



Constitution and Bylaws
Flack Memorial
Christian Union 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

ARTICLE I - NAME

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

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

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.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

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.

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith alone for those who have repented and accepted Christ by faith, who 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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 have received Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

We practice 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 should be open to all believers who are in the right relationship with God, regardless of denomination.

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. See Genesis 1:2. We believe that apart from this there is no other "marriage" recognized by God, His Word, or His Church (see Addendum: The Sanctity of Marriage). Therefore, any person or persons seeking the ordinance of marriage who do not adhere to the command of Scripture shall not be married in the Flack Church or by any staff member of the Flack Church.

ARTICLE IV - AUTHORITY

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only INFALLIBLE, authoritative Word of God.

ARTICLE V - AFFILIATION

We are affiliated with the Christian Union Churches of America. We cooperate with the State and General Conferences.

The following seven cardinal principles were drafted in the beginning of the Christian Union movement:

1. The Oneness of the Church of Christ. (I 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. (II Tim. 3:14-17; Rom. 15:4; Ps. 119:97-104)
4. Good Fruits the Only Condition of Fellowship. (Matt. 7:16; James 3:17)
5. Christian Union Without Controversy. (Mark 9:38-40; 2 Tim. 2-14; Eph. 4:2,3)
6. Each Local Church Governs Itself. (Acts 14:23; 15:6)
7. Partisan Political Preaching Discountenanced. (2 Tim. 2:14-15; 4:2)

FLACK MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN UNION CHURCH BYLAWS

Section 1: Leadership of the Local Church:

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 Timothy 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 and is initiated by the Senior 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

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.

Section 3: Membership

- 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.
- 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

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.

Section 5: Church Finances

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

A. Change Procedure

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

B. Notification

Changes in the constitution 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

(a) **Personal Ethics.** "Everything is permissible for me---but not everything is beneficial. Everything is permissible for me---but I will not be mastered by anything." (I Cor. 6:12 NIV). "All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord." (Proverbs 16:2 NIV) "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you" (I Thessalonians 5:12).

(b) **Obedience to Law.** "Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow" (Romans 13:1-2 LB). "Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. Pay everyone whatever he ought to have; pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others - never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. Another reason for right living in this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:5-8, 11 LB).

(c) **Family; Household.** "Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you" (Exodus 20:12). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) "Their wives must be thoughtful, not heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faithful in everything they do" (I Timothy 3:11 LB). "The men you choose must be well thought of for their good lives; they must have only one wife and their children must love the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild or disobedient to their parents. These elders must be men of blameless lives because they are God's ministers. They must not be proud or impatient; they must not be drunkards or fighters or greedy for money" (Titus 1:6-7 LB). "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:2-4). "You wives must submit to your husbands' leadership in the same way you submit to the Lord. For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!) So you wives must willingly obey your husbands in everything, just as the Church obeys Christ. And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word: so that he could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault. That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. For since a man and his wife

are now one, a man is really doing himself a favor and loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body the Church, of which we are parts. (That the husband and wife are one body is proved by the Scripture which says, "A Man must leave his father and mother when he marries, so the two shall be one.") So again, I say, a man must love his wife as a part of himself: and the wife must see to it that she deeply respects her husband - obeying, praising and honoring him. Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Ephesians 5:22-31, 33-6:4 LB).

(d) **Self Control.** "...For a man is a slave to whatever controls him" (II Peter 2:19 LB). "Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others - of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord" (Romans 15:2-3 LB).

(e) **Adultery; Immorality, Pedophilia.** "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). "...try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns" (II Peter 2:14 LB). "...Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom ..." (I Cor. 6:9 LB). "But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat." (I Cor. 5:11 NIV).

(f) **Drunkenness; Drugs.** "...envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21 LB). "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortionist, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:10 LB). "Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him" (Ephesians 5:18 LB). "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags" (Proverbs 23:21).

(g) **Homosexuality.** "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "...God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against God's natural plan for them and indulged in sexual sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the

penalty they so richly deserved. So it was that when they gave God up and would not even acknowledge him, God gave them up to doing everything their evil minds could think of. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness and sin" (Romans 1:26-29). "Don't you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom..." (I Cor. 6:9-10).

Addendum: The Sanctity of Marriage

I. Introduction.

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 Timothy 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.

When God created Adam and Eve, He ordained marriage as the fundamental institution of society (Genesis 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 (Genesis 2:24). The judgment of Scripture is that marriage is to be honored by all (Hebrews 13:4).

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman and between the participants and God (Malachi 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 Corinthians 6:14). Because God has created and instituted marriage as a lifelong covenant (Matthew 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 (Genesis 1:26), but man and woman in marriage also display His glory (vv. 27-28). 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 (Ephesians 5:22-33). To the degree that Christians live out this pattern of God's love through His grace in Christ (Ephesians 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 a man to be alone." Therefore, from the beginning God called men and women to promote mutual care and friendship within their marriage relationship.

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 (Ephesians 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 (Deuteronomy 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. Genesis 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.

The sanctity of marriage does not negate the gift of celibacy (1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 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.

Scripture teaches that the one-flesh union of marriage constitutes an intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual unity. "So they are no longer two, but one" (Matthew 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 talking about Christ and the church (Ephesians 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 (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

God designed marriage to be a lifelong relationship. Jesus said, "What God has joined together, let not 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 (Exodus 20:14). Jesus sets an even higher standard in his statement: "...anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery" (Matthew 5:27-28). Furthermore, sexual relations outside of marriage are forbidden by Scripture (1 Corinthians 6:16-20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4). The Apostle Paul specifically commands believers to "abstain from sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3). In contemporary culture infidelity all too frequently occurs with tragic consequences. Thus, the author of Hebrews solemnly warns that "God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Hebrews 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, couples 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 "submit to one another out of reverence for 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 loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 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.

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 not man separate (Mark 10:9)."

Soli Deo Gloria