

HAPPY TRAILS COWBOY CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Under the guidance and leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, we the members of Happy Trails Cowboy Church adopt the following constitution in order to declare and preserve the principles of our faith, the freedom of our church, and the rights and responsibilities of our individual members.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this church is Happy Trails Cowboy Church and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The church is organized and maintained to fulfill the following Mission Purpose Statement: The mission of the Happy Trails Cowboy Church is to reach the lost and unchurched people in the western culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ and provide a church home where they can become more like Him. The church will accomplish this mission by holding to these values:

Simplicity – The church will strive to keep all things it does as simple as possible.

Non-judgmental approach – The church will foster a non judgmental atmosphere in all it does, accepting people just as they are, just as Christ himself does.

Cultural relevance/Western Heritage – The church will make sure that all it does, including all of its programming and ministries will be geared toward reaching people in the western culture and those who love it.

Practice of Biblical Christianity – The church will practice biblical Christianity. This will be practiced by the leadership and the congregation.

Elimination of barriers to the cowboy culture – The church will do all that it can to lower or eliminate the barriers preventing the Gospel of Jesus Christ from reaching the western culture.

Empowerment with Accountability – The church will strive to empower as many people as it can to serve Christ through the church and bring out the giftedness in them while holding them accountable for their actions and commitments.

Power of the Gospel – The church believes in the power of the gospel for salvation of souls and healing of body, mind and spirit.

ARTICLE III: DOCTRINE

We recognize the Baptist Faith and Message (1963) as our statement of doctrine with the exception of the description of scriptural officers in (VI. THE CHURCH). We recognize the Pastor and Elders as scriptural officers.

ARTICLE IV: POLITY AND RELATIONSHIP

Jesus Christ is the head of the church; the true source of all that the church is and does, and His glory is to be the objective of every act, function, and motive of the body, both individually and corporately. It is before Him that all other leadership must bow. He communicates his will for the church through His word, the Bible. He gives additional guidance by means of the specific leading of the Holy Spirit who indwells the heart of each believer. He calls forth leaders for the church to whom He gives responsibility for the oversight of the church body and the shepherding of its members. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership and leadership. Persons meeting the membership requirements and making a written request for membership shall constitute the membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall exist to further the purpose of the church. They will be accountable to the church. As an autonomous local church, this church is not subject to the control of any ecclesiastical body. However, it relates to and cooperates with, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches and other entities of like faith in sharing the gospel with the whole world. If an entity this church cooperates with ceases to agree with or support the mission of this church, this church reserves the right to disassociate with that entity.

ARTICLE V: ORDINANCES

SECTION I: BAPTISM

A church is understood to be a fellowship of baptized believers brought together to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. A baptized believer is one who has been scripturally immersed and understands baptism to be a symbol of the salvation which has already been accepted in their life by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

SECTION II: THE LORD'S SUPPER

The church will observe the Lord's Supper on a regular basis as led by the Pastor. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act whereby the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ and anticipate His second coming. This observance is open to anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior and is seeking His righteousness.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active residents present at a church conference called for that purpose. Amendments may be proposed by the Elders or by written petition signed by 25% of the active resident members and duly presented to the Elders. Proposed amendments for church consideration shall be announced at the regular worship service and made available in written form to the congregation two weeks prior to the called church conference in which they will be voted on.