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Church Handbook

This Handbook does not replace the Crown Bible Church (CBC) Church Constitution in any way. It is intended to complement it and flesh it out. It explains who we are as a local expression of the Body of Christ, what we do and why we do what we do. For this reason, members and all others who consider CBC their spiritual home, are encouraged to familiarize themselves with both the Constitution and Handbook.

Statement of Faith

The Church adheres to and teaches the following Statement of Faith. All members of the Church will affirm the Statement.

1. **THE BIBLE** – We believe the Holy Bible (all 66 books of the Old and New Testament) is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, sufficient and authoritative word of God. The Bible is revealed for the salvation of man and therefore the source and guide for faith, doctrine and life.

Isa 40. 8; Matt 5.17-18; 7.24. 35; Mark 12.26, 36; 13.11; Luke 24.27, 44; John 3.43 5.39; 10.35; 14. 26; Acts 1.16; 17.2-3; 18.28; 26.22; 23. 28, 23; Rom 15.4; 1 Cor 2. 12-13; 10.11; 1 Thess 2.13; 2 Tim 3.16-17; Jam 1.22-25; 2 Pet 1: 20 – 21; 3.15-16; Rev 22.6, 18-19

2. **GOD** – We believe there is one God who exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that this three are co-eternal and of equal dignity and power and that this Triune God is Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, Redeemer and Judge of the World.

Gen 1.2, 27; Deut 6.4; 33.27; Job 11. 7-9; Psa 95.3; 104.24; 147.5; Prov 2.6; Isa 6.3; 28.18-19; Mark 12. 29; John 1.1, 14; 4. 24; Acts 5.3 -4; Rom 1. 20; 1 Cor 8.4; 2 Cor 3. 17- 18; 13.14; Heb 1. 1-3; Jam 1. 17; Rev 1. 4-6

3. **JESUS CHRIST**- He, though existing from all eternity with God and as God, humbled Himself and was born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, being both fully human and fully divine. He performed miracles that attested his deity, and died on the cross, shedding his blood as a substitutionary and atoning death for our salvation. He was bodily raised from the death and physically ascended to the right hand of the Father. He will bodily return to the earth in power and glory to bring judgment to those who have rejected him, glorification to the saints, and salvation to Israel.

Deut 30.10; Isa 11.9; Ezek 37. 21-28; Matt 24. 15-25, 46; Luke 1.30 -35; 2. 40; John 1. 1- 2, 11, 18, 29; 3 .16 -17; Rom 3. 25 -27; 2 Cor 5.14; Eph 1. 22-23; Php 2.5-8; Heb 1.3; 4.15; 7.25; 10.5-14; 1 Pet 3.18; 1 John 2.1; Rev 20.1-3

Gen 1.26-3, 3. 1-7; 65; Lev 17. 11; Psa 14 .1-3; 51.5; Isa 64.6; Jer 17.9; Matt 26.28; John 1. 12; 3.6-18, 36; 5.24, 40; 6.29,53; Acts 13.39; 16.31; Rom 1.16-17; 3.10-19,22,26; 4.5;5.6-9, 12-21; 8.6-7; 10.4; 2Cor 5.21; Gal 3.13, 22; 6.15; Eph 1.7; 2. 1-3; Php 3.4-9; 1 Tim 5.6; Titus 3.5; James 1.8; 1Peter 1.18-19, 23; 1 John 3.8

4.**MANKIND**- We believe Adam and Eve were the first humans and were created in the image of God, but were tempted by Satan and fell, thus plunging all mankind into sin and spiritual darkness causing all of humanity to be separated from God. Because of this, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation.

Matt 3.13; 28; 19; Luke 22.19-20; John 3.23; Acts 2.38; 8.36-38; 10.47-48; 16.32-33; 18. 7-8; Rom 6.3-8; 1Cor 11.26

Acts 2.43; 5.12; Rom12.3-6; 1 Cor 12.7, 12-27; 14.3-5, 26; 2 Cor 12. 12; Eph 4. 11-12; 16; Heb 2.3-4; 1 Pet 4. 10

5. **JUSTIFICATION** – We believe the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provide the only means of justification and salvation for all who believe. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone for those who truly repent of their sins and place their trust fully in Christ. They gladly confess Him as their Lord and Savior. Those who are saved have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit and become true children of God.

Rev 6.9-11; Jam 2.26; Luke 23.24; 2 Cor 5.8; Php 1:23; Luke 23.43; 1 Thes. 4.13-17; Rev 20. 4-6; 1 Cor 15.35-45, 50-54; Phil 3:21; Jn 6.39; Rom 8.10-11, 19-23; 22 Cor 4.14; Dan 12.2; Jn 5.29; Rev 20.13-15; Jn 5.28-29; 1 Thess 4.16; Titus 2.13; Jn 14.1-3; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Jer 30.7; Dan 9.24-27; 12.1-1.32-33; Rev 20.1-7; Matt 25.31; Luke 1.32-33; Ezek 37.21-28; Dan 7.17-27; Rev 19.11-16; Is 65.17-25; Ezek 37.21-28

Acts 1.8; 10.39-42; 13:46-47; Rom 1.14-16; 15.20; 1Cor 9.16-18; 2 Cor 2.5.20; 12-14; 10.15; Gal 2.7-9; 1Thess 2.3-5

6. **ORDINANCES** – We believe the Lord has commanded us to be baptized in water to demonstrate our new life in Him and to remember

Matt 25.35-45; 1 Cor 14.26; 1 Tim 4.14; 2 Tim 1.6

Mark 1.17; Acts 6 1-7; 14.21-22;18.23; 20.1-2; Rom 12.1-2; 2 Cor 3.18; Eph 4.15; Phil 3.12; Col.

His sacrificial death through the Lord's Supper. These practices, however, are not to be regarded as means of salvation.

7. THE GIFTS – We believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to individual members of the body of Christ as the Spirit wills. The purpose of the gifts is for the edification of the body of Christ. The presence of gifts is for honoring God by humbly serving His people, and do not prove a superior spirituality or Christian maturity. No true gift of the Spirit today provides any new revelation, nor are there any authoritative Apostles or prophets that function in the same capacity as those of the scripture.

8. THE LAST THINGS – We believe in the literal fulfilment of Biblical prophecy. We affirm the continued place of national Israel in the Church, great tribulation, followed by the bodily return of Christ to bring judgement upon the nations and salvation to Israel. He will then set up a 1,000 year millennial reign in Jerusalem in the same capacity as those of the Scripture.

[Please refer to the second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689) for a more detailed statement.]

Our Mission

Our obedience to the Great Commission of Jesus (Matthew 28.19) is expressed in the Mission of the church to *make, mature* and *mobilize* followers of Jesus Christ.

- In *making*, the Church seeks to provide the opportunity for all in its sphere of influence, but especially those from the city and surrounding area of Lagos, to know God through faith in Christ Jesus.

- In *maturing*, we want those who come in faith to mature and be

lifelong disciples of Christ, reflecting increased Christlikeness conduct and understanding.

- In *mobilizing*, we want disciples of Jesus to be released into their gifts and calling and engage our community and world with the Gospel of Jesus.

God has placed us in a unique geographical location to influence our community, city, nation and world. In making, maturing and mobilizing followers of Jesus, we seek to promote the teachings of the Bible as expressed in the Church's Statement of Faith. In doing so, we seek to impact Lagos City, Nigeria, Africa and the world.

Our Leadership

Crown Bible Church is led by a Leadership Team, which consist of Elders elected by the membership, who together seek to assist the Church towards her mission. The role of the Elders towards the congregation is to provide general leadership, under the direction of the Presiding Elder, in ministries of the Church.

1.6. 10; 2.18-19; 1Thess 4.3-7; 5.23-24; Heb.6.1-3; 12.14; 1Pet 2.1-2; 2 Pet 3.18

Num 16.9; Jer 23.4; Matt. 20.25-28; John 21.15-17; Acts 20.28-32; Rom 12.8; 1Thess 5.12; 1 Tim 3. 1-2; Titus 1.5-9; Heb 13.17; 1 Pet 5.1-3; 1 Cor. 12.28-29; 14. 26; Eph 4.1

Deut 14.2; Is 62.12; Rom 12.1; 13.13; 1 Cor. 6. 9-11; Gal 5.16-21; Eph 4.25-31; 5.3-4; Phil 2.3; Col 3.5-9; 2 Tim 3.1-9; Titus 3.3

Ps 133.1-3; Jn 13. 34-35; Acts 2.46-47; 20.7-12; Heb 10.25

Mt 26.17-30; 1 Cor 10. 16-17; 11.20-28

1 Cor. 9.9-14; 13-14; 16. 1-2; 2 Cor 9.7-8 Acts 15.1-41

Rom 12.3-6; 1 Cor. 12.7, 12-27; 14.3-5; 26; Eph 4.11-12; 16; 1 Pet 4.10

Matt 26.17.30; Mark 14 17-26; Luke 22.14-20; Acts 2.42. 46; 20.; 1 Cor 5.7-8; 10. 3-5, 16-17; 11.17- 34

Matt 3. 13-17; 28.19; Jn 3.23; Acts 2.38; 8;36-38; Rom 6.3-8; Gal 3.26-27; Eph 4.4-6; Col 2.11-12; Heb 6.1-2

The Elders, are responsible for the oversight and spiritual care of the congregation. They do this primarily through teaching, casting vision, pastoral care and spiritual guidance. Additionally, they may identify and ask members of the congregation to assist them in any task in the administration of the church. CBC must have a minimum of two Elders at any given time.

Our Congregation

Membership

The Membership at CBC is made up of individuals 14 years or older, who profess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, can affirm the Statement of Faith in its entirety, are baptized as believers and are committed to the responsibilities of membership.

Anyone wishing to apply for membership should approach the Leadership who will arrange an interview. If the applicant already holds membership in another church, a written recommendation will be sought from the church.

Applicants are accepted as members where there is at least a two thirds majority votes of those present in favour of the applicant. The

new member will be welcomed formally in an appropriate time of public worship.

Membership at a local church is always both a privilege and obligation. Membership offers individuals necessary support and encouragement from the community of faith.

Additionally, Members of CBC are always an active part of decision making process of the Church. It also provides accountability necessary for spiritual maturity. But, with privileges also come a number of responsibilities towards the lord and to each other. (1 Corinthians 12. 14-21).

This responsibility is expressed in a number of ways including commitment as disciples of Jesus:

- to uphold a biblical based moral and ethical standard of conduct;
- to regularly attend the spiritual meetings of CBC;
- to regularly participate in communion;
- to regularly contribute financially to CBC;
- to attend the Church Family Meetings;
- to exercise spiritual gifts and God given talents to serve the Church and bring each other to deeper devotion and love for Christ; and
- to be familiar with this church Handbook.

Church Discipline

Church discipline has both corporate and individual functions. Corporately, it is important to maintain the unity and purity of the Body of Christ. It also protects our public witness and keeps the Church from bringing the name of the Church to disrepute. Individually, discipline is to encourage deeper discipleship and restore the fallen to the Lord and his people. It is not for retribution.

The Bible indicates that discipline is warranted (1 Cor 5. 1-12; 2 Cor 7.8; 13.1-10; Gal 6.1; Tim 4.2) for a number of issues including unresolved personal conflicts (Mt 18.15), flagrant sexual immorality

(1 Cor 5. 1- 13), divisiveness (Rom 16.17; Gal 5.10 -12; Titus 1. 10-13;

3.1-10; cf. 1 Cor 1. 10- 12; 3. 1-4; 11.18 ; Gal 5 .15; Phil 4.2; 2 Tim 2.14) and promoting false teaching (1 Tim 1.20; 6.3-5; 2 Jn 9-11). Where discipline is warranted, the church will follow the pattern offered in Matt 18 .15-20.

Someone who attends regularly but is not a member may be involved in the ministries of the church at the discretion of the Elders. Regular attenders should be prepared to subject themselves to church discipline if warranted for the purpose of restoration and church unity.

Our Activities

The church will undertake any activities which advance the mission statement. These will include (but not necessary be restricted to) Church Services, ordinances and other ministries.

Our principal activities are Sunday Services and weekly Bible Study & Prayer Meetings.

Members and regular attenders at CBC should attend this meeting frequently as possible.

The two Ordinances practiced at CBC are Baptism and Communion. Baptism is a one –off event for individuals. We partake of communion frequently. It is of the utmost importance that, in obedience to the lord, we witness these ordinances regularly in the life of the church and make every effort not to reduce them to dead rituals

- Baptism is the sign of the New Covenant that publicly identifies a person as a follower of Jesus and member of the Body of Christ. The mode of Baptism practiced at CBC is that of immersion (Mark 1.9). In special circumstances the church may admit into membership, believers who have not been baptized by immersion but only by the condition that the applicant will in no way dispute the teaching of believer’s baptism for the church as a whole.

- Communion is the practice ordained by Christ to remind the believer and church of the continuing significance of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our Practice and Emphasis

Crown bible church is committed to the authority of scripture and the priesthood of every believer. We believe the truths of scriptures are presented in an understandable way.

Equipping the saints

The Scripture gives us the purpose of God-given ministries: “for the equipping of the saints for the work service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of knowledge of the son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the

stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine,” (Ephesians 4:12-14).

Our purpose is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry through Biblical teaching and practice.

Pastoral Note:

I trust that this handbook will give each of us a reasonable idea on how this spiritual family that we call CBC operates. The process describes how we as a church seek to appropriate our ancient Faith in a way that it is relevant to our times. Procedures can restrict or liberate. I trust that what have here will offer guidance and will free us as a community bound by the Holy Spirit to worship the Father in Spirit and Truth and to help us make the name of our Lord Jesus known to our community and world.

Taye Arimoro

Crown Bible Church

23 Acme Road

Ikeja, Lagos

Office Tel: 0818789819

Email: Office@crownsreformedassembly.org

Web: www.crownsreformedassembly.org