

WELLSPRING FELLOWSHIP

Bolivar, Missouri

By-Laws

(Adopted May 16, 1989; Amended September 21, 2014; Amended January 24, 2016)

ARTICLE I

NAME, SEAL, AND OFFICES

Section 1. NAME. The name of this Church is Wellspring Fellowship (also known as Wellspring Baptist Fellowship) duly incorporated in the sovereign State of Missouri.

Section 2. SEAL. The seal of the Corporation shall be circular in form and shall bear on its outer edge the words “Wellspring Fellowship” and in the center the words “Corporate Seal Missouri” shall appear. The church Elders may change the form of the seal or inscription thereon at their pleasure.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The general purpose of this Church is to conduct and maintain a fellowship of Christian believers for the worship and service of Almighty God, to seek and to call those who are lost by extending to them the good news of His salvation, and to make disciples as was the commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III

DOCTRINE

Wellspring Fellowship subscribes to the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000 and everything contained therein.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ADMISSION TO WORSHIP. No one shall be excluded from participation in public worship with this congregation in the Lord's house on the grounds of race, color, sex or class.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.

- A. Membership in this Church shall be attained on action by the church Elders whereby the person will be received into full membership with all of its rights and privileges.
- B. Application for membership may be:
 - 1. on public profession of faith in Jesus Christ,
 - 2. by public re-affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ, or
 - 3. by transfer of membership by church letter of recommendation from another church of like faith and practice.

C. Requirements for baptism and admission to communion at the table of the Lord's Supper:

1. All candidates for membership who have for the first time in good faith made a sincere and honest public profession of faith should be baptized. Following this, they are members of this corporate church body and are entitled to all of its rights and privileges.
2. All members who have, in sincere faith, been previously baptized in another church of like faith which is true to God's Word may be received on re-affirmation of faith.
3. Mode of baptism. Baptism shall be administered by immersion to all believers who have not been baptized.
4. Instruction will be given to the baptismal candidate as to the scriptural symbolic significance of baptism.

D. Admission to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's supper shall be periodically administered to all believers in holy worship during times and in places as determined by the church Elders. Admission to the holy communion of the Lord's table shall not be withheld from a true believer in Jesus Christ although that person may not be a member of this church's corporate body.

E. Transfer of membership. Members who move from this community shall be encouraged to affiliate with another church which is true to

God's Word. The church Elders shall have authority to grant letters of recommendation.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The Elders of the Church shall exercise government and discipline and take the oversight of the spiritual interests of the Church. Elders shall also serve as trustees of the Church. The Elders shall select successor Elders from time to time as they are led by the Holy Spirit. It shall be the practice of the Elders to meet regularly to join in prayer for worship, confession, thanksgiving and intercession.

An Administrative Committee shall be appointed by the Elders to maintain church membership records and keep complete and accurate financial records and reports which shall be made available to the membership of the church at reasonable times and places. Business of the Church including but not limited to administrative decisions about disbursements and building and grounds shall be conducted by the Administrative Committee through periodic meetings.

AMENDMENT I

MARRIAGE/FAMILY

Our statement of faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, expresses our fundamental biblical conviction that Christian marriage is, by definition, the spiritual and physical uniting of one man and one woman, both of whom have made public confessions of faith in Jesus Christ as prescribed by the Holy Scriptures, in an exclusive covenant commitment for their joint lifetime. Christian marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church. As such, Wellspring Baptist Fellowship believes that ceremonies on church property are spiritual observances of worship of God who created this divine institution. As worship services, weddings on church property shall be officiated by one or more ordained ministers of the gospel. Wellspring Baptist Fellowship may decline to make its facilities or ministers available for any wedding if it is determined that one or both of the parties are not biblically and/or legally qualified to marry. Such determinations may be made by the church Elders.

No minister or officer of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship shall officiate at any marriage ceremony unless such marriage is consistent with this policy.

According to *The Baptist Faith and Message*, God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents

are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

(Taken from *The Baptist Faith & Message* adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000)

APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION

These By-laws of Wellspring Fellowship were amended by the Elders of the Church on January 24, 2016.

REVIEW OF BY-LAWS

These By-laws of Wellspring Fellowship were reviewed and approved by the Elders of the Church on January 24, 2016.

John Wheeler

Andrew Yohn

Charles Lentz

Dwain Banner