvation, but should be observed regularly by all believers who are walking in fellowship with Him **(Luke 22:14-23; 1 Cor. 11:23-29).**

**The Spiritual Gifts**

We believe that God sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts as He pleases **(1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7-11)** and that such as speaking in tongues, functioned as apostolic sign gifts, and are no longer normative today, having fulfilled their intended purpose **(1 Cor. 13:8; 14:22; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:20; Heb. 2:3-4).** We believe that God, according to His sovereign will, does hear and answer the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted **(John 15:7; James 5:14-15; 1 John 5:14-15).**

**Satan**

The Bible acknowledges the personal identity of Satan who is a high-ranking angel and the openly, declared adversary of God and man **(Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; 1 Pet. 5:8).** Having been cast out of heaven (along with the third of the angels that chose to follow him **[2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 12:4]** and now referred to as demons), Satan is also the ruler of this present world **(Eph. 2:2; 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).** We believe he was judged at the cross, and that ultimately, he will be cast into the lake of fire **(Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:10).**

**The Return of Christ**

We believe in the imminent, personal, pretribulational return of Christ to rapture out His church **(1 Thess. 4:14-18; 5:9)**, and the premillennial return of Christ with His church to Earth to establish His kingdom **(Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4-6)**, fulfilling God’s promises to the nation of Israel **(Rev. 20:1-3).**

We believe that subsequent to the rapture of the church and prior to the millennial kingdom age, all believers will stand before the Bema (Judgment) Seat of Christ, in heaven, where reward will be determined by Christ for each believer’s faithfulness, obedience, and perseverance during their earthly lives **(Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:13).**

**Creation**

We believe that God created the heavens and earth **(Gen. 1:1; Isa. 43:18; Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11)**, through multiple acts of creation **(Gen. 1:1-31)**, culminating in the creation of man. We believe Adam existed as a literal, real, historical person, that both he (the first man) and Eve (the first woman), were specially and uniquely created by God in God’s image **(Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1-2; Rom. 5:14-15; James 3:9)**. We believe that neither materialistic evolution nor theistic evolution fit the evidence of Scripture concerning creation.

**The Eternal State**

We believe that at death the souls of those who have trusted in Christ as Savior immediately pass into His presence **(2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23)** and remain in conscious bliss until they are joined again with their bodies in resurrection, after which they shall be with the Lord forever **( 1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)**, and that the souls of unbelievers at death pass

into conscious misery until the final judgment when they shall be rejoined with their bodies and cast into

the lake of fire to be punished forever **(Luke 16:19-28; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).**

**Marriage and Sexual Orientation**

In view of the teaching of Scripture, we uphold faithfulness in marriage between a man and a woman in lifelong union, and believe that abstinence is right for those who are not called to marriage **(Heb. 13:4)**. We cannot condone the legitimizing or the blessing of same sex unions **(Gen. 2:24)**.

We do recognize that there are those who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these may be seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God’s transforming power for the living of their lives within the Biblical ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that they can be the recipients of God’s grace and salvation in their lives **(1 Cor. 6:17-20)** just as anyone else can, regardless of their sin **(Rom. 3:23-26; 6:23; Eph. 1:7; 2:1; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 2:2)**.

As with all sin, we reject these practices as Scripturally prohibited **(Lev. 18:22 and Rom. 1:25-27)** and if practiced on the part of the believer, will result in possible loss of reward at Christ’s Bema (Judgment) Seat **(Rom. 14:10b; Heb. 4:13)**. We encourage all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to everyone, saved or unsaved, irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn unbiblical treatment of homosexuals. We also condemn violence within marriage and any trivialization and commercialization of sex **(Eph. 5:25-29)**.



Centennial Valley

Community Church

What We Believe …

“… To God Be the Glory …”