

Constitution of Highland Christian Fellowship

The following constitution is set forth to establish the orderly manner in which this local body will conduct itself.

Article 1 – Name

This body shall be known as Highland Christian Fellowship of Boone, NC.

Article 2 – Purpose and Vision

Our purpose as a local body is to

1. Love God.
2. Love people.
3. Make disciples.

Our vision is to make disciples of all nations by leading people to faith in Jesus Christ and teaching them to walk with him in loving obedience to his commandments; to accomplish this

- by strengthening families in godly marriages and discipleship of children,
- by building a healthy body active in individual and corporate prayer and ministry,
- by serving the poor, sick, imprisoned, and unprotected,
- by establishing new, reproducing church fellowships, and
- by participating in and supporting the worldwide effort to make disciples of all nations.

Article 3 – Statement of Faith

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. Our statement of faith is a modified version of The Baptist Faith and Message (2000), titled “Highland Christian Fellowship Statement of Faith.”

Article 4 – Relationships and Government

We are governed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the body, the church, as He leads us through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. We will follow the leadership of Christ as discerned by the consensus of those believers in covenant with this fellowship. This church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but will be led by a plurality of elders appointed by this fellowship. Elders will be qualified according to 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 and will shepherd and teach the church as these responsibilities are laid out in the Bible.

Article 5 – Covenant

The following covenant will be read in the assembly and signed annually by each believer desiring to make and maintain these commitments to one another:

As baptized believers in the atoning work of Jesus Christ, indwelled with the Holy Spirit of God, and saved through the grace of the Father, we do now, in the presence of God, and this

assembly, enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ. As we are transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to pursuing a life of obedience to the following biblical principles:

- Live for Jesus Christ and take His commandments and His commission seriously; to offer our time, energy, money, and prayers to participate in and support local and global efforts to make disciples of all nations (Mk 12:30-1; 16:15; Lk 24:47; Mt 28:19; Acts 1:8).
- Be family; to be committed to each other; to love, accept, and forgive each other. Help one another grow toward Christian maturity by bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6:2), encouraging one another (1 Th 4:18; Heb 10:25), exhorting one another (Heb 3:13), praying for one another, confessing our sins to one another (Jm 5:16), speaking the truth in love to one another (Eph 4:15), admonishing one another (Col 3:16), building up one another (1 Th 5:11), teaching one another (Col 3:16), comforting one another (1 Cor 13:11), submitting to one another (Eph 5:21), serving one another (Mt 20:27-8), patiently bearing one another (Eph 4:2), regarding one another as more important than ourselves (Rom 12:10), caring for one another (1 Pt 4:10), exercising our spiritual gifts to serve one another (1 Pt 4:10), being kind and tenderhearted to one another (Eph 4:32), forgiving one another (Eph 4:32), and loving one another (Jn 13:34-5). Inviting one another to pray for us, teach us, correct us, or rebuke us, if necessary, in a spirit of gentleness and humility, should we stray from our Lord's commands, because the thing we desire most in life is to glorify God and serve Christ. We voluntarily submit ourselves to one another and to the discipline of the church.
- Love, honor, and esteem the pastors/elders and to pray for them. (Gal 6:6; 1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:17)
- Support the church in prayer, talents, giving and time as the Lord enables. (Acts 2:44-5; 4:34-5; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 9:6-7; Gal 6:6; Jm 5:16; 1 Pt 4:10)
- Maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3) while respecting and sharpening one another in areas of disagreement; preserving purity of biblical doctrine in primary matters of importance (1 Cor 15:3-5; Rom 16:17; 1 Tim 6:3-5) and exercising generous patience, love, and mutual edification in matters of secondary importance and personal conviction (Rom 14; 1 Cor 8, 10:23-33).
- Unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word, as soon as possible if we depart from this place.

Article 6 – Congregational Decision Making Procedure

The following procedure should be understood in light of the description of government in Article 4 and the type of community described in the covenant of article 5.

- Decisions that affect the body will be made by those in covenant with the believers of Highland Christian Fellowship.
- Highland Christian Fellowship will strive to make decisions by consensus.
- If there is a general consensus on a subject, but one or two disagree, then those in disagreement will have an opportunity to present their concerns to the group.
- If there is still a general consensus and it is not a matter of fellowship, those in disagreement should submit to the unity of the group.

- If there is not a general consensus on a decision to be made and that decision cannot be put off, then the body should attempt to compromise or suggest a temporary solution until further progress can be made.