



# Constitution & Bylaws

## Flack Memorial Church, Inc.

1300 Tracy, Excelsior Springs, Missouri

Established 1881

Date of Incorporation January 23, 1998

Constitution and Bylaws Adopted March 17, 1991

Revisions January 8, 1995

September 21, 2003

January 18, 2009

February 1, 2026

# Flack Memorial Church Constitution

## Article I – Name

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This body shall be known as the **Flack Memorial Church** located at 1300 Tracy, Excelsior Springs, Missouri 64024.

## Article II – Purpose

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The purpose of this church shall be to obey all that God has commanded in his Word, to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to equip Christ followers to do the work of ministry. *Mt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11-16*

## Article III – Statement of Faith

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We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ in the conception of His body by the Holy Spirit and His birth by the virgin Mary, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. *Deut. 6:4; Isa. 48:12; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 15:26; Lk. 1:27, 31, 25; Jn. 1:1*

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone for those who have repented and accepted Christ by faith, that are then declared blameless. In Christ, the believer's nature is transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit, giving the believer the desire to obey His Word. *Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:5-6*

We believe that the Holy Spirit resides in believers, guiding them, empowering and gifting them for service, and producing in their lives the character of Christ. *Acts 11:18; 2 Cor. 7:11; Ps. 119:6, 128*

We believe that sanctification is the lifelong process, begun by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, in which the believer is restored to God's intended purpose. *Lk. 19:8; 1 Tim. 1:13, 15*

We believe at the return of Christ; the bodies of the redeemed dead will be raised and living believers will be changed to have immortal bodies like Christ's. *1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:17*

We believe that man was created by God and not by any accidental or spontaneous process. He was created in the image and likeness of God. *Gen. 1:27; 2:7*

We believe the Biblical account of the fall of man. Because of Adam's fall, death passed to all men and sin entered into the world. Each person stands guilty before God and is forever condemned unless he is born again. *Gen. 2:16, 17, 3:12-13; 2 Cor. 11:3*

We believe the church of Christ consists of all Spirit-regenerated believers. We believe that water baptism is to be administered to believers only: those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal savior. *Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:10, 22-23*

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We practice baptism by immersion in water and grant permission to our Pastors to use other means when requested by the candidates. The Lord's Supper shall be observed by the church. The Lord's table is open to all believers who are in the right relationship with God, regardless of denomination. *Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 11:23-26*

We believe that marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman as ordained in creation by the Creator, set forth in the Word of God. We teach that apart from this there is no other "marriage" recognized by God, His Word, or His Church (see Addendum: The Sanctity of Marriage). *Gen. 1:26, 2:18, 24, 28; Mt. 19:5-6; Heb. 13:4; Lev 18:1-30; 1 Cor. 5:1*

## Article IV – Authority

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We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only **infallible**, authoritative Word of God. *2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-20; Eph. 2:20*

## Article V – Affiliation

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We are affiliated with the Heartland Association of Churches and affirm:

1. The Oneness of the Church of Christ. *1 Cor. 12:12; Ps. 133:1; Rom. 12:5; John 17:20, 21*
2. Christ the Only Head. *Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18*
3. The Bible the Only Rule of Faith and Practice. *2 Tim. 3:14-17; Rom. 15:4; Ps. 119:97-104*
4. Good Fruits the Only Condition of Fellowship. *Mt. 7:16; James 3:17*
5. Each Local Church Governs Itself. *Acts 14:23, 15:6*

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## Section 1: Leadership of the Local Church:

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In keeping with the New Testament model, the local church is led by the Elders, one of whom is the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor is also the leader of the Elders.

### a. Responsibilities of Elders

The elders shall be responsible for the oversight of the ministries and the equipping of the members of the church.

### b. Qualifications of Elders

The qualifications of elders are outlined in *1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9*.

### c. Selection of Elders

The Elders are responsible for the selection of qualified Elders who are affirmed by the local church.

### d. Selection of the Lead Pastor

The Elders are responsible for the selection of the Lead Pastor who is affirmed by the local church.

### e. Staff

Pastoral and administrative staff are accountable to the Lead Pastor. Employment is at will is initiated by the Lead Pastor and may be terminated at any time, for any or no reason, by the Lead Pastor.

### f. Vacancy

In the absence of a Lead Pastor, the Elders shall assume his responsibilities or shall appoint someone to assume his responsibilities temporarily.

### g. Officers of the Corporation

To comply with the State Laws of Missouri and maintain good standing as a non-profit organization, the Elders shall annually choose from among themselves officers for the corporation.

## Section 2: The Work of the Local Church

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The ministries of the local church are overseen by the Elders and carried out by each member. Ministries are dependent on the giftedness of the Holy Spirit and well-developed Christ-like character. Our ministries extend to those in the community as well as within the Church.

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## Section 3: Membership

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- a. Defined: All those who have received Christ as their personal Savior may apply for membership in the Church. We recognize that membership is both a privilege and a responsibility for individuals and the whole local household of faith.
- b. Members will be accepted into the church fellowship after being approved by the Elders upon recommendation of the Pastor. Participation in a membership class or orientation session(s) may be required. Voting members are those who are active at regular worship services and at least 16 years of age.
- c. Members who have moved or who desire to affiliate with another church may have their new church request a letter of transfer which will be sent upon approval of the Elders.
- d. Any member unheard of either by presence or letter for a period of six months will be considered an inactive member. The Elders and/or Pastor will contact each inactive member at least twice during the following six months in an effort to restore them into fellowship.
- e. Inactive members may be restored to active membership by a vote of the Elders upon recommendation of the Pastor.
- f. The membership roll will be revised each January and July by the Elders and Pastor. Only those whose names are on the active roll will be entitled to vote in church membership meetings or hold office. The revised membership list will be approved by the Elders.
- g. Members who fall away spiritually and conduct themselves immorally (see Addendum: Christian Life and Spiritual Conduct) will be confronted in love that is full of grace and mercy, admonished by the Pastor and Elders, for the purpose of restoring such a one into fellowship with God. If this does not result in restoration, they will be removed from the church roll and be notified by mail of this action.

## Section 4: Church Meetings

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The Elders of the church shall be responsible for meetings to conduct the business of the church. A two-week notice shall be given for these meetings. The notice shall include the subject, date, time, and place. It will be given in such a manner that all active members will have advance knowledge of the meetings.

- a. Quorum  
The quorum consists of those members who attend the business meeting, provided it has been properly called.
- b. To Enact Decisions  
To enact decisions requiring a vote, they must be approved by sixty percent of the registered members of the church present at the meeting.

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## Section 5: Church Finances

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### a. Fiscal-Year

The church fiscal year begins on January 1, and ends on December 31.

### b. Budget

An annual budget shall be prepared under the oversight of the Elders and presented to the church.

### c. Accounting Procedures

All contributions shall be processed with a proper accounting procedure under the oversight of the Church Treasurer. A report of a member's contributions will be provided annually to that member in compliance with IRS requirements.

## Section 6: Amendments

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### a. Change Procedure

Changes in the constitution and bylaws may be ratified at any church meeting.

### b. Notification

Changes in the constitution and bylaws must be presented to the membership 60 days prior to the meeting. No fewer than 30 days prior to the meeting, an opportunity for questions and answers will be provided.

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## Addendum: Christian Life and Spiritual Conduct

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### a. Personal Ethic

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. *1 Cor. 6:12*

All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives. *Prov. 16:2*

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction. *1 Thess. 5:12*

### b. Obedience to Law

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. *Rom. 13:1-2*

Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. *Rom. 13:5-8*

Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. *Rom. 13:11*

### c. Family; Household.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. *Ex. 20:12*

But if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God? *1 Tim. 3:5*

Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. *1 Tim. 3:11*

Namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain. *Titus 1:6-7*

Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children. *Titus 2:2-4*

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Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. *Eph. 5:22-6:4*

### d. Self-Control.

...For by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. *2 Peter 2:19b*

Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME." *Rom. 15:2-3*

### e. Adultery, Immorality, Pedophilia.

You shall not commit adultery. *Ex. 20:14*

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, *2 Peter 3:14*

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals. *1 Cor. 6:9*

But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. *1 Cor. 5:11*

### f. Drunkenness; Drugs.

envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. *Gal. 5:21*

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Nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. *1 Cor. 6:10*

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. *Eph. 5:18*

For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe one with rags. *Prov. 23:21*

### **g. Smoking.**

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. *1 Cor. 3:16-17*

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? *1 Cor. 6:19*

### **h. Homosexuality.**

'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.' *Lev. 18:22*

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips. *Rom. 1:26-29*

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. *1 Cor. 6:9-10*

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## Addendum: Sanctity of Marriage

### I. Introduction.

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We believe marriage is a gift from God for the blessing of men, women and children and for the good of society. However, given the present practice of cohabitation outside of marriage, the prevalence of same-sex unions and the disintegration of marriages in Western culture, we of the Flack Memorial Church offer the following Biblical principles relative to the sanctity of the institution of marriage. In this position paper we seek to think about marriage under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and God's written Word, the Bible (*2 Tim. 3:16*). We believe that God has revealed to all people in all cultures at all times a sense of morality in the ordering of human relationships. Therefore, there is a moral imperative which governs all human relationships, including marriage.

### II. Marriage as a Creation Ordinance.

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When God created Adam and Eve, He ordained marriage as the fundamental institution of society (*Gen. 1:27-28*). In marriage, a man and woman leave their families of origin and become united as "one flesh" in a new family unit (*Gen. 2:24*). The judgment of Scripture is that marriage is to be honored by all (*Heb. 13:4*).

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman and between the participants and God (*Mal. 2:14-16*). It is therefore more than a temporary agreement of convenience, a contract or a well-intentioned promise. As a binding relationship established by promises, the marriage covenant is solemnly sealed by a ceremony witnessed by family and friends and regulated by the state. When a believer marries, it is God's will that he or she should be united only with another believer (*2 Cor. 6:14*). Because God has created and instituted marriage as a lifelong covenant (*Mt. 22:23-30*) and because the marriage covenant is to reflect the strength of God's covenant love for His people (*Hosea 3:1*), any variation from His ordained decree is harmful to the participants and in violation of God's mandates for all people (*Mark 10:11-12*).

God ordained marriage for the following ends:

*The Glory of God:* Marriage exists first and foremost to glorify God. Human beings individually are image bearers of God, but man and woman in marriage also display His glory (*Gen. 1:26-28*). Marriage as a creation ordinance glorifies God as creator. Beyond that, however, marriage is to glorify God as redeemer, for Christian marriage is the consummate illustration of the redeeming grace of God in Christ (*Eph. 5:22-33*). To the degree that Christians live out this pattern of God's love through His grace in Christ (*Eph. 5:1-2*), they witness to one another, their children, the church and the world the gospel of God's redeeming love in Christ. However, God's glory and our good are complementary. For this reason, marriage exists also for our good in the following ways.

*Companionship:* Genesis 2:18a teaches that "it is not good for the man to be alone." Therefore, from the beginning God called men and women to promote mutual care and friendship within their marriage relationship.

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*Mutual Assistance:* Genesis 2:18b adds “I will make a helper suitable for him,” reminding us that we are to be a help to one another in the marriage relationship. Also, each husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (*Eph. 5:25*).

*The Bearing, Nurturing & Training of Children:* Genesis 1:28 and Ephesians 6:4 teach that the marriage relationship is also for procreation and moral teaching of children (*Deut. 6:4-7*).

*Promoting the Stability of Society:* When marriage, the foundational human relationship, is degraded, the family unit disintegrates and the fabric of any nation unravels (*cf. Gen. 2*).

*Affirming the Proper Context of Human Sexuality:* Hebrews 13:4 clearly teaches that sexual intimacy should be reserved for a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage.

## III. The Biblical View of Singleness.

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The sanctity of marriage does not negate the gift of celibacy (*1 Cor. 7:6*). While marriage is a great blessing, it is not God's will that all should be married. This was certainly the case for the Lord Jesus and probably for Paul.

Singleness in Scripture is also a great blessing and offers unique opportunities for an undivided devotion to the Lord (*1 Cor. 7:1, 35*). Consequently, those whom God has called to be single for His sake should be recognized and honored in the Flack Memorial Church.

## IV. The Biblical View of Marriage.

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Scripture teaches that the one-flesh union of marriage constitutes an intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual unity. “And the two shall become one flesh (*Mt. 19:5-6*).” When the two become one flesh, the God-created individualities of the husband and wife are not lost; rather they complement and enrich each other. Furthermore, the Apostle Paul demonstrates that this “profound mystery” is analogous to the spiritual relationship between Christ and His church. “I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church (*Eph. 5:31-33*).”

From Genesis to Revelation, sexual union in marriage is to be between a man and a woman. Scripture emphatically condemns same-sex unions and sexual intercourse between people of the same sex. in the Old Testament a homosexual relationship was a capital offense, and in the New Testament it is repeatedly condemned (*Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:24-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-11*).

God designed marriage to be a lifelong relationship. Jesus said, “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate (*Mark 10:9*).” The marriage covenant should be kept sacred and unbroken under those conditions stated in the Bible. Given the complexities and challenges inherent in the merging of two lives into one, pastoral counseling or guidance is strongly recommended in the period prior to the marriage ceremony.

God-ordained marriage should remain pure in thought, motive and practice. The seventh commandment prohibits adultery (*Ex. 20:14*). Jesus sets an even higher standard in his statement: “everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in

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his heart (*Mt. 5:27-28*).” Furthermore, sexual relations outside of marriage are forbidden by Scripture (*1 Cor. 6:16-20; 1 Thess. 4:3-4*). The Apostle Paul specifically commands believers to “abstain from sexual immorality (*1 Thess. 4:3*). In contemporary culture infidelity all too frequently occurs with tragic consequences. Thus, the author of Hebrews solemnly warns that “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (*Heb. 13:4*).” The modern axiom that “everyone is doing it, so it must be okay” is condemned by unequivocal Biblical teaching. Emotional unfaithfulness to one's spouse is equally sinful and hence, destructive to the marriage relationship. In order to strengthen their covenant relationship, couples are encouraged to seek godly and practical ways to enrich their relationship through marriage retreats, couple's seminar or classes and pastoral counsel.

All forms of emotional and physical abuse violate the one-flesh covenantal relationship. We urge abused persons to consider their own safety and that of family members first and to seek help from the church and, as necessary, professional and legal resources, to bring healing to the individuals and to the marriage relationship.

God's Word indicates how husbands and wives should relate to one another in the home. Ephesians 5:21 states that Christians should “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” Mutual submission means that Christian husbands and wives must respect and honor one another, acknowledge one another's gifts, mobilize one another's strengths and build one another up.

Out of reverence for Christ as savior and lord of their marriages, Christian wives are to respect and subject themselves to their husbands as to the Lord. And Christian husbands are to love their wives even “as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her (*Eph. 5:22-26*).” In such a marriage bond in Christ, husbands and wives seek together the Spirit's guidance in family decisions, in the nurturing and training of their children in the Christian faith and in all aspects of the well-being of their family and as a witness to the grace of God in their life together. This relationship between the man and the woman in marriage is informed by the relationship of the three persons of the Trinity, where Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in essence, power and glory, while admitting different functional roles.

## V. Conclusion.

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The Bible teaches that marriage is a covenant, formal and sacred, and is to be held in honor among all people. Marriage is a serious commitment, involving vows taken publicly before the God of truth and covenant.

The familiar text of the wedding liturgy states, “Dearly beloved we are assembled here in the presence of God to join this man and this woman in Holy marriage, which is instituted by God, regulated by His commandments and to be held in honor among all.”

May the words of our Lord Jesus Christ rule in our hearts: “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate (*Mark 10:9*).”

Soli Deo Gloria