**Galena Bible Church

Constitution**

Revised 5/2023

Article I: Name

Galena Bible Church

# Article II: Purpose

As a non-denominational Protestant church, part of the universal body of Christ, our purpose is to promote the worship of, and service to God in Galena and beyond.

1 Chronicles 16:10-12, 29; Ephesians 5:19-20; John 4:23-24; Acts 1:8

# Article III: Doctrine

1. The Bible: We believe the Bible to be the written Word of God, our final authority for faith and life. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21
2. The Godhead: We believe in one God, consisting of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are equal in attributes, power, and glory.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mathew 28:19

* 1. The Person and Work of the Father
1. We believe God the Father is Maker of heaven and earth

Genesis 1

* 1. The Person and Work of Christ:
1. We believe Jesus Christ is both God and man.

John 1:1, 2, 14; Philippians 2:5-8

1. We believe Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Luke 19:10; I Timothy 1:15

* 1. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit:
1. We believe the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin.

John 16:7-11

1. We believe upon salvation the Holy Spirit indwells, seals, and baptizes every believer.

 John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; II Corinthians 1:22;

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; I Corinthians 12:13

1. It is the privilege and duty of all believers to be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16-17, 25

1. Man: Man is made in the image of God, and by nature does not obey God.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 51:5; Romans 1:21-23; 3:10-18, 23; 5:12

1. Salvation: We believe salvation is a gift of God received only by those who make a willful decision to repent from sin and put their personal faith in Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-9; Romans 3:24; 6:23; 10:9-10; John 1:12; 5:24

1. Future State
	1. We believe in the “blessed hope” of Christ’s coming again for believers who shall live eternally in the presence of God,
	2. We believe in the eternal separation from God of those who reject salvation through Christ.

Titus 2:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 11:25-26; 14:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; II Thessalonians 1:7-10

# Article IV: Ordinances

1. The Lord’s Supper: The Lord’s Supper is for all, who, having received salvation, are living in fellowship with Christ. It is to serve as a memorial of Christ’s death until He comes again.

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

1. Water Baptism: Water baptism of believers is an act of obedience to Christ’s commands.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:36, 38; 16:32-33

# Article V: Membership

1. Galena Bible Church freely welcomes persons to attend and fellowship without becoming members. However, we believe membership is an important outward sign of Christian maturity and commitment. Those desiring membership must meet the following qualifications:
2. Received Christ as their personal Savior and striving to live in obedience to the Word of God.
3. Agree to abide by this constitution.
4. Believers who desire membership shall:
5. Contact any Pastor/Elder or the church office for a copy of the church constitution or see church website.
6. Attend church membership classes.
7. Give public testimony of faith at a worship service by reading aloud, and then signing the following church covenant:

I believe in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior; I accept the doctrinal statement of this church and agree to abide by the church constitution; I fully intend, with God’s help, to live my life according to the Christian principles of the Bible.

1. Be presented to the church for reception and the new members name will be recorded with those on the church membership roll.
2. Responsibilities:
3. Each member is expected to submit to the teachings of Scripture, church doctrine,

as well as submit to church authority and leadership, in context..

1. Each member is to support each other in living out their lives, the Church’s Vision, Mission, and Core Values and such other objectives of the church that are consistent with those principles.

John 13:34, Galatians 6:2, Colossians 3:12-14, James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

1. Privileges: Members in good standing, over the age of 16, will have a voting voice in the selection of leaders, approval of new members, the budget, and amendments to the constitution.
2. Change of Membership Status: Per the oversight of the Elder Board, the church body will recognize those persons as non-voting members when they

 a. Are no longer living in Galena,

 b. Are not regularly participating in the fellowship.

 c. Are no longer in agreement with article C above

 Matthew 18:15-17

 d. Retract their membership.

Article VI: Business

1. An annual business meeting will be held each February for approval of the budget and other important matters. Members will be notified at least three weeks prior.

When official action is required by the church:

1. A quorum will be 2/3 of the average number of voting members present at the two Sunday worship services immediately prior to the business meeting.
2. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority.
3. Other business meetings may be called by the council whenever they deem it necessary. Members will be notified a week in advance.

Article VII: Leadership

Under the headship of Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd the Galena Bible Church (GBC) will be led by Biblical Elders. Since Elders are exhorted by Scripture to “shepherd the flock”, which means to pastor the flock, the Elder(s) of GBC will be known as “the Pastor(s)/Elder(s)” of the Church. The Elder(s) may appoint “Deacons” of the church for the purpose of performing such other services of the church as detailed in the Scriptures and as are needed for the practical functioning of the church.

1. Jesus Christ is the “Chief Shepherd”. He is “head over all”.

1 Peter 5:4; Eph 1:22

1. The church council of Elders will be three or more male members that meet the qualifications of an Elder. “Elders are to pastor”

Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1

1. Qualifications:

a. Meets qualifications of Elder/Pastor (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-3) and as recognized (“tested” 1 Timothy 3:10) by the body of believers of the local church fellowship.

b. Member of GBC in good standing

1. Term of office; Indefinite – Pastor/Elder(s) must remain qualified in item 2 above.
2. The number of members in the group of Pastor/Elder(s) must be comprised of more than one man.
3. Responsibilities

a. Shepherd the church Acts 20:28, John 21:17, 1Peter 5:2-3 meaning:

b. Protect the believers: “be on guard” Acts 20:28-29, 1 Timothy 1:6-7,19

c. Feed the believers: “teach & preach” Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:13, 5:17-18, 2 Timothy 4:2

d. Lead the believers: “rule/oversee/manage” 1 Timothy 3:4-5, 5:17, 1 Peter 5:2

1. Caring for practical needs: Acts 20:35, James 5:14
2. Function: All decisions to determine policy of the Church will be by a consensus of the Pastor/Elders.
3. Appointment: Additional Elders may be recognized by the existing Pastor/Elder(s) and approved by the body in accordance with the precepts of Scripture and as declared in the GBC Constitution under the section for appointing Pastor/Elders(s).
4. Lack of Qualified Elders
5. If there are no men in the church who meet the Scriptural Qualification of Elder, a Leadership Team consisting of 5 to 9 GBC members, men and women, may be assembled for the purpose of leading GBC and organizing a search for Biblically qualified Pastor/Elders.
6. The Leadership Team will serve until there are three or more Pastor/Elder(s).
7. Decisions will be made by a simple majority.
8. Seeking Biblically sound counsel outside Galena may be in the best interest of GBC.
9. Deacon/Deaconess – “Those who serve”
10. Qualifications
	1. Must meet those stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13
	2. Member in good standing.
11. Appointment:
	1. Upon their appointment by the Pastor/Elder(s) they shall serve in the capacity assigned as the service is consistent with Scripture and the GBC Constitution.
12. Termination of Leadership:
13. An Elder or Deacon will be removed from their leadership position when they are:

a. No longer living in Galena,

b. Not regularly active in the fellowship

c. No longer meet the qualifications as Scripturally outlined for their position.

1. This process will be discussed by the Pastor/Elder(s) and/or Leadership Team and presented to the Membership.

Article VIII – Amendments

This constitution may be amended by 2/3-majority vote of a quorum present at an annual meeting.