

# Faith Baptist Church

**1528 Route 9  
Toms River, New Jersey 08755**

Confession of Faith  
Covenant  
Constitution

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The changes made within the body of this Constitution were accepted by a vote of well over 75% of the members present, at which time there was a Quorum present at a duly called Special Business Meeting of Faith Baptist Church on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

# CONFESSION OF FAITH - COVENANT - CONSTITUTION

## OF THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

### LOCATED IN TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

#### ARTICLE I

##### NAME

This body shall be known as FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH.

#### ARTICLE II

##### ASSOCIATIONS

A New Testament Church is autonomous and subject only to Christ, its Head; therefore, it cannot join anything outside itself, but only affiliate therewith on the grounds of fellowship. This church desires to express fellowship with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ and seek to obey His Word, as outlined in the doctrinal section of this constitution.

#### ARTICLE III

##### PURPOSE OF EXISTENCE

Its purpose shall be to promote the worship of God by the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at home, and abroad, witnessing to the lost of the community and winning them to Christ, and the spreading of the Gospel, and that our people may be sensitive to the call of God for Christian service. Its purpose shall also be for the promotion of fellowship of believers and the observance of the Ordinances.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### CONFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION 1 - OF THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally, plenary inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men; therefore, has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. 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. (2 Tim. 3:16 & 17; 2 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, and the maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressively 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 Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2 & 3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11)

**SECTION 3 - JESUS CHRIST:** We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He was divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God; existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist of laying aside His Deity; that as man, He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin, Mary. (John 1:1 & 2; 1 John 5:20; Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:26 - 28)

**SECTION 4 - OF THE HOLY GHOST:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, with God the Father and God the Son of the same nature, that He was active in 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 is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. (John 14:16 & 17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; John 16:8 - 11; Acts 5:30 - 32; John 3:5 & 6; Eph. 1:14 & 15; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom. 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 the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Isa. 14:12 - 16; Ezk. 28:1 - 19; Matt. 4:1 - 3; 2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

**SECTION 6 - OF CREATION:** We believe that God created the heavens and the earth including all life, "each after its own kind", by direct act, according to the Genesis account; and not by any process of evolution, and that man was created in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:11; Col. 1:16 - 17; John 1:3)

**SECTION 7 - OF 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 by choice; and therefore, under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Gen. 3:1 - 6 & 24; Rom. 5:10 - 19; Rom. 1:18 & 32)

**SECTION 8 - OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH:** We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18 - 25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4)

**SECTION 9 - OF THE ATONEMENT OF SIN:** We believe that the salvation of sinners wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His

death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen 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, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Saviour. (Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21)

**SECTION 10 - OF THE GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION:** 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 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 faith and newness of life. (John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 3:6 & 7; Acts 16:30 - 33; Rom. 6:23; 2 Peter 1:4; Eph. 2:11; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8)

**SECTION 11 - OF JUSTIFICATION:** We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification: (a) That Justification includes the 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; Isa. 53:11; Zech 13:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1)

**SECTION 12 - OF FAITH AND SALVATION:** We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. (Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8)

**SECTION 13 - OF MARRIAGE AND THE HOME:** We believe that the home was the first institution God provided for man, that marriage is a sacred relationship and honorable for all, and that the only God-ordained marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; 1 Cor. 7:2; Hebrews 13:4). Marriage is used as emblem of the union of Christ and His church (Eph. 5:21 - 23). "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder". (Mark 10:9)

**SECTION 14 - OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT:** We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. (Rom. 13:1 - 7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Exodus 18:21; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19 & 20; Dan. 3:17 & 18)

**SECTION 15 - OF THE LOCAL AND UNIVERSAL CHURCH:** We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers; associated by covenant of faith and the fellowship of the Gospel; observing the Ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His work; that its officers are

pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true Mission of the church is faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. We believe in the universal church, the Body of Christ, consisting of all who accept Christ as personal Saviour. (Acts 2:41 - 42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22 - 23; Eph 4:11; Acts 20:17 - 28; 1Tim. 3:15; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23 - 24; Acts 15:13 - 18)

We believe that believers and the local church should be separated from sin unto God. We believe that this separation applies to all false religion, apostasy, and false teaching which claims to be Christian. To this end, we will practice church discipline in a spirit of love, and separation from false religious movements such as ecumenism and charismatism in a spirit of humility. (1 Peter 1:16; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 John vs. 7-11; Gal. 6:1; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:19-21)

**SECTION 16 - OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER:** We believe that Christian Baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Acts 2:36 - 42; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3 - 5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:24 - 28)

**SECTION 17 - OF THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS:** We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:6; John 10:28 - 29; Rom. 8:35 - 39; Jude 1)

**SECTION 18 - OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED:** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting bliss of the saved and the everlasting suffering of the lost. (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17 - 18; 1 John 5:19; Rom. 7:6; Prov. 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matt. 25:34 - 41; John 8:21)

**SECTION 19 - OF THE RESURRECTION, PERSONAL, VISIBLE, PRE-MILLENIAL RETURN OF CHRIST, AND RELATED EVENTS:**

**PART A.** We believe in the Bodily Resurrection of Christ. (Matt. 28:6 - 7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2 - 6)

PART B: The ascension of Christ. (Acts 1:9 - 11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 12:2)

PART C: The High Priesthood of Christ. (Heb, 8:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9 - 10)

PART D: The Return of Jesus Christ: We believe in the imminent, bodily, personal pre-millennial return of Christ; that he will come before the seven year tribulation period to catch away His church, coming only into the air; and that He will come with His Church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth. (1Thess. 4:13 - 18; Matt. 25:31 - 46; Rev. 19:11 - 21; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; James 5:8; Heb. 9:28)

PART E: The resurrection of the Righteous Dead and Unbelievers: We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that the believers, asleep in Jesus, will be raised at the coming of Christ for His Church and will be caught up with transformed living saints (1 Cor. 15:51 - 55; Phil. 3:20 - 21) to meet the Lord in the air; (1 Thess. 4:13 - 18; I Cor. 15:42 - 44; 52), and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the millennial kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne of judgment to receive their final doom.. (John 5:21 - 30; 1 Thess. 4:1 - 16; Rev. 7:9 - 17; Rev. 20:11 - 15)

PART F. The Throne of David: We believe that Christ is the rightful heir of the throne of David and that at His second coming to earth, He will claim it as the rightful King of the nation Israel. (Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6 - 7; Acts 2:29 - 30)

PART G: The Millennial Reign: We believe that the reign of Christ will begin with a literal thousand year reign on this earth in which Jesus Christ will hold absolute rule over all men. It will lead into His everlasting reign in the new heavens and new earth. (1 Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4 - 5; Ps. 72:8; Rev. 20:14; Rev. 20:6)

## ARTICLE V

### CHURCH COVENANT

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

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to forsake the paths of sin, and to walk in the way of holiness all the days of our lives. With this view we engage to strive together 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 to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to educate our children 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 anger, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to walk together in Christian love and watchfulness, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other 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 Saviour 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 VI

### MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1 - Reception of Members

PART A. Any person confessing Christ as Savior and Lord, and having obeyed Him in baptism by immersion, may be received into this church upon giving evidence of their changed life, and by declaring that they are in whole-hearted agreement with the Bible and general agreement with this constitution. Minor disagreements with the church constitution are acceptable, provided the candidate understands that the church will continue to function by this document. All candidates for membership in this church should become familiar with this constitution. No candidate or member shall promote division over differences of opinion.

PART B. To be in "good standing", a member must continue to be in accord with this constitution as set forth in Part A, above.

PART C. All candidates for membership must meet with a pastor and at least one deacon, and upon giving satisfactory evidence of salvation and baptism, shall be recommended to the church and be voted upon by the church.

PART D. Members from other churches holding the same doctrinal convictions may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches, after being interviewed by a pastor with a deacon.

#### SECTION 2 Responsibilities and Discipline of Members

PART A.

Duties of Members

It will be expected of each member that they shall pray for the pastors and officers of the church, cooperating with them to the best of their ability for the advancement of the work. Even as membership at Faith Baptist Church must be actively applied for, so ought such membership be actively maintained. Members failing to support the church by an average attendance of at least once per month during a six month period will be dropped from the membership by majority vote of the church upon recommendation of the pastors and deacons. In the determination of such violation, the pastors with the deacons shall be duly mindful of age, health, location, and attitude of the member.

PART B.

Discipline

1. In all cases the pastors with the deacons shall constitute the Discipline Committee of the church, and are instructed to carry out any such cases in the light and spirit of II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Titus 3:10, Galatians 6:1, Romans 16:17-18, I Timothy 5:19-20, and I Corinthians 5 with II Corinthians 2:4-11.

2. Our general pattern for cases of discipline shall be Matthew 18:15-20.

3. Any accusation against a member of the church must be submitted to the Discipline Committee. The accused shall be notified and every opportunity given to ascertain the truth. If the accused is guilty of unchristian doctrine or unchristian deportment, dismissal shall be only after an attempt to restore such a one to fellowship (Galatians 6:1) and then only by a simple majority vote of the church.

4. Excluded members may be restored to membership upon confession of their error and giving evidence of genuine repentance to the pastors, to the board of deacons and to the church.

SECTION 3 - Dismissal of Members

Any person in good standing shall be entitled to a letter of dismissal to any church of like faith and practice providing a request is made by the church for such a letter.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - Titles

The officers of the church shall be Pastors, Deacons, Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Assistant Church Treasurer, Financial secretary, Sunday School Superintendent, and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The offices of Pastor and Deacon being Scriptural offices (Phil.1:1), and the other offices

being for good order and business ( I Cor. 14:40).

## SECTION 2 - Qualifications

PART A. No person shall be elected to any office who is unwilling to subscribe to our Church constitution as described in Article VI, Section 1, Reception of Members. If any officer should during his term of office, refuse to do so, his tenure of office shall immediately and automatically cease on the recommendation of the pastor with the deacons. No one shall serve as Sunday School teacher, class officer, or as an officer of any unit of this church, who is not a member in good and regular standing as set forth in Article VI, Section 1.

PART B. All officers, Sunday School teachers and similar servants of the church shall be of spiritual Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the spiritual welfare and program of this church. They shall be faithful in attendance and participation in both the regular services and the business meetings of the church. Their moral conduct shall be above reproach. In the light of 1 Timothy 3, home and family relationships will be considered as well as individual qualifications. All candidates for office should be willing to discuss these matters with any of the church's pastors or deacons.

## SECTION 3 - ELECTION

PART A. A pastor may be called by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting membership present at any meeting of the church, announced for the purpose, two consecutive Sundays previously. The pastor shall meet the qualifications of I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present at any business meeting of the church called for the purpose by a letter mailed to each voting member 2 weeks previous to the meeting. The letter shall be signed by a majority of the board of deacons. The pastor shall give the church notice in writing not less than sixty (60) days before his vacating the office. A notice of not less than (60) days shall be given to the pastor to vacate the office, except in a case of church discipline

PART B. The deacons shall be elected as needed from the membership of the church. The qualified age for the office of deacon shall be at least twenty-one (21) years, and he as well as his wife (if married) must meet the qualifications of I Tim. 3, which of course means both shall be members in "good standing". The deacons shall elect from their number a chairman and a secretary at their first meeting after the annual church meeting.

## SECTION 4 - Duties

PART A. Pastor/Associates

1. Associates or assistant pastors may be called by this congregation\_

according to the guidelines of Section 3, Part A. The senior pastor shall function as general overseer of the congregation. In any cases of differences of opinion relating to pastoral ministry, the senior pastor shall have final authority.

2. The pastors shall be considered the administrators and shall have spiritual oversight with a servant's attitude toward this democratic congregation. They shall preach the Word; he/they shall have in charge the stated services of public worship; he/they shall administer the ordinances; and he/they shall perform the usual duties of Baptist ministers. The pastors shall be ex-officio members of all boards and committees of the church, and have access to all books, and be privileged to attend all meetings. The pastor or an associate shall act as moderator for all business meetings of the church. In their absence, he/they may appoint a member of the board of deacons to act as moderator. The senior pastor shall secure speakers and programs for the church in conjunction with the approval of the board of deacons.

3. His/their vacation shall cover four seven day periods previously arranged with the board of deacons.

4. His/their salary shall be set by the deacons with the approval of the church. His/their salary shall continue during times of illness.

5. In any absences from regular pulpit duties, the church must be given prior notice except in emergencies.

#### PART B. Deacons

1. The deacons shall be helpers and assistants to the pastors. Every member of the church shall feel free to seek the counsel of the pastors and/or deacons. They are the servants and friends and not the masters of the church (2 Cor 4:5, 1 Peter 5:1-5).

2. They shall meet monthly and as necessary. Two-thirds (2/3) of the elected deacons shall comprise a quorum for an official meeting.

3. Agreeable to the provisions of the "Act of Incorporation" and the laws of the state of New Jersey, the deacons shall act as trustees, representing the church as its agents.

4. The deacons shall oversee the maintenance of church properties.

5. It shall be their duty along with the pastors to appraise the income of the church, and to bring in recommendations as to the budget for the coming year.

6. The deacons shall not have the authority to sell, lease, give away or dispose of the church property in any manner to exceed a yearly amount of 2% of the current year's total General Fund Expenses Budget, as voted by the church; nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount except as the church shall order in the same by a corporate act.

#### SECTION 5 - Term of Office of Deacon

- PART A. The number of deacons shall be two or more determined by the church's need and by the number of "Spirit-filled" men available who meet the qualifications listed in Acts 6 and 1 Tim. 3.
- PART B. The first term for a deacon shall be one year. After that each term shall be for two years.
- PART C. In the case of any vacancy occurring on the board, the unexpired term may be filled at the next quarterly meeting of the church.

#### SECTION 6 - Clerk

- PART A. He/she shall be elected from the membership of the church annually.
- PART B. His/her duties shall be to keep an accurate record of the minutes of all business meetings, and read the minutes as required at meetings, and shall be responsible for such duties as are usually cared for by this office. The clerk shall keep a church membership roll and shall make an annual report of the membership to the church. At the expiration of his/her term, all material pertaining to the office shall be returned to the church.

#### SECTION 7 - Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer

- PART A. They shall be elected from the membership of the church annually.
- PART B. His/her duties shall be: to keep an accurate record of the income and expenses of the church, to give an accurate report of the same at the business meetings of the church. Also, he/she shall give a financial report to the deacons for their meetings. He/she shall be responsible for such business as is usually cared for by this office.
- PART C. It shall be required of the treasurer and the financial secretary or an appointed substitute to count the offerings and to make a written record in their books of all the money received before the money leaves the church.
- PART D. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist and shall substitute in the absence of the Treasurer.

PART E. Both the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer shall be empowered and authorized to sign checks on the church checking accounts. The signature shall be either/or, with no counter-signature required.

SECTION 8 - Financial Secretary

PART A. He/she shall be elected annually.

PART B. His/her duties shall be to count the offerings received with the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer and to keep an accurate record of all church income, to give an accurate report to the church of the income at the business meetings of the church.

PART C. He/she shall keep a record of personal giving and give a receipt annually to each giver.

SECTION 9 - Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant

PART A. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected to office every two years.

PART B. The Sunday School Superintendent shall have administrative oversight of the Sunday School and other teaching activities of the Sunday School.

PART C. The Assistant Sunday School Superintendent may be appointed by the Sunday School Superintendent with the approval of the pastors and the board of deacons, and shall assist the Sunday School Superintendent and take his duties in his absences.

SECTION 10 - Any officer may succeed himself/herself in office.

SECTION 11. - Committees and Other Appointments.

PART A. Pulpit Committee. The deacons, with two (2) members chosen from the church at large by the church, shall when a vacancy occurs in the office of pastor, act as a pulpit committee and shall continue to function as such until a new pastor is chosen by the church. It shall bring the church suitable candidates for the pastorate and care for the hospitality of these candidates while they are visiting the church. When it deems wise, it shall present to the church at a regular business meeting, the name of one and only one of these candidates and conduct the voting upon the same. It shall continue this procedure until a pastor is chosen. The chairman of the deacons shall be chairman of the pulpit committee and the moderator of the church, while it is without a pastor.

PART B. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the pastor, at least one deacon, the Sunday School Superintendent, and two (2) members from the church at large to be selected by the other committee members. It shall be their duty to place in nomination members that are qualified to fill the church offices for the following year.

PART C. A Music Director may be appointed by the pastor with the approval of the deacons. His duty shall be, along with the pastor, to have the oversight of the music program of the church.

## ARTICLE VIII

### MEETINGS: WORSHIP AND BUSINESS

#### SECTION 1 - Worship

PART A. Public preaching services shall be held regularly, morning and evening on the Lord's Day unless weather or unavoidable circumstances prevent it. These services shall not be given over to anything but preaching or the presenting of the Word. Neither shall they be merged into union services with other denominations.

PART B. At least once in each week there shall be held a meeting for prayer and praise.

PART C. The Lord's Supper shall be a special service held for the members of the church and other regenerate believers desiring to participate in the ordinance. The service shall be held the first Lord's Day of each month (either morning or evening) or as otherwise announced by the senior pastor. The materials used shall be unleavened bread and grape juice.

#### SECTION 2 - Business

PART A. Church Year. The official church year shall begin the first day of January and close the thirty-first day of December.

PART B. Annual Meeting. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the church the fourth Sunday of January, the purpose being to elect deacons and officers and transact other needful business. In case of any omission in holding the election as above, the meeting shall be called and held upon the earliest available date thereafter. In addition, a business meeting shall be held each quarter for current business (April, July and October) on the third or fourth Sunday of each of these months.

PART C. A quorum for any regularly stated business meeting shall be at least one

third (1/3) of the voting adult members.

- PART D. Special business meetings may be called at any time, provided notice of same be given on the Lord's Day preceding; except that those for calling or dismissing a pastor and/or corporate business meetings shall be given public announcement for two (2) preceding Sundays. Special meetings may be called by the pastor, the board of deacons, or any 7 members of the church who request such of the clerk, providing the particular object, or objects, of the meeting are clearly stated in the notice, and no other business shall be transacted in such a meeting.
- PART E. Order of Business. In the conduct of business, rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all cases to which they apply. In exceptions, a majority vote shall establish the rule.
- PART F. Manner of voting. All voting of the church for all officers and appointments shall be done by secret ballot.
- PART G. Eligible Voters. Only members in good and regular standing, eighteen (18) years of age and above, shall be entitled to the right to vote at any of the church's business meetings. Non-members present may be given the privilege to speak, at the moderator's discretion.

## ARTICLE IX

### MONETARY PRINCIPLES

- SECTION 1 - The church and its ministries shall be supported by the free-will giving of its members and other interested believers. Giving shall be encouraged to be systematic and proportionate as the Lord has blessed (1Cor. 16:1-2). The amount of giving shall remain a private matter between the individual and the Lord (2 Cor. 9:7, Matt. 6:3-4) but such receipts as necessary shall be given to provide for all things honest in the sight of the Lord and men (2 Cor. 8:21). No funds or other support shall be solicited from unbelievers (3 John 7).
- SECTION 2 - The church shall maintain a Benevolent Fund to assist those of its members and friends who are in need of financial or other assistance. The fund shall be funded by the free-will loving offering on the part of the members of the congregation of the church. To this end, there will be an offering received on the Sunday on which the Lord's Table is observed. The Fund shall be administered by the board of deacons.

## ARTICLE X

### MISSIONS

- SECTION 1 - It shall be the policy of the church to support only missions engaged in evangelization and in the establishing of New Testament churches or in ministries supportive of these activities. They shall be in general agreement with our confession of faith, both in doctrine and in practice; church planting ministries shall be expected to be baptistic in polity.
- SECTION 2 - No missionary or mission board that is a member of the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches or any other group connected with the Ecumenical or Charismatic Movements shall be supported by this church.

## ARTICLE XI

### SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

- SECTION 1 - No subsidiary organization of the church shall engage in any practice or hold any policy contrary to the general position of the church itself. All regular officers and teachers of subsidiary organizations shall be members of the church.
- SECTION 2 - The by-laws of any subsidiary organization shall be approved by the pastors and deacons and shall include any revisions and changes.

## ARTICLE XII

### USE OF THE CHURCH PROPERTIES

- SECTION 1 - The church facilities shall not be rented to outside organizations. However, ministries of similar faith may be permitted to use church facilities on occasion. Permission for such use will be given by the pastor(s) with the approval of the deacons.
- SECTION 2 - No secret societies will be permitted to hold functions or services on the church properties.
- SECTION 3 - No pastor or pulpit orator will be permitted to preach from the pulpit of the church who denies the fundamentals of the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Any visiting speaker must have the approval a pastor or the deacons in the pastors' absence.

### ARTICLE XIII

#### AMENDMENTS & BY-LAWS

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members eighteen (18) years of age or over present at any annual meeting, or at a called business meeting, providing that notice of proposed amendments shall have been given from the pulpit for the two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is desired. Copies of the proposed changes must be distributed two (2) Sundays prior to the announced meeting.

The Church may adapt from time to time such by-laws in amplification hereof as may be necessary or desirable.

### ARTICLE XIV

#### DISSOLUTION

In the case of dissolution of this corporation, the trustees shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all corporation liabilities, dispose of all assets of the corporation to beneficiaries who are in agreement with the Confession of Faith as set forth in Article IV of this Church Constitution, provided that no part of the remaining assets shall accrue to the personal benefit of any private individuals and provided further that such disposition shall be consistent with the Internal Revenue Laws of the United States relating to tax-exempt organizations.

### ARTICLE XV

#### LICENSING & ORDINATION

SECTION 1 - Any member, who in the judgment of the church, gives evidence by his living and aptness to teach, that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, shall be eligible for a license. He shall have preached in the hearing of the church, and having been examined by the deacons, may upon their recommendation, be licensed to preach the Word by the church provided two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any business meeting shall agree thereto.

SECTION 2 - If the pastors and deacons decide that a man of the church possesses the Scriptural qualifications for ordination, they shall call a council of ministers and brethren to examine the qualifications of the candidate. Upon recommendation of the council, the candidate may be granted ordination provided two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at any business meeting shall agree thereto. Ordination will be withdrawn when an ordained member has walked disorderly in violation of the Scriptural qualifications for the office of pastor as stated in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1.