

**CURRENT CONSTITUTION OF
GOLD COUNTRY BAPTIST CHURCH
SHINGLE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

AS OF OCTOBER 15, 1995

ARTICLE I - NAME:

The name of this church is Gold Country Baptist Church, hereinafter referred to as this church.

ARTICLE II - LOCATION:

The office for the transaction of business of this church shall be located at 3800 North Shingle Rd., Shingle Springs, California.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE:

The purpose for this church is the glorification of God by:

1. The worship of God.
 2. The preaching of the Word of God.
 3. The mutual edification of its members and other believers.
 4. The winning of the unsaved to faith in Jesus Christ on the mission fields at home and abroad.
- Col. 3:17-23; I Cor. 10:31; Psa. 34:1-3; Eph. 5:18-20; John 4:22-24; Col. 1:28;
2 Tim. 3:16; Rom. 10:17; Eph. 4:12-16; Acts 2:42-47; Matt. 5:16; Acts 1:8;
Matt. 28:19-20; I Pet. 3:15.

ARTICLE IV - FORM OF THIS CHURCH:

This church shall be a perpetual non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of California.

ARTICLE V - DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION:

This church is affiliated with the North American Baptist Conference, with its home office at 210 Summit Avenue, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, and shall maintain fellowship with the Northern California Association of the North American Baptist Conference.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1 - Qualifications for Membership:

Any person desiring membership in this church shall fulfill the following requirements:

1. Having received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. Having experienced believer's baptism.
3. Heartily accepting the covenant and doctrinal statement of this church.

Section 2 - Responsibilities and Rights of Membership:

- A. The responsibilities of the members of this church are centered in the person of Jesus Christ. We have been called together to unite in submission to Christ and His teachings and to express His life. In recognition of this purpose, those associating with this body will endeavor, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:
 1. To walk together in Christian love and to maintain the unity of the believers.
 2. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.
 3. To contribute cheerfully and willingly to the support of its ministry.
 4. To not forsake the assembling together with other believers.
 5. To submit to the leadership of this congregation and be subject to its discipline.
 6. To exercise spiritual gifts in Christian service.
- B. Only church members may exercise the right:

1. To serve as officers, teachers, members of committees and/or other positions of responsibility within this church. (Elders may make temporary exceptions to the church membership requirement).
2. To vote on church matters.

Section 3 - Membership Records:

This church shall maintain membership records containing the name and address of each member, date received into membership and date of termination of membership.

Section 4 - Discipline of Members:

See Article IX, Section I.E.8, and Article XI

Section 5 - Termination of Membership:

Church membership shall be terminated when:

- A. Any member unites with another church unless dual membership is approved by the elders.
- B. Any member is voluntarily absent from services or fellowship for one (1) year.
- C. Any member requests in writing that his/her name be removed from the membership roll.
- D. A member dies.
- E. Disciplinary action taken does not result in restoration.

ARTICLE VII - ORDINANCES:

This church will regularly observe the ordinances of Baptism by Immersion and the Lord's Supper as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; and I Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VIII - GOVERNMENT:

Section 1 - Authority:

The authority of this church is vested in the voting members.

Section 2 - Executive Board:

The administrative government of this church shall be vested in the executive board, consisting of the pastor(s), the elders, deacons, clerk, treasurer, and other officers as approved by the church. The executive board shall choose its own chairman from the elders, hold regular meetings and make appointments to fill unexpired terms of office with less than one year. Special meetings can be called by the pastor, the elders and /or the chairman of the executive board. The executive board shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining the basic policies, practices and operation of this church.

A quorum for regular executive board meetings shall require 2/3 of the board with 1/3 of the elected elders present. A quorum for special meetings shall require 1/2 of the board with 1/3 of the elected elders present.

All decisions must be approved by 2/3 majority vote. In the case of a vote other than unanimous, all members will support in attitude and action the decision of the majority as an expression of Christian love, mutual support, and submission to fellow members of the body of Christ, in deference to one another "...so that there should be no division in the body..." (I Corinthians 12:12-15; Ephesians 4:1-16).

Section 3 - Corporate Officers:

- A. President: The chairman of the executive board shall be the president of the corporation and moderator of the congregational business meetings.

- B. Vice President: A pastor shall be selected by the executive board to serve as vice president of the corporation and vice moderator of the congregational business meetings.
- C. Secretary: The church clerk shall be the secretary of the corporation.

Section 4 - Congregational Business Meetings:

- A. Annual Business Meetings: The annual business meeting shall be held during the last quarter of the year.
- B. Special Business Meetings: Special business meetings can be called by the pastor, the chairman of the executive board, and/or the elders.
- C. Time of Elections: Officers shall be elected at the annual business meeting for terms specified in Article IX.
- D. The Election of Officers: The nominating committee will post a sample ballot prior to the annual church business meeting.. (See Article XIII Section 2).
- E. Voting Rights: Active members who are 18 years of age or older may vote.
- F. Quorum: A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of not less than 10% of the active membership. A quorum of 20% of the active membership shall be necessary for the purchase or sale of church real property, the call of a pastor, or amendments to the constitution.
- G. Making Decisions: All matters in regular and special business meetings shall be decided by a simple majority except for the purchase or sale of church real property, the call of a pastor, licensing, ordaining, or amendments to the constitution which will require a 3/4 majority vote. In the case of a vote other than unanimous, all members will support in attitude and action the decision of the majority as an expression of Christian love, mutual support, submission to fellow members of the body of Christ in deference to one another, "so that there should be no division in the body" (I. Corinthians 12:12-15; Ephesians 4:1-16).

Section 5 - Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year of this church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE IX - OFFICERS:

Section 1 - Elders:

- A. Qualifications: Elders are to be the spiritual leaders and overseers of the congregation (Acts 20:17, 28; I Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7,17; I Peter 5:1-4). They shall be godly men who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, and show evidence of developing the divine qualifications listed in the Scriptures (I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4), and shall have been active in the ministry of this church.
- B. Number: The number of non-pastoral elders will be based on church membership and shall consist of 3 for the first 100 church members, 2 more for the next 50 members and one more for each additional 50 members up to a maximum of 12 Elders.
- C. Choosing of Elders: Those chosen shall:
 1. Desire the office (I Timothy 3:1).
 2. Have unanimous approval of the elders, who must evaluate their qualifications.
 3. Be approved by this church.
- D. Term: The term of service for the office of elder will be (3) years, with approximately 1/3 to be chosen each year.
- E. Duties of Elders:
 1. The elders shall be the spiritual leaders who diligently study the Scriptures to discern the mind of God. As overseers of the congregation they shall concern themselves with doctrine, policies, practices and programs of this

church (I Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 20:17,28; Hebrews 13:7,17; I Peter 5:1-3).

2. Because unity and harmony must be modeled by the spiritual leadership, the elders are to be unanimous in all decisions (I Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27; 2:2; Ephesians 4:3-6; Romans 15:5-6).
 3. They may select a chairman.
 4. They will consider all applications for church membership.
 5. They will regularly participate with and give counsel to the pastor(s) in their ministerial responsibilities.
 6. They will make recommendations to the executive board for appointment to fill unexpired terms of office.
 7. They will determine the need for additional ministerial staff and make recommendations to the executive board.
 8. They will consider all matters of church discipline according to Scriptural guidelines (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:12-13; Galatians 6:1). All discipline is for the restoration of the believer.
- F. Pastor(s): The pastor(s) shall be elder(s).

Section 2 - Deacons:

- A. Qualifications: Deacons shall:
 1. Show evidence of developing the divine qualifications as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.
 2. Be active church members.
 3. Have concern for the Lord's people and the Lord's work.
- B. Duties: (Acts 6:1-6) Deacons shall:
 1. Be members of the executive board.
 2. Minister to the needs of the church with oversight of the elders.
- C. Number: The number of deacons will be determined by the pastor(s) and elders according to the needs and activities of the church.
- D. Term of Service: The term of service will be 3 years.

Section 3 - Deaconesses:

- A. Qualifications: Deaconesses shall:
 1. Show evidence of developing the divine qualifications as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.
 2. Be active church members.
 3. Have concern for the Lord's people and the Lord's work.
- B. Duties: (Acts 6:1-6) Deaconesses shall:
 1. Select their own chairman annually.
 2. Minister to the needs of the church with oversight of the elders.
- C. Number: The number of deaconesses will be determined by the pastor(s) and elders according to the needs and activities of the church.
- D. Term of Service: The term of service will be 2 years.

Section 4 - Church Clerk:

- A. Election and Term: The clerk shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of one (1) year.
- B. Duties: The clerk shall keep an accurate and permanent record of all church business meetings, executive board meetings and attend to other business as authorized by the executive board. Copies of the minutes of all meetings are to be provided for the executive board and given to any member of the congregation who may request them.

Section 5 - Treasurer:

- A. Election and Term: The treasurer shall be elected at the annual business meeting for a term of one (1) year.
- B. Duties: The treasurer shall receive and keep in designated depositories all monies of the church, keep appropriate records of all transactions, submit a monthly report to the executive board and an annual report at the annual business meeting. The treasurer shall make the financial records available when requested by the executive board. All financial records are the property of Gold Country Baptist Church.

ARTICLE X - CHURCH STAFF (SALARIED PERSONNEL):

Section 1 - Pastor(s)

- A. Qualifications: A pastor shall be a man of true Christian experience and established character, who has been called of God to minister as a pastor, whose convictions are consistent with those that undergird the North American Baptist Conference and who subscribes to the doctrinal statement and constitution of this church. He shall become a member of this church and must show evidence of developing the specific divine qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7.
- B. Duties: The primary purpose of the pastor as the undershepherd of Christ's local church is to use his gifts and abilities to prepare God's people for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13; I Peter 5:1-3). He shall have freedom to provide counsel to other boards, committees and auxiliary organizations of the church (see Article IX Section 1).
- C. Selection and Call: The ministerial staff search committee shall select a candidate (see Article XII). Upon approval by the elders, he shall be recommended to the congregation (see Article VIII Section 4).
- D. Term of Service: The pastor shall be called for an unspecified term.
- E. Resignation: When a pastor resigns, thirty days notice shall be given in writing to the congregation, unless waived by the executive board.
- F. Termination: If the elected elders unanimously discern that the services of a pastor should be terminated, they shall make their recommendation to the executive board.

Section 2 - Other Staff :

- A. Establishing a Ministerial Staff Position: If it is discerned by the pastor(s) and the elders that additional ministerial staff is needed to fulfill the purpose of this church, they shall define the qualifications and duties of the position and recommend to the executive board that such a position be established. Their recommendation must then be presented to the church at an official business meeting for a vote.
- B. Establishing a Non-Ministerial Staff Position: If it is discerned by the executive board that a full time or part time church worker is needed to fulfill the purpose of this church, they shall define the qualifications and duties and establish the position.

ARTICLE XI - GRIEVANCES AGAINST A CHURCH MEMBER:

If a member of this church has a grievance against another member, or a church officer or leader, it shall be handled in accordance with Matthew 5: 23-25, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1, and I Timothy 5:19-21. The pastors and elders shall be available to facilitate the process.

ARTICLE XII - THE MINISTERIAL STAFF SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Section 1 - Composition:

The committee shall be appointed by the executive board and consist of three elders and two other members selected from the congregation. The committee shall select its own secretary and an elder as chairman.

Section 2 - Duties:

The committee shall conduct the search for, and evaluate the qualifications of ministerial staff candidates. Recommendations shall be in accordance with Article X.

ARTICLE XIII - NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Section 1 - Composition:

The executive board shall establish a nominating committee at least three (3) months prior to the annual business meeting. It shall consist of at least two (2) elders, two (2) other members of the executive board, and two (2) non-executive board members. An elder shall be appointed as chairman.

Section 2. - Duties:

The nominating committee shall seek out qualified candidates who are willing to have their names placed in nomination for elected positions to be filled at the annual church business meeting. The notice of all nominees shall be posted before the congregation at least two (2) Sundays prior to the day of the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE XIV - AUDIT:

The financial records shall be audited at such times as deemed necessary by the executive board. The auditor shall prepare and sign a statement of its findings and present it to the executive board.

ARTICLE XV - FINANCES:

This church will follow the principles of Scripture in all areas of finances. This is the Lord's work, and shall be supported by the Lord's people who, through faith (Hebrews 11; Philippians 4:19) and prayer (Luke 11:9-10; James 4:3) appropriate His resources and are willing to give to the ministry of this church. Full expression of all needs, with all necessary explanations, shall be made to the church (2 Corinthians 4:1-2). As God has established this work, we will look to Him to maintain it. Freewill offerings and gifts shall be used to carry on this ministry (2 Corinthians 9:7). The New Testament principles of stewardship (Luke 16:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:2) shall be used as our basis of Christian giving (2 Corinthians 8 & 9; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38).

ARTICLE XVI - LICENSING AND ORDINATION:

Section 1 - Licensing:

Any member or friend of the church who, in the judgment of the Elders, gives evidence by his Christian life, zeal, and aptness to teach, that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, may be given a license to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ by a 3/4 vote of a quorum at a congregational business meeting. The license shall be for one year and may be considered for renewal upon request.

Section 2.- Ordination:

If the elders determine that an individual possesses the qualifications (see Article X) for ordination, they shall call a council of ministers and lay members to examine the candidate. After receiving a favorable report from the council the church, upon a 3/4 affirmative vote of a quorum at a congregational business meeting, shall conduct an ordination service.

ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENTS:

The constitution may be amended by 3/4 vote of a quorum at any regular or special congregational business meeting. The proposed amendment(s) shall be presented to the congregation by the executive board on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. An exact copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be presented to and posted before the congregation by the executive board on at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the day of the meeting.

ARTICLE XVIII - DISSOLUTION:

This corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain to the members thereof, and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. Therefore, if this corporation is dissolved, all property shall be divided equally between the North American Baptist Conference and the Northern California Association of the North American Baptist Conference. If these organizations are no longer in existence at the time of dissolution, all assets shall be given to an organization of similar purpose which has a tax exempt status at such time.

ARTICLE XIX - ADOPTION:

This Constitution was adopted on the 22nd day of October, 1980.

This Constitution was amended on the ___ day of October, 1995.

This Constitution was originally adopted on the 22nd day of October, 1980 and this revision was approved on the 15th day of October, 1995.