

Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church

Connecting People with Jesus . . . the Cowboy Way!

Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church, Draffenville, KY

Church Constitution

[Rev. 8-13-11 — Approved by official church action: August 14, 2011]

PREAMBLE

We, the members of Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church, declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the body in a decent, orderly, and biblical manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

ARTICLE 1 – Name and Location

This body shall be known as Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church (also referred to in this document as “KLCC”, “the church”, or “the body”). Its meeting place is the Kentucky Opry building which is located at 88 Chilton Lane, Benton, KY in the community of Draffenville, KY.

ARTICLE II – Mission Statement

Beginning where we are and moving outward as we join with other believers in the army of God to be the salt of the earth and light of the world which we are commanded by Jesus to be, we seek to “connect people with Jesus . . . *the Cowboy Way*”.

ARTICLE III – Purpose and Vision

Many people in our area are not connected to “traditional” churches for various reasons. We are following God’s calling and leadership to provide a worship experience in which anyone can feel welcome in the “down home” country atmosphere of Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church, regardless of your social status, educational background, or financial situation. KLCC is a place where you can come “just as you are” to hear the Gospel message presented in a language you can understand and find a sense of community, friendship, and love among a group of folks who accept you just as you are through the love of Jesus. It is our desire that all who hear the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ will respond positively to Him and begin their personal journey of faith with Jesus as both Savior and Lord. It is also our desire that those who have already committed their lives to Christ will continue to grow spiritually as a result of being part of our fellowship and hearing the Word of God boldly proclaimed.

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Our church family will . . .

1. . . . honor, embrace, and grow in the understanding of God by worshipping Him in spirit and in truth with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
2. . . . proclaim the love of Christ and the message of salvation through faith in Him.
3. . . . strive to build genuine relationships and develop a sense of community in which persons are joyfully welcomed, unconditionally loved, and mutually encouraged.
4. . . . assist persons in understanding and developing personal gifts for use in ministry and in the work of God's kingdom.
5. . . . seek wisdom, guidance, and direction regarding a greater understanding of our personal and corporate responsibility for continued spiritual growth and ministry development.

ARTICLE IV – Foundational Values

BIBLICAL Truth – We believe that as a New Testament church, we must do everything within our power to uphold the authority of God's Holy Word.

AUTHENTICITY – We believe that each member should follow the example of Jesus in being authentic in all matters concerning his/her personal life, especially his/her personal faith.

EMPOWERMENT – We believe that in order to fulfill the Great Commission, we must empower and equip others for ministry.

EXCELLENCE – We believe that in all things we do, we should do it to the best of our ability, as unto the Lord.

RELEVANCE – We believe that in order to reach our culture for Christ, we must speak a language folks can understand. In our attempts to speak a relevant language, we pledge to do this without changing the unchanging message of the Gospel.

INTEGRITY – We believe that in all things we do, we must do it with the utmost integrity and accountability.

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ARTICLE V – Statement of Foundational Beliefs

We believe that the Holy Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God and God's revelation of Himself to all mankind (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is the source of all truth through which God has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All Scripture is a testimony to God's Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Through His own blood, Christ has obtained eternal redemption for all who will receive His free gift of grace (Ephesians 2:8).

We believe that personal faith in Jesus Christ is the only way through which mankind may receive salvation and the hope and promise of eternal life in heaven (John 3:16).

We believe that Jesus is THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life, and that NO ONE comes to the Father (God) except through Him (John 14:6).

We believe that sin separates each person from God, but His grace covers our sin. His saving grace is freely offered to all who will in faith . . . Admit their sin . . . Believe that Jesus is God's Son . . . Confess their sin to Him, and Commit their life to Him.

We believe that all those who are genuinely saved are kept by God's Power, and are secure in Christ forever, and that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word (John 10:27-30).

We believe that the Church is a spiritual organism, with Christ as its head, made up of all born-again believers of this present age and that the establishment and continuance of local churches, free of any external authority or control, is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23).

We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as Scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

As a Southern Baptist congregation, our full foundational and guiding beliefs are stated in *The Baptist Faith and Message* (2000) as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention (<http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp>).

ARTICLE VI – Church Polity and Affiliation

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Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church is an autonomous body which maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. The authority for governance shall rest in its members. The conduct of affairs of the church not addressed in this Constitution will be outlined in the Bylaws of the church. All governance, decisions, and ministries of the body shall be according to the interpretation of the Bible as set forth in Article V of this Constitution. The body retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-governance in all phases of church life. However, the Bible teaches that local churches should seek voluntary fellowship with other churches of like faith and beliefs. This voluntary association in no way involves the surrender of the church's freedom and self-governance. Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church has chosen to affiliate itself with the Southern Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Convention and hereby pledges to support the mission of each of these entities through our faithful prayers and our regular financial support in a spirit of mutual calling and cooperation.

ARTICLE VII – Amendments

Changes in this Constitution may be made during any regular business session of the church body provided that: 1) each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business session; and 2) copies of the proposed amendment shall have been furnished to each member present at the earlier meeting. Amendments to this Constitution shall be by three-fourths (3/4ths) majority vote of church members present.

ARTICLE VIII – Church Member's Commitment

Having believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and upon my profession of faith in Him, and having been Scripturally baptized in Him, and being in agreement with Kentucky Lakes Cowboy Church's statements of mission, purpose and vision, foundational beliefs, polity, and affiliation. I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church's family of believers. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of the body to do the following:

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1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH FAMILY . . .
 - . . . by praying for one another.
 - . . . by acting in love toward one another.
 - . . . by refusing to gossip.
 - . . . by praying for my pastor and other ministers of the church.
 - . . . by following the church leaders as they are led by God.
2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH FAMILY . . .
 - . . . by praying for the church, its growth, and its spiritual health.
 - . . . by giving regularly and joyfully to the mission of His church.
 - . . . by inviting the lost and unchurched to attend.
 - . . . by warmly welcoming those who visit.
3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH FAMILY . . .
 - . . . by discovering my spiritual gifts and talents.
 - . . . by being equipped to serve by my pastor and other leaders.
 - . . . by developing a servant's heart.
4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH FAMILY . . .
 - . . . by attending faithfully.
 - . . . by seeking opportunities for personal ministry.
 - . . . by living a Godly life for the glory of God and the edification of His church.

ARTICLE IX – Church Covenant

We, the members of Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church, do hereby organize this church body and establish this covenant before God and with one another.

We pledge to . . .

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5. . . . seek God's wisdom, guidance, and direction regarding a greater understanding of our personal and corporate responsibility for continued spiritual growth and ministry development.

May God help us all as we rely on His grace and hold fast to His promises as we endeavor to advance His kingdom through Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church.