

PURPOSE

Let all things be done decently and in order (I Cor. 14:40), to the end that we may govern ourselves, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, to bring honor and glory to our Lord.

PREAMBLE

Relying upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the blessing of the triune God, we do hereby constitute ourselves a New Testament Baptist Church. This church shall be self-governing, independent of all other churches, conventions, or organizations, free from civil or ecclesiastical control in keeping with the New Testament.

ARTICLE I **Name**

The Waterville Baptist Church

ARTICLE II **Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly in support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our family in the Christian faith; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will if possible unite with a church where we can carry out the articles of this confession and the spirit of this covenant.

ARTICLE III

Confession of Faith

SECTION 1 OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, is truth without error. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1 :19-21

SECTION 2 OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one and only one living and true God; an infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11

SECTION 3 OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Deity and Virgin Birth. We believe that Jesus Christ is absolute deity, being co-equal with God; begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman; and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son, True God and True Man.

John 1:1,2; Philippians 2:6; Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14

B. His Atonement for Sin. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement, through the shedding of His blood, for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just for the unjust; Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having arisen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; John 10:18; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 1:4; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; Isaiah 53:11; Hebrews 12:2; I Corinthians 15:20; Isaiah 53:12; Hebrews 9:12-15; 7:25; I John 2:2

C. His Bodily Resurrection. We believe in the bodily resurrection of our crucified Lord.

Matthew 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4,

D. His Ascension and Intercession. We believe that the risen, glorified Lord ascended into heaven; that His present ministry is as our great High Priest and Advocate at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2; 8:6; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9,10

E. His Second Coming. We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; that the Scriptures teach it to be in two phases: first, the rapture of the Church, the body of Christ, into the glorious presence of the Son of God; second, the revelation of Jesus Christ, as He returns to reign upon the earth on the throne of His father David.

John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:11; James 5:8; Hebrews 9:28; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6,7; Acts 2:29,30

F. His Millennial Reign. We believe that Jesus Christ will reign in righteousness upon the earth for one thousand years.

I Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1; 11:4,5; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:1-4; 6

SECTION 4 OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16,17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1 :35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Ephesians 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16,26,27

SECTION 5 OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

Matthew 14:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10

SECTION 6 OF CREATION

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution.

Genesis 1 & 2; Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3

SECTION 7 THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Romans 5:19; 1:18, 32

SECTION 8 OF GRACE IN THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3:6,7; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; II Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8; 1:12, 13; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9

SECTION 9 OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification;

A. That justification includes pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness;

B. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us.

Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; 4:9; 5:1; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 1:17; Habakkuk 2:4; Galatians 3:11; Romans 4:1-8; Hebrews 10:38

SECTION 10 OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification (to be set apart) is the process by which God makes us partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work that is begun in regeneration and continued in our hearts by the work of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Bible-reading, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer, and completed at the return of Christ for His own.

I Corinthians 6:11; II Peter 3:18; I Thessalonians 3:13, I John 3:2

SECTION 11 OF FAITH AND SALVATION

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8,9

SECTION 12 OF THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept eternally by God the Father for Jesus Christ.

John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6; Jude 1; Romans 8:35-39

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15

SECTION 13 OF SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God.

I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1,2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; Philippians 3:20,21

SECTION 14 OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND UNJUST

We believe that such as through faith are justified in the Name of Jesus Christ, and sanctified through the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His esteem; that the just shall be resurrected at the rapture of the Church to the everlasting grace and fellowship of the Lord; that they shall reign with Him for a thousand years and shall sit in judgment with Christ; that their works shall be rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Malachi 3:18; Romans 6:17,18; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44; I Corinthians 15:52; II Corinthians 5:10; I Corinthians 3:11-15

We believe that such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight, wicked and under the curse, that the unjust shall be resurrected to everlasting conscious punishment of the lost at the end of Satan's "little season;" that their works shall be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

SECTION 1 REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the church is open to anyone who has personally trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior, has been immersed as a public confession of his faith in Christ, has declared his concurrence with the doctrinal position of the church, and has agreed to be governed by the church's constitution.

SECTION 2 ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP

A person may be received into membership as follows:

1. By single immersion upon his profession of Christ as Savior.
2. By testimony of personal salvation and previous scriptural baptism.
3. By restoration (for excluded members giving evidence of repentance).

In cases where the candidate has been a member of another fundamental Baptist church, the church clerk shall notify the previous church of the fact he is joining Waterville Baptist Church and request a letter of transfer. The receipt of such a letter shall not be required, however in order to admit the person into membership.

All persons requesting membership shall receive instruction in the position of the church and the duties of membership, and shall meet with the deacons, who will hear their personal testimony of faith in Christ and discuss matters relevant to their membership.

If the proper instruction is completed, and the interview with the deacons is satisfactory, the candidate will be recommended to the church. Congregational action on membership recommendations may be taken at any regular service of the church or at any church business meeting, provided quorum is present.

Admission to membership requires the unanimous vote of members voting at this meeting. Any negative vote shall be given consideration by the pastor and deacons. If the reason given shall be sufficient as to warrant, membership shall be withheld; if not, the motion shall again be presented to the church, and the person or persons shall be received into membership by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting.

SECTION 3 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Members in good standing 18 years of age and older shall have the right to vote in church business meetings.
- B. Church membership shall be required for persons to serve on any committee, to teach in any capacity, to provide special music, or to participate in the choir.
- C. Members shall strive to keep their covenant obligations. They should honor and esteem their pastors, pray for them daily, and assist them in carrying out the program of the the church. They will endeavor to preserve the unity of the church and, if at any time they find themselves unchangingly opposed to the doctrines and procedures of this church (as described by the Doctrinal Statement and Church Covenant), they will not seek to disrupt its fellowship, but will quietly withdraw from its fellowship.
- D. Each member of the church is expected to attend its meetings, to work for its upbuilding, to guard its good name in the community.
- E. Every member is expected to contribute to the financial program of this church with tithes and offerings.

SECTION 4 DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

In order to maintain its purity and peace, a local church has the scriptural responsibility to prayerfully and lovingly restore errant members. Members whose behavior continues in violation of scriptural commands are to be disciplined.

- A. Inactive Negligent Members.** Any member who is willfully negligent toward his church duties and demonstrates such negligence through absence from the Lord's Table for six consecutive months shall be subject to removal from membership. Following six consecutive months of absence from Communion, members lose their right to vote. The pastor and deacons shall assist negligent members in their walk with God, and seek to recover such members to active church membership. If they fail in this they shall inform the member of the finality of his continued negligence and recommend to the church his removal. If he responds, and the Discipline Committee is convinced that he has again become active, the Discipline Committee shall notify the church and the restoration of his right to vote shall be acted upon by the church.
- B. Offended and Quarreling Members.** Offenses are inevitable and it is important that they be settled privately according to the pattern outlined in Matthew 18:15,16. Members are to seek reconciliation in a spirit of love when offenses occur whether noticed by the offender (Matthew 5:23,24) or the offended person. However, if the parties involved will not follow this pattern, or if, upon following it, reconciliation has not been reached, the pastor and deacons may need to become involved in order to preserve the peace of the church.
No report of a derogatory nature against *any* member(s) is to be communicated to others or before the church in a business meeting until (1) the report is presented to the offender in private according to Matthew 18:15 and Galatians 6:1; and (2) it shall have been communicated to the Discipline Committee according to Matthew 18:16 and Galatians 6:1. This report is to be presented in writing and signed by the accuser.
- C. Rebellious and Divisive Members.** Scripture warns against the harm of a "factious person" (Titus 3:10, "heretic"), and of the one who is "disorderly" (II Thessalonians 3:6). Persons who rebel against the spiritual leadership of the church, who gossip, who endeavor to influence others against leadership, who promote divisions and who make trouble in the church are to be disciplined according to scriptural guidelines. The pastor and deacons shall act (II Timothy 4:2) with love and grace, but they are required to deal with any member engaged in, secretly or otherwise, obstructing the work or disturbing the peace of the church. Conduct such as gossip or backbiting, falsehood, slander, conspiracy, and immorality are unscriptural and detrimental to the life of the church. Such persons are to be admonished by the pastor and deacons, after much prayer, with love and frankness according to Titus 3:10. If the attitude and actions persist, the Discipline Committee shall make a recommendation to the church body.
- D. Accused Members.** If a member is accused by another member in good standing of violation of the Church Covenant or of doctrinal, immoral or unchristian conduct, such charges must be submitted in writing to the Discipline Committee by the accuser. When such charges have been presented, the Discipline Committee shall investigate the following: (1) whether or not the pattern of Matthew 18:15,16 is applicable and has been followed; (2) whether or not the charges appear to be valid. If the charges appear to be serious and valid, the offender shall be asked to meet with the Discipline Committee at a time that is reasonable, to receive a full and fair hearing. The accused shall have at least two weeks written notice of such hearing and be informed personally of the nature of the charges. If the accused does not appear in answer to the summons within a reasonable time, the Discipline Committee shall recommend to the church the exclusion of said member.
By majority vote the committee may acquit the accused if the charges appear untrue, or if there is evidence of genuine repentance and restitution on the part of the accused, or they may vote for such discipline as the case may warrant. Discipline short of exclusion from membership shall be at the discretion of the pastor and deacons. If exclusion is recommended, the accused may appeal to the entire church for a hearing. The church shall then decide whether to hear the case or whether it will act, without such hearing, upon the recommendation of the Discipline Committee. The purpose here is to give full protection to any member who may be accused and allow the membership the opportunity to protect the church from time-consuming details which could be harmful to the young and discouraging to the membership.
- E. Composition of the Discipline Committee.** The Discipline Committee shall be the pastor and deacons except for the following: In cases where the accused is a deacon or related by marriage or birth to a deacon, that deacon shall not serve on the committee. The pastor and the remainder

of the committee may select a church member in good standing who is not related to the accused and meets Galatians 6:1 standards of impartiality to serve as a replacement on the Discipline Committee.

If the accused party is the pastor of the church and the accusations are (1) moral conduct, (2) doctrinal error, (3) serious negligence of ministry, and: (a) The accusations are well-documented, (b) Two or three witnesses shall have presented the accusations in writing, (c) Accusations are scripturally defined as serious errors: then the pastor shall, for purposes of concluding the evaluation of the charges and for the protection of the church, remove himself from the Discipline Committee and immediately appoint a temporary pulpit supply acceptable to the deacons. If the pastor should fail to cooperate and follow this procedure, the Discipline Committee (namely, the deacons) have the authority to immediately appoint a pulpit supply to serve while the charges are disposed of according to Section 5d of this Article. Such information as needed, with reasons, will be presented to the church for their awareness, understanding and cooperation.

SECTION 6 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated in the following ways by congregational vote (1) death of the member (no church action required); (2) written request of the member; (3) written request for the transfer of membership. Any member in good standing may be removed by letter of transfer to the fellowship of another Baptist church of like faith and practice upon written request of a Baptist church. (4) discipline. A member may be removed from membership as a result of any of the disciplinary actions described in this article, section 5.

Exclusion from membership shall be an action of three-fourths majority of the quorum voting. Notice shall be given at a regular church service no less than ten days in advance. There will be no voting by absentee ballot. Exclusion from membership shall stand as the final action of discipline until the person returns and makes things right according to the Scripture.

ARTICLE V Officers

SECTION 1 PASTOR

- A. Qualifications.** The pastor must fulfill all qualifications stated in I Timothy 3. He must agree without reservation to our Constitution, our Statement of Faith, and be a member of a fundamental, independent Baptist church at the time this church extends a call to him.
- B. Duties.** The Pastor's responsibilities shall be spiritual oversight, providing for the spiritual growth and edification of members. The pastor is expected to assume positive administrative leadership of the affairs of the congregation. However, he should carefully consider the advice of the deacons as those elected to positions of responsibility. Final authority rests in the hands of the congregation. The pastor shall administer the ordinances of the church. The pastor shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.
- C. Calling and Dismissal.** Calling and dismissing a pastor requires a three-fourths majority vote of a quorum at a meeting called especially for this purpose. The pastor may terminate his services on thirty days written notice. Having resigned, a pastor shall not continue longer than 60 days. The congregation may dismiss a pastor on thirty days written notice. However, upon true evidence of heterodox faith or serious moral misconduct (Galatians 5:19-21), the congregation may by a three-fourths majority of a quorum dismiss the pastor immediately, provided he is compensated for a period of thirty days. In matters of dismissal, the pastor and his family will be denied the right to vote.

SECTION 2 DEACONS

- A. Qualifications.** The deacons must meet the qualifications outlined in I Timothy 3. They must also agree

without reservation to our Constitution and our Statement of Faith, and have been a member of the Waterville Baptist Church for not less than two years.

- B. **Duties.** The deacons shall be the leaders of the church and shall assist the pastor in the spiritual oversight of the congregation. They shall oversee the preparation of, and assist in administering, the ordinances of the Church. In the absence of the pastor the deacons shall administer the same. The deacons shall also function as the trustees of the church. They shall have the care and oversight of all physical church property, including grounds, buildings and vehicles.
- C. **The Deacon Board.** The deacon board shall consist of the pastor and the deacons. At the first meeting following election, the deacons shall elect from their midst a chairman and secretary. The chairman shall be the spokesman for the deacons and shall moderate all deacon and church meetings in the absence of the pastor. The secretary of the deacon board shall keep necessary records of board meetings and actions. At the first meeting following election, the deacons shall appoint from their midst chairmen for each of the standing committees of the church. The deacons shall constitute the membership, pulpit and disciplinary committees. They shall report their activities to the church, and shall make recommendations to the church at regular or special meetings. The deacons shall not have authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of church property or funds in any manner to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00), and then only in a case of emergency, except as the church shall authorize them. The deacons shall not mortgage or encumber the church with a debt to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00), except as the church shall authorize them.
- D. **Selection and Dismissal.** Terms of office for deacons shall be two years, arranged to terminate alternately. The deacons shall be elected by a majority of quorum present at the Annual Business Meeting. The deacons shall maintain the highest biblical standards and shall actively pursue their own purity and integrity, both individually and as a board. Any deacon who is willfully negligent toward his church duties, as demonstrated by his absence from regular services of the church and meetings, shall be subject to removal. A two-thirds majority of quorum in a congregational meeting shall be required for dismissal. Quorum for deacons' meetings shall be the majority of the number of deacons.

SECTION 3 SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

- A. **Qualifications.** The Sunday School Superintendent shall be a man, having been a member in good standing of our church for at least one year. He shall be required to agree without reservation to our Constitution and Articles of Faith. He should show genuine concern for the salvation and instruction of all students in the Sunday School.
- B. **Duties.** The Sunday School Superintendent shall oversee the spiritual growth of the Sunday School pupils. He shall also administer all aspects of the Sunday School program. He shall hold regular meetings with the Sunday School staff, for the purpose of edification and discussion of problems relevant to the Sunday School. He, together with the pastor, shall be responsible for the appointment of teachers, assistants and other personnel necessary for the operation of the Sunday School.
- C. **Selection and Dismissal.** The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons for a term of one year, to take office immediately following the Annual Meeting. Upon reasonable grounds, he may be dismissed by the pastor and deacons.

SECTION 4 CLERK

- A. **Qualifications.** The clerk shall have been a member of our church for at least one year, faithful to the church in attendance and support. The clerk must possess those qualities needed in a secretarial position.
- B. **Duties.** The Church clerk shall be custodian of all church records and documents not given to another officer. The clerk shall keep a faithful and complete record of all regular and special church business meetings. The clerk shall keep an accurate membership list, and shall handle necessary correspondence as directed. The clerk shall give notice of all business meetings.
- C. **Selection and Dismissal.** The clerk shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a period of one year, to take office immediately upon election.

SECTION 5 TREASURER

- A. **Qualifications.** The treasurer shall have been a member of our church for at least one year, faithful in attendance and support. The treasurer must possess those qualities needed in one entrusted with handling funds and maintaining financial records. The treasurer may not concurrently serve as a deacon.
- B. **Duties.** The treasurer shall be a custodian of all funds of the church. The treasurer shall maintain a detailed record of all receipts and disbursements, and shall be empowered to pay those regular bills which are his responsibility. Any unusual expenditures shall be disbursed only as approved by the deacons and/or church. All funds shall be kept in commercial institutions and a full report of all accounts shall be given at each quarterly business meeting and Annual Business meeting.
- C. **Selection.** The treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Business meeting for a period of one year. The treasurer shall take office within ten days after office, allowing for necessary arrangements to be made.

SECTION 6 USHERS

- A. **Qualifications.** The ushers shall be male members, faithful to the church in attendance and support, and shall evidence a desire to serve.
- B. **Duties.** The ushers shall supervise the collection of all tithes and offerings, greet visitors, and carry out miscellaneous tasks and arrangements necessary for the smooth running of the church services.
- C. **Selection.** Four ushers (more if needed) shall be appointed by the pastor and the deacons.

ARTICLE VI **Missions**

As a local New Testament Church we are commanded by our Lord to spread the gospel throughout the world by an active missions program, mainly through the establishment of local, indigenous Baptist churches. (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Revelation 14:6; Luke 24:47)

SECTION 1

Before committing regular support to any missionary or missions endeavor, a full review of said missionary, sponsoring agency and field shall be completed by the missions committee and approved by the deacons, and presented to the church for a vote. Missionaries desiring our support shall present their burden and work to the church. We shall support only fundamental missionaries, mission endeavors and mission agencies that are Baptist in doctrine, practice and name.

SECTION 2

Missions funds shall be comprised of ten percent of the general fund, plus any additional missions endeavors.

SECTION 3

The overall church mission program shall support only church-supported missions. The missions committee shall strive to maintain a list of the needs beyond regular support of our church missionaries, to which surplus funds, love offerings and special mission projects may be directed.

ARTICLE VII Meetings

SECTION 1 WORSHIP

- A. Public worship services shall be held regularly on the Lord's Day. Services shall be Christ-centered and feature primarily the Word of God. Any special services not devoted to the preaching of the Word, at a different time or location, shall be approved by the pastor and deacons. The church shall not hold worship service in union or cooperation with churches of other denominations.
- B. There shall be a mid-week service for Bible study and prayer.
- C. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of each month. The elements shall be bread and grape juice.
- D. All other meetings which may be arranged, such as special services, baptismal services, Daily Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Release Time, youth activities and fellowship meetings shall be conducted under the auspices of the church, in accordance with her doctrine and testimony, and with the approval of pastor and deacons.

SECTION 2 SUNDAY SCHOOL

There shall be a Bible-teaching session maintained each Sunday, not conducted concurrent with the worship services.

SECTION 3 BUSINESS

- A. The church fiscal year shall run from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December.
- B. The Annual Church Business Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday of January, following prayer meeting.
- C. The Annual Corporate Meeting shall be held as part of the Annual Business Meeting at the same time and location.
- D. Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held on the second Wednesday of April, July, and October, following prayer meeting.
- E. Quorum shall consist of 25% of active and eligible membership.
- F. The day for business meetings may be changed at the discretion of the church.
- G. The moderator of all church business meetings shall be the pastor, his appointee, or in his absence, the chairman of the deacons.
- H. Special meetings may be called at any time, providing public notice of the meeting is given on the Lord's Day preceding the date of the meeting, except for meetings called to dismiss a pastor. Such meetings require announcement at three services on two Sundays preceding, and a quorum of 30% of voting members must be present. Special meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacons, or at the request of seven voting members, provided that the object of said meeting is clearly stated in writing. Only business for which the meeting was called may be conducted.
- I. A majority shall ratify any proposed motion, except in the case of extending a call to a pastor, where three-fourths constitutes the voice of the church, in the case of amending the Constitution, where also three-fourths shall carry the motion, and in the case of accepting new members. Officers shall be elected by ballot; other motions may be voted on by ballot if so requested.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

Committees shall be appointed from the active membership of the church. Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, the chairman of each committee shall be the deacon charged with the chairmanship of said committee. The pastor shall be a member ex officio of all committees.

SECTION 1 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- A. The missions committee shall consist of the deacon charged with the oversight of this committee, the president of the ladies' missionary fellowship (if any), and two other members of the church appointed by the chairman.
- B. It shall be the duty of this committee to periodically review the missions program of the church, to make recommendations to the budget committee and to the church for amounts of finances to be budgeted for missions endeavors, and to make recommendations of new missionaries to be placed in the missions budget. This committee shall serve as a communications link between the church and our supported missionaries, channeling needs, requests and information from the missionaries to the congregation. A potential candidate for missions support shall be thoroughly investigated by this committee. No missionary shall be supported who is not under a fundamental Baptist agency. The missions committee shall report on its activities to the congregation at each quarterly and annual meeting.

SECTION 2 MUSIC COMMITTEE

- A. The music committee shall consist of the deacon charged with the oversight of this committee, the choir director or music director (if any), and two other members of the church appointed by the chairman.
- B. It shall be the duty of this committee to select and recommend appropriate music for choir and congregational use. All musical selections and presentations shall be in accord with biblical, conservative standards. The music committee shall also oversee special music projects and be in charge of scheduling special music for the services of the church. The music committee shall also be responsible for periodic inspections of church-owned musical instruments and shall recommend to the church all necessary tunings, repairs and replacements.

SECTION 3 PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- A. The property committee shall consist of the deacons charged with the chairmanship of this committee, one other deacon, and at least one other church member appointed by the chairman.
- B. It shall be the duty of this committee to oversee all church property, including land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment; to organize church workdays, to make recommendations to the church concerning maintenance, repairs, renovations and improvements on church buildings, grounds and vehicles. It shall also make emergency expenditures with regard to church property as authorized by the deacons and/or congregation.

SECTION 4 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

- A. The financial committee shall consist of the deacon charged with the chairmanship of this committee, the treasurer, and one other church member appointed by the chairman.
- B. It shall be the duty of this committee to count all monies received by the church. This shall be done by the close of the Sunday evening service, and within the church building. The treasurer and the chairman of this committee shall be responsible for recording all financial transactions of the church, payment of bills on time and for signing of checks. This committee shall report on all monetary activities of the church to the congregation at the annual meeting, quarterly meetings, and other meetings as directed.

SECTION 5 MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEES

- A. Auditing Committee.** The auditing committee shall consist of two church members elected by the church at the third quarter business meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to review all the records kept by the financial committee for accuracy, and to report to the Church at the annual meeting. No member of the financial committee may serve on this committee.
- B. Budget Committee.** The budget committee shall consist of the financial committee, one other deacon and one other member elected by the church at the annual meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to function during the third quarter of the church year to review the existing budget and make projections and recommendations for changes in the budget for the following year and to prepare a budget for presentation at the annual meeting. This committee shall function on an emergency basis in the event of a financial crisis to recommend budget revisions to the church.
- C. Nominating Committee.** The nominating committee shall consist of two deacons and two other church members to be elected by the church at the annual meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to function during the third quarter of the church year to select nominees from among the membership for election by the church at the annual meeting. The list of nominees shall be posted two weeks in advance of the annual meeting.
- D. Discipline Committee.** The discipline committee shall consist of the pastor and the deacons, within the guidelines of Article IV, Section 4 of this Constitution. It shall be the duty of this committee to fully investigate matters of possible church discipline and make recommendations to the church congregation if necessary. In pursuit of holiness within the body, and within the bounds outlined in Scripture, this committee shall be empowered to interview all parties and sources relevant to each case in ascertaining all available facts.
- E. Pulpit Committee.** The pulpit committee shall consist of the deacons. It shall be the duty of this committee to pursue the collection, investigation and recommendation of names for pastoral candidates.

ARTICLE IX Teachers

SECTION 1

All teachers shall give public testimony of being born again believers, shall live separated Christian lives, have a desire to teach, being zealous for the winning of souls, and shall agree without reservation to our Articles of Faith, and shall show faithful support of the total church program. All teachers must be members of the church.

SECTION 2 DUTIES

- A. Teachers shall diligently prepare for their respective classes and present the lesson material to their pupils.
- B. Teachers shall also be responsible for attending staff meetings.

SECTION 3 APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSAL

- A. Teachers shall be appointed by the pastor and Sunday School superintendent.
- B. Teachers may be dismissed upon failure to fulfill above qualifications and/or duties.

ARTICLE X Funds

SECTION 1

All monies raised by the church and its auxiliary organizations shall be from tithes and offerings. The deacons shall have the right to refuse gifts of a questionable nature.

SECTION 2

All monies shall be kept in a financial institution and accurate records shall be kept on a fiscal yearly basis. Regular bills will be paid on schedule, all other bills must be approved by the deacons.

SECTION 3

All monies shall be counted in the church by the close of the Sunday evening service by the treasurer and a deacon or by two deacons. All monies received shall be recorded in a permanent record.

ARTICLE XI Auxiliary Organizations

Auxiliary Organizations shall be Christ-centered, and have as their goal the furthering of the total church program. All auxiliary organizations shall be subject to and governed by this Constitution.

ARTICLE XII Separation

As a fundamental local Baptist church, we will not join ourselves to or be associated in any way with the National or World Council of Churches, the ecumenical movement or any other church, group or organization which is contrary to the teachings of Scripture or our Articles of Faith, or which will infringe in any way upon our independence.

ARTICLE XIII Amendments

SECTION 1

Written notice of any proposed amendment or amendments shall be posted at the church three months in advance of the Annual Business Meeting. The amendment(s) shall be voted on in three months at the Annual Business Meeting. No proposed amendment(s) will be considered at any other meeting.

SECTION 2

The congregation shall be made aware of the posting of proposed amendment(s) on at least three separate Sundays, including the Sunday immediately preceding the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 3

The proposed amendment(s) shall be incorporated in this Constitution after a three fourths majority vote of those members present and voting.

ARTICLE XIV Dissolution Clause

In the event of dissolution, none of the assets or funds or income may be given to any officer, trustee, or individual. Any assets or funds remaining after payment of debts shall be devoted to such religious purposes as shall be determined by the Church at any annual meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose.

Upon dissolution, said assets will be distributed to one or more religious organizations exempt pursuant to Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article XV Statement on the Family

We believe that marriage of one man to one woman is the plan of God and sacred in His sight (Genesis 2:18-25; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16); that the roles of husband, wife, parent, and child are clearly defined in the Scripture (Ephesians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7); that a sexual relationship is sacred and fulfilling only within the bonds of marriage and is condemned outside of the marriage relationship (1 Corinthians 7:3-4; Hebrews 13:4); that children are a blessing of God, and that the responsibility for them rests solely upon their parents; that they are to be brought up in a loving and structured environment with conscientious instruction in the truths of God and His principles of life (Psalm 127:3; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Psalm 78:4-7; Proverbs 22:6; 17:6). We believe that any form of adultery, bestiality, bisexuality, fornication, homosexuality, incest, lesbianism, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex; and that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; 20:13-21; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

Current as of May 12, 2012