



Bylaws

Statement of Faith

## **Section 1**

### **Organization and Purpose**

1.01 **NAME AND OFFICES:** The name of the Corporation is Harvest Community Church of Goshen Inc. ("Harvest Community Church" or "HCC") and its corporate office is located at 17285 County Road 34, Goshen, Indiana, 46528.

1.02 **PURPOSE, RESTRICTIONS, LEGAL ENTITY INFORMATION, AND TAX STATUS:** The Corporation's Purposes, Legal Restrictions, Legal Entity Information and Tax Status can be found in the Articles of Incorporation in Article II, Article III, Article IV, and Article X filed with the State of Indiana on February 23, 2016.

1.03 **FISCAL YEAR:** The Corporation's fiscal year shall begin on each January 1 and continue through the following December 31.

1.04 **AUTONOMY AND ASSOCIATION:** Harvest Community Church is autonomous and maintains the rights to govern its own affairs independent of any denomination or church network control.

a. **NETWORK/DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION:** HCC has the right to join a church network, denomination or similar type of collaborative groups of churches. However, such memberships do not president over the autonomous government of leadership of HCC as outlined in these bylaws.

## **Section 2**

### **Articles of Faith**

2.01 **MISSION STATEMENT:** Harvest Community Church exists to reach people with the life changing message of Jesus Christ and to build their lives so that they become fully mature followers of Him. We do this by pastoring our communities, planting churches in our region and partnering to reach nations.

2.02 **STATEMENT OF FAITH:** These truths form the backbone of our theology. Although not a complete list of Biblical doctrines, they are the truths which fundamentally anchor us into God's purposes:

2.03 **THE BIBLE:** We believe in the Scriptures, both 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament, to be the inspired word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of all people, and the final authority for all Christian faith and life. The authority and revelation of the teachings of Scripture is passed along to the Biblical translations of the Bible in every language in as much as these translations seek to truly represent the original writings.

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Scripture References: Exodus 24:4; Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6:6-7, 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 1:2, 12:6, 19:7-10, 119:11, 119:89, 119:96, 119:105, 119:130, 119:140; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 34:16, 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16, 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18, 22:29, 24:35; Luke 21:33, 24:44-46; John 5:39, 10:35, 16:13-15, 17:17; Acts 2:16ff, 17:11; Romans 10:13-17, 15:4, 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 1 Timothy 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:14-16

2.04 TRINITY: We believe that the one true God exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these, being one in God, are equal in deity, power and glory.

Scripture References: Isaiah 40-48; Psalm 104; Psalm 139; Matthew 10:29-31, 28:19; Acts 17:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:9-12, 4:4-6; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6

2.05 GOD THE FATHER: God the Father is the first person of the Trinity. God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the course of human history, according to His purposes. God the Father initiates the plan of salvation by sending Jesus His Son to be the savior of all mankind and then gifting His Spirit to all believers in order to draw all mankind to Himself.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:1, 2:7; Exodus 3:14, 6:23, 15:11ff, 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4, 32:6; 1 Corinthians 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 43:15, 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10, 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff, 7:11, 23:9, 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24, 5:26, 14:6-13, 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6, 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7

2.06 JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD: We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, that He was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a penal substitutionary sacrifice for sinners. By His blood at the cross He satisfied the wrath and justice of God, obtained for us eternal redemption, the forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting, and defeated the powers of darkness. He was raised bodily on the third day for our justification and ascended to the right hand of the Father where He reigns and makes intercession for the saints. He is the head of the church which is His people of faith.

Scripture References: Genesis 18:1ff; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-25, 3:17, 8:29, 11:27, 14:33, 16:16, 16:27, 17:5, 17:27, 28:1-6, 28:19; Mark 1:1, 3:11; Luke 1:27-35, 4:41, 22:70, 24:46; John 1:1-18, 1:29, 8:58, 10:30, 10:33, 10:38, 11:25-27, 12:44-50, 14:7-11, 16:15-16, 16:28, 17:1-5, 17:21-22, 20:1-20, 20:28; Acts 1:9, 2:22-24, 7:55-56, 9:4-5, 9:20; Romans 1:3-4, 3:23-26, 5:6-21, 8:1-3, 8:34, 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2:2, 8:6, 15:1-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, 8:9; Galatians 3:10-14, 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7, 1:20, 3:11, 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-23, 2:9, 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3, 4:14-15, 7:14-28, 9:12-15, 9:24-28, 12:12, 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25, 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9, 2:1, 3:2, 3:8, 4:14-15, 5:9; 2 John 1:7-9; Revelation 1:13-16, 5:9-14, 12:10-11, 13:8, 19:16

2.07 HOLY SPIRIT: We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God, equal with the Father and the Son. The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also convicts unbelievers of their need for Christ and imparts spiritual life through regeneration (the new birth). The Spirit indwells, sanctifies, leads, comforts, reveals truth, and graciously empowers for Godly living and service all who come to faith in Christ. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit, in whom also are sealed for the day of redemption. Subsequent to conversion the Spirit desires to fill, empower, gift and anoint believers for ministry and witness. All the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament are operative today and are designed to testify to the presence of the kingdom and to empower and encourage the church to fulfill its calling and mission.

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Scripture References: Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11, 139:7ff; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 3:11, John 1:12-13; 3:1-15; 14:12, 15:26-27; 16:7-15, Acts 2:14-21; 4:29-30, Romans 8:9, 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-13, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 12:28-31; 14:1-33, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Galatians 3:1-5, Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:8, 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16, 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 3:16, 4:14; Hebrews 2:4, 9:8, 9:14; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13, 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10, 22:17

2.08 CREATION: We believe that God not only created the world but also now upholds, sustains, governs, and provincially directs all that exists and that He will bring all things to their proper end in Christ Jesus to the glory of His name.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:1-14, Acts 17:22-31, Colossians 1:15-20

2.09 MAN AND SIN: We believe that mankind in Adam was originally created in the image of God, righteous and without sin. In consequence of his disobedience, all humanity is born sinful and is therefore by nature and choice the children of wrath, justly condemned in the sight of God, wholly unable to save themselves or to contribute in any way to their acceptance by God.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:3, 1:26-30, 2:5, 2:7, 2:18-22, 3:1-24, 9:6; Psalm 8:3-6, 32:1-5, 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Romans 1:19-32, 3:9-18, 3:23, 5:6, 5:12, 5:19, 6:6, 7:14-25, 8:14-25, 8:29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31, 15:19, 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22, 3:9-11

a. SANCTITY OF LIFE: We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the elderly, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:27, 2:7; Psalm 127:3-4, 139; Jeremiah 1:5

b. GENDER: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the joy, grace and purposes for the image of God within that person.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6

2.10 SALVATION: We believe salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. No ordinance, ritual, work, or any other activity on the part of man is required in order to be saved. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight in order that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ.

Scripture References: Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17, 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21, 4:17, 16:21-26, 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69, 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 1:29, 3:3-21, 3:36, 5:24, 6:37-44; 10:25-30, 14:6, 15:1-16, 17:17; Acts 2:21, 4:12, 15:11, 16:30-31, 17:30-31, 20:32; Romans 1:16-18, 2:4, 3:23-25, 8:1-18; 8:29-39, 9:1-23; 10:8-10, 10:13, 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 1:30, 6:19-20, 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:16, 2:20, 3:8, 3:13, 5:22-25, 6:15; Ephesians 1:4-5, 2:8-22, 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 2:11-14, 3:3-7; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20, 21:1-22:5

2.11 RIGHTS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST: We believe that in addition to all the promises by God in Scripture that we possess in Christ, there are four key rights given to us by the saving work of Jesus. *Adoption*: the act of God through Jesus whereby He makes us part of His family, complete with all the rights of the family and people of God. *Justification*: the legal act of God in which He, by grace alone, grants us forgiveness of sin and imputes His righteousness, as earned by Christ, to us for all eternity. *Sanctification*: the right and process in which God, by

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Christ and through the Holy Spirit, works in our daily lives to make us more and more like Christ and free from sin. Finally, *Glorification*: the final right and act of redemption in which, upon our death or Christ's return, we will be given a perfect resurrection body completely free of sin and fully capable of enjoying all the pleasures of God throughout eternity. This resurrection body is like the resurrected body that Jesus has, and thus, Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee of all these rights.

Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 1:20, Romans 8:28-31, John 1:12, Ephesians 2:2; 5:6, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 3:6; 3:28; 5:1, Galatians 2:16, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Acts 20:32, Romans 6:11-14, 1 Corinthians 15:12-58, Philippians 3:20

2.12 THE CHURCH: We believe the church is God's primary instrument through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes in the earth. We believe that God has called the church to preach the gospel to and make disciples of all nations, and especially to remember the poor and to minister to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. We also affirm the priesthood of all believers and the call of every Christian being joined with and actively involved in a local community of the saints. The church can be denoted in two ways: universal and local. The universal church is comprised of all genuine believers in Christ everywhere at all times. The local church a localized community of believers organized under an agreed upon government and specific creed or practice of worship. A person becomes a part of Jesus' universal church upon their repentance and faith confession in Christ. A person becomes part of the local church community upon the completion of whatever standards the local church deems appropriate to participate in their community of worship. We firmly believe that one of the chief analogies of the local church is that of a spiritual family; God is our father, Jesus the redeeming, holy and perfect and eternal first born. Therefore, we highly value the idea that a church is to emulate this familial relationship of God.

Scripture References: Isaiah 58:6-12, 61:1; Matthew 16:15-19, 18:5-20, 28:18-20; Luke 4:18; 21:1-4; John 17:11, 17:20-23; Acts 2:17-18, 2:41-42, 2:47, 5:11-14; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 3:16, 5:4-5, 7:17, 9:13-14, 12:1-31; Galatians 2:10; Ephesians 1:12, 1:22-23, 2:14-15, 2:19-22, 3:8-11, 3:14-21, 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

2.13 WORSHIP: We believe that chief purpose of mankind and Christ's church is to enjoy God by worshipping and glorifying Him now and forever. Therefore, worshipping, honoring and loving God is the primary purpose for which we were created. Worship is our highest priority and is an expression of our entire being - heart, soul, mind and strength. Worship is primarily a matter of lifestyle so that our love and faith can be demonstrated in our actions. Worship is also a matter of creed and teaching so that our doctrine can be pure and faithful to the teachings of the Bible. Worship is also a matter of musical and artistic expression demonstrated, by Biblical example, through the singing of Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in corporate gatherings and participating in Holy Communion. Finally, worship is also a matter of service as we seek to serve our community, nation and world and lovingly make disciples of the nations.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:3-6; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 Chronicles 16:23-31; Nehemiah 9:5-6; Psalm 59:16, 66:4, 86:9-10, 100, 150; Matthew 5:13-16, 22:36-38, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 10:26-27, John 4:21-24, 22:14-20, Acts 2:42, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 5:18-20; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5, Titus 2:1; Hebrews 12:28-29; Revelation 4:11

2.14 CHRISTIAN LIVING: We believe a person who experiences salvation is united with Christ in His death and resurrection, having put sin behind him/her and being free from its power. At

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the moment of salvation, the believer is justified and adopted into God's family, and the process of sanctification begins. Upon trusting Jesus as God and savior, the believer's life begins to change as God works in them and as they continue to submit to them. The Christian life is marked by obedience to the Lord and a desire to live life in accordance to Biblical mandate and increasingly demonstrate good works according to the gifts, talents, and abilities the Lord has provided. The believer in Christ uses the Scriptures for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness in order to be adequate and equipped for every good work. The believer must consistently read the Bible, as this is God's primary means of speaking to the believer and leading them into truth and life change. The believer must seek instruction and accept correction, acknowledging the benefit of both. The believer should grow in his knowledge of the Bible, application of Biblical truth to his life, ability to instruct others concerning the Bible, and correction of others according to the Bible as explained in Matthew 18:15-17. The attitude of the believer when instructing and correcting fellow believers must always be one of love and humility, and never one of control or domination. The goal when correcting the sin of fellow believers is always to restore them to Biblical living and healthy relationships with others in the Church. Regarding correction in cases of unrepentant sin by another, and in accordance to Matthew 18:17, the believer is expected to follow up with one or two witnesses and bring the other's unrepentant sin to the Church so that the rest will be fearful of sinning, while reaffirming love for the fellow Christian or permitting sorrow to the point of repentance. Whenever possible, conflicts between believers should be resolved within the Church and according to Biblical guidance, as lawsuits in secular courts are dishonoring to Christ and the Church and a defeat for the believers. The believer should always be quick to forgive completely — just as Jesus has forgiven the believer. Every offense should be dealt with so that bitterness has no opportunity to spring up and cause trouble. The believer must always seek to protect the integrity of the Church and its leadership and the honor of Christ and His Gospel. In some circumstances when an individual is claiming to be a follower of Christ, but is not demonstrating a lifestyle consistent with Biblical mandates, and after all attempts to restore this person to a right standing with Christ, fellow believers and the church as outlined above, it may become necessary to rescind their membership to the local church as a demonstration that their lifestyle is inconsistent with Biblical mandates. The purpose of this is never to shun, embarrass or harass an individual, but rather demonstrate the necessity that one's life be consistent with the grace and expectations of Christ. If the individual demonstrates a Biblical and Godly repentance for their actions they are to be happily restored and received back into the local church community of believers.

Scripture References: Galatians 5:22-23, Leviticus 19:17, Deuteronomy 8:5, Job 5:17, Psalm 1:2; 105:14; 118:18; 141:5, Proverbs 3:11-12; 6:23; 9:7-8; 10:17; 12:1; 13:1; 13:18; 13:24; 15:5,10,12,31-32; 17:10; 19:18,20,25,27; 21:11; 22:15; 23:12-13; 25:12; Isaiah 1:17; Matthew 4:4, 5:1-7:29, 18:15-17, 18:21-35, 28:19-20; Luke 17:3-4; John 8:31-32, 14:15, 14:21, 17:17; Acts 5:11, 9:31, 20:32; Romans 2:1-11, 6:4-14, 6:17-19, 8:1-17, 12:1-13:14, 14:1-23, 15:5, 15:14, 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 4:21-5:13, 6:1-8, 6:11, 6:13, 6:18-20, 9:27, 11:32, 12:12-26, 13:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11, 3:18, 5:11, 6:14-18, 7:1, 7:8-11, 10:5; Galatians 4:5, 4:16, 5:16-24, 6:1-2; Ephesians 1:5, 4:1-6:20; Philippians 1:9-10, 2:12-13, 3:9-14, 4:4-9; Colossians 1:10, 1:28, 2:5, 3:5-4:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-12, 5:11-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:5, 1:19, 3:1-13, 4:1-8, 5:17-22; 2 Timothy 1:7, 2:15, 2:20-21, 3:16-17, 4:2; Titus 1:7-9, 1:13, 2:15, 3:10-11; Hebrews 3:13, 5:11-14, 10:24-25, 12:1-2, 12:4-11, 12:14-15, 13:20-21; James 1:2-27, 2:14-26, 5:19; 1 Peter 1:2, 1:13-25, 2:2, 2:11-5:11; 2 Peter 1:3-11, 1 John 1:3-8, 2:15-17, 3:3-10, 4:7-13, 4:19-21, 5:1-5, 5:18; 2 John 1:7-11; Revelation 3:19

a. **MARRIAGE:** We believe the Scriptures teach that the marriage covenant shall be reserved only for one naturally born man with one naturally born woman. God, in Genesis 2, both orchestrated this union between man and woman and gave His divine blessing upon the

unity of a man and a woman, gave the man and the woman the ability to fulfill His charge to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and ordained the pattern for human life that a man and a woman would join in this marriage covenant and cleave to each other as one flesh. Jesus, himself, affirms this union and definition of marriage in Matthew 12:4-6. No other relationship can ever be the holy unity between one man and one woman as established by the Creator, which the Apostle Paul frequently compared to the holy unity of Christ and the Church, and man has no authority to alter the divine order of the marriage covenant between one man and one woman, or to separate what God has joined together.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24, Matthew 19:1-12; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:1-40; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19

b. SEXUALITY: We believe the Scriptures limit the expression of human sexuality to the marital relationship of one naturally born man with one naturally born woman, which is the only legitimate and acceptable sexual relationship.

Scripture References: Genesis 2:24; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Proverbs 5:3-5, 5:8-13, 7:21-27; Matthew 5:27, 19:18; Luke 18:20; Romans 1:26-27, 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 6:18, 10:8; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; James 2:11; Jude 7

2.15 BAPTISM AND COMMUNION: We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances of the church to be observed until the time of Christ's return. They are not a means of salvation but are symbols and testimonies of God's sanctifying grace and blessing to the faithful in Christ Jesus. Baptism is a public confession of faith in and union with Jesus Christ, and is practiced by immersion in water for those who believe.

Scripture References: Matthew 26:26-29, 28:19; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34; 1 Peter 3:21

2.16 ANGELS, SATAN, AND DEMONS: We believe that God originally created angels as morally pure beings to worship Him. Satan, originally created as a great and good angel, rebelled against God, taking a portion of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish a counter-kingdom of darkness and evil on earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will, at the end of the age, be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels.

Scripture References: Matthew 12:25-29, 41; John 12:31, 16:11; Ephesians 6:10-20; Colossians 2:15; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-9, 20:10

2.17 ETERNITY AND JUDGMENT: We believe that when the Christian dies he/she will enjoy eternity in the presence of God in heaven. When the non-Christian dies, because of sin, they will spend an eternity in hell separated from the presence of God.

Scripture References: Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; John 5:25-29; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:19-26, 3:20-21; Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-22:15

2.18 CHRIST'S RETURN: We believe at the end of the age Jesus Christ will return to the earth personally and visibly.

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 50-58; Philippians 3:20-21; Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; Revelation 19:1-21

2.19 FINAL AUTHORITY ON MATTERS OF FAITH AND CONDUCT: This Statement of Faith (2.02-2.18) does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Harvest Community Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Elders is Harvest Community Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.