

# Drover Cowboy Church Constitution

Driving for Jesus

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## Constitution

17678 Peck Road • Harrisburg, AR 72432

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This document outlines the vision, beliefs, leadership model, and membership process of Drover Cowboy Church. It is provided to support clarity, unity, and faithful ministry practice.

Drover Cowboy Church • Harrisburg, Arkansas

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# Why We Are Here

## Drover Cowboy Church Vision

Drover Cowboy Church will be a place of worship where the "round-up" of God's herd reaches all corners of the King's Ranch with its straightforward cowboy approach and by embracing its cowboy heritage. It will be inviting to everyone, especially those who don't feel comfortable among traditional churches, in order to start and disciple their relationship with Jesus Christ.

## Purpose

- Share the Gospel through our faith, passions, and cowboy way of life in our community and to the far corners of the world.
- Worship God by living out the Gospel in our lives.
- Grow a church family that is trusted and respected within its community as a Christ-seeking body of believers through sacrificially giving of time and resources.
- Seek the lost in our community that may not fit in at traditional churches or may harbor hard feelings toward traditional services and worship.
- Establish generations of believers in Christ - raising children in the knowledge of Christ, leading families through the love of Christ, and sharing faith with the passion of Christ's Holy Spirit.

## Core Values

- 1. Bold Character:** Living in a straightforward manner that allows unbelievers to see the face of God in our lives.
- 2. Bold Hospitality:** Opening our homes, lives, and church to all God's children, breaking down barriers to building relationships within our community.
- 3. Boldly Going:** Intentionally and strategically seeking out the lost and needy in our community and around the world - not just having church, but being the Church wherever God takes us to evangelize or minister.
- 4. Bold Acceptance:** Greeting people and building relationships with open heart and open mind, remembering that we are all sinners in need of God's grace.
- 5. Boldly Cowboy:** Intentionally holding on to the cowboy culture and Western heritage our church was founded with - saturating our people, community, services, and events with the cowboy way of life to the glory of God.

## Drover Cowboy Church Mission (Philippians 1:12)

Drover Cowboy Church will reach our community through Acts 2:42 ministry by using our homes and barns to build relationships, share the Gospel, and grow in God's Word. We will also use the cowboy experience and arena events to draw people together for the purpose of hearing the Gospel.

We will seek to be the light on the hill (Matthew 5:14) to the surrounding area through our ethics as members of God's Kingdom, integrity as a body of believers, and open arms to those seeking help, hope, and a church home. Our mission is to intentionally share the Gospel in every way God allows us to bring glory to Him, as Paul did in Philippians 1:12 and as we were directed in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

# What We Believe

## Doctrinal Position of Drover Cowboy Church

Drover Cowboy Church affirms the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God, as the authority in all matters of faith and practice. We further identify ourselves as a distinctive body of faith by affirming the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

## Position of Drover Cowboy Church on Marriage

We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality - such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex - is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this statement on marriage and sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

# How We Operate

## Biblical Leadership Model

Drover Cowboy Church will reflect the model of leadership as recorded in Scripture in the 1st-century church:

- Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18).
- Drover Cowboy Church was founded by a core group of families but will transition into an Elder/Overseer-led body as God provides qualified individuals (Titus 1; 1 Timothy 3).
- Elders/Overseers in the first-century church are seen in Scripture as serving the church in leadership roles.
- The term Elder is interchangeable with Bishop, Overseer, and Pastor. The office of Elder covers pastors and men who meet scriptural qualifications to lead the church as overseers; roles depend upon spiritual gifts.
- The Senior Pastor will lead the Elder Body in vision, direction, and organizational purposes, but the Elder Body will lead in unison.

## I. Process for Electing Elders

The Pastor, being led by the Holy Spirit, will meet with men who meet the scriptural qualifications to see if they desire the office of Elder. If the candidate is open and feels led to serve, the Pastor will present him to the church to be voted upon. This vote concerns biblical qualifications. Any 'No' votes will be asked to provide a biblical reason for disqualification.

## II. Serving as Elder

- The office of Elder will be on a rotational basis as the Lord provides qualified individuals. Elders will serve a two-year term or until God provides and leads the Senior Pastor to qualified men of God who will be presented as new Elders.
- (Pastors, though elders, are considered staff and will not serve on a rotational basis. See the staff section below.)
- After an Elder has been inactive for one year, he may be presented to serve again.
- Scriptural qualifications for Elders: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- Examples of Elders serving: Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2; 16:4; 20:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Timothy 3:2-8.

## III. Staff of Drover Cowboy Church

### Senior Pastor Dismissal

- After much prayer, fasting, and seeking God's will - and after every avenue of communication with the Pastor by the Elders is exhausted - if the Pastor has no desire to resign, dismissal proceedings shall be:

- The Elders bring the subject before the church in a special meeting and provide reasons for dismissal.
- Meeting subject, location, date, and time are to be placed on the bulletin board for a minimum of two weeks before the meeting occurs.
- A vote will be held by ballot for active members following the meeting.
- A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required for dismissal.

## **Senior Pastor Hiring**

The process for hiring a Senior Pastor will begin with the Elders after much prayer, fasting, and seeking God's will. After Elders conclude it is God's will to hire a selected man as Pastor, the Elders will present him before the church to be voted upon. A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required to hire the presented Pastor. All pastors must fulfill the same biblical qualifications listed for Elders.

## **Paid Staff**

- Other paid staff will be decided upon by the Elder Body and then presented to be voted upon by the church body.
- Paid staff is accountable to the Pastor.
- Dismissal of church staff will be by consensus of the Elder Body for the good of the Kingdom of God.

## **Team Operation**

- Ministry Teams will be led by Team Leaders presented and chosen by the Elder Body and will serve until they resign or the Elder Body votes to remove them.
- Team Leaders are encouraged to lead by example through biblical principles while remaining accountable to Elder leadership.
- Children and Youth Ministry teachers are required to submit to background checks for the safety of the church's children.

## **IV. Business Affairs of the Church**

### **Major Business Affairs**

Major business affairs are defined as purchases or decisions that result in the church spending over \$12,500.00 and any amendment to this Constitution.

- Major business affairs will be taken up first by the acting Elder Body for discussion.
- Once a consensus is reached, the decision will be placed on the church bulletin board for two weeks. After two weeks, feedback from the church will be discussed and a recommendation brought to the church for a vote.
- Voting will be by ballot, and the voting box will be left out from one Sunday to the next. All votes require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.

- Eligibility to vote: anyone 18 years of age or older who is an active member of Drover Cowboy Church.
- Active members are defined as being present or participating in an event in the past two months unless specific circumstances prevent them from being present.

### **Minor Business Affairs**

Minor business affairs are defined as purchases or decisions that result in the church spending less than \$12,500.00.

- Minor business affairs will be left to those in charge of the affected ministries under the supervision and approval of the Elder Body.
- Examples of ministries include: Kid's Barn, Youth Ministries, Worship Team, Kitchen Team, etc.
- Ministry Teams will work off a budget each year presented by the acting Team Leader for approval by the Elder Body.
- The Elder Body is responsible for approving and assigning authorized signatories and/or authorized access to any financial and/or legal documents.

## Being a Drover Hand

Anyone desiring membership of Drover Cowboy Church must meet with a Pastor.

- The Pastor will encourage the prospective new member to be sure it is God's will that they serve as a member of this cowboy church.
- The Pastor will discuss their salvation experience with them.
- After the Pastor has met with the prospective member and is satisfied with the conversation and experience, they may join by:
  - Moving Letter
  - Statement of Faith
  - Baptism of New Covenant

Drover Cowboy Church receives new members by moving of letters and statement of faith if baptism was done in the following manner:

- Total immersion.
- In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was done for reasons of obedience and identification, and not salvation.