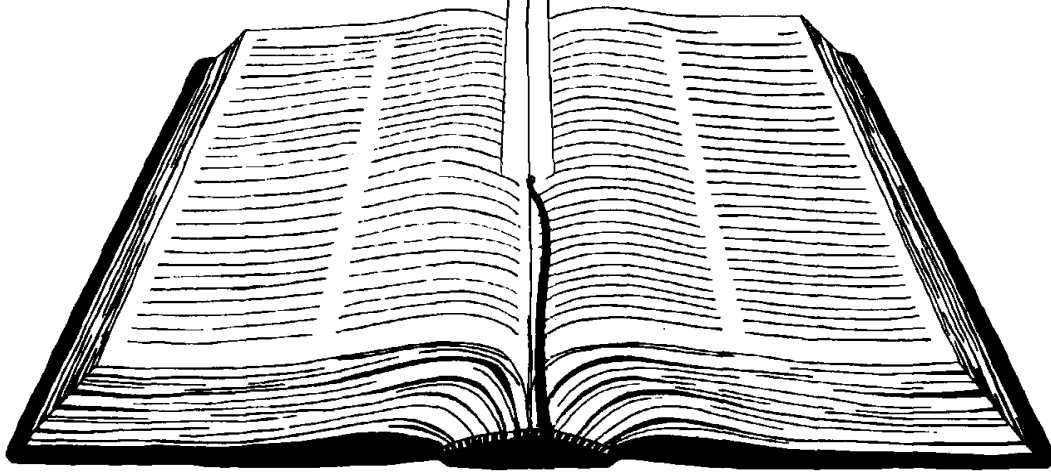


Calvary Baptist Church

Oceanside

California



Preaching Christ, Teaching the Saints,
Reaching the Lost

Statement of Faith,
Constitution, Bylaws,
& Church Covenant

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

of

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of the Church shall be: **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA**

ARTICLE 2 OBJECT

The preaching and teaching of the Word of God, the Holy Bible, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, and spiritual improvement of the members, ministering to this community, and the spread of the Gospel in all the earth. (Matt. 28:19-20). A Christian Day School will be established to meet the needs of our young people as soon as God makes this possible. A Serviceman's Center (s) shall be established as part of this ministry as God makes this possible.

ARTICLE 3 ASSOCIATIONS

This Church is independent so far as related to its internal organization and the regulation of its own affairs. The Church controls the admission, discipline, and removal of members according to its own understanding of the Word of God.

This Church shall not in any manner cooperate with, nor tolerate modernism in any manner in which it may be presented. The Church declares to be in fellowship with the **General Association of Regular Baptist Churches**.

ARTICLE 4 STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 – The Scriptures

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments alone are inspired of God both verbally (the words) and plenary (the whole),¹ being the product of the Spirit-controlled men.² The Scriptures are without error in the original writings, and are our only authority in faith and practice.³

1. II Tim. 3:16-17
2. II Peter 1:19-21
3. Psalm 119:105

Section 2 – The Godhead (The Trinity)

We believe that there is one true God¹, the Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth. He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love.² In the unity of the God-head there are three persons – **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** – equal in every divine perfection, and performing distinct but harmonious offices. God is eternal,³ and exhibits the divine attributes of holiness,⁴ righteousness,⁵ goodness,⁶ truth,⁷ and love.⁸ He is all-knowing⁹, all-powerful¹⁰ and everywhere present.¹¹ These attributes are unchangeable,¹² and make Him sovereign.¹³

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| 1. I Thess. 1:9 | 6. Psalm 34:8 | 10. Isa. 40:9-31 |
| 2. Rev. 4:11 | 7. John 8:26 | 11. Psalm 139:7-12 |
| 3. Psalm 90:2 | 8. I John 4:8 | 12. James 1:17 |
| 4. I Pet. 1:16 | 9. Psalm 139:1-6 | 13. I Sam. 2:6-8 |
| 5. Psalm 7:9 | | |

Section 3 – God the Father

We believe in **God the Father**; His headship extends over God the Son,¹⁴ God the Holy Spirit,¹⁵ and all of creation. He becomes the Father of believers at salvation. He loves,¹⁶ chastens,¹⁷ forgives,¹⁸ and answers prayer.¹⁹

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| 14. I Cor. 11:3 | 17. Heb. 12:5-8 |
| 15. John 15:26 | 18. I John 1:9 |
| 16. Romans 5:8 | 19. I John 5:14, 15 |

Section 4 – God the Son

We believe **Jesus Christ** - begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary²⁰ - is the true deity and true humanity.²¹ It is by the Son, the living and true word, that all things are held together.²² His pre-incarnate and earthly ministry revealed the Father,²³ fulfilled all righteousness,²⁴ presented the truth,²⁵ proved His qualifications to be the Saviour,²⁶ and demonstrated His sympathy and faithfulness as High Priest.²⁷

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| 20. Matt. 1:18-20,23 | 23. John 1:18 | 26. Heb. 5:8,9 |
| 21. John 1:1,2,14 | 22. Matt. 3:15,5:17 | 27. Heb. 4:15 |
| 22. John 1:1, Col 1:17 | 25. John 8:31,32 | |

Jesus Christ died for our sins as our substitute, and yet had no personal sin.¹ He was crucified, buried and raised from the dead the third day.² He then ascended to the right hand of the Father,³ where He carries on a present ministry for the believer as High Priest, making intercession⁴ and advocacy.⁵ He will return again bodily for His church at the pre-millennial, pre-tribulational rapture.⁶

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| 1. Heb. 4:15 | 3. Eph. 1:20 | 5. I John 2:1 |
| 2. I Cor. 15:3,4 | 4. Heb. 7:25 | 6. I Thess. 4:13-18 |

Section 5 - God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the **Holy Spirit** is a divine person.⁷ In relation to the unbelieving world, He will restrain evil until God's purpose is fulfilled.⁸ He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;⁹ and He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony.¹⁰ He effects regeneration,¹¹ and He seals,¹² anoints,¹³ indwells,¹⁴ and spiritually baptizes the believer into the body of Christ¹⁵ at the moment of salvation. In the life of the believer He guides,¹⁶ teaches,¹⁷ sanctifies,¹⁸ fills,¹⁹ and provides spiritual gifts.²⁰

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| 7. Acts 5:3-4 | 12. Eph. 1:13,14 | 17. John 14:26 |
| 8. II Thess. 2:6-8 | 13. I John 2:20,27 | 18. Rom. 15:16 |
| 9. John 16:8-11 | 14. Rom 8:9 | 19. Eph. 5:18 |
| 10. I Cor. 2:9,10 | 15. I Cor. 12:13 | 20. Rom.12; 1 Cor 12 |
| 11. Titus 3:5 | 16. John 16:13 | |

Section 6 - The Spirit Beings

We believe God created a host of spirit beings called cherubin, seraphim and angels. The spirit beings praise God,²¹ rejoice in His works,²² and act as guardians over believers.²³ They are intently observing the church, learning God's wisdom²⁴ and His grace.²⁵ We believe in the personality of Satan, the unholy god of this age.²⁶ He was the first being to sin, and offered the temptation which resulted in the fall of mankind through Adam.²⁷ Satan is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire.²⁸ With Satan in his opposition to God are a group of fallen angels, or demons. They carry out Satan's attack on believers.²⁹

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| 21. Luke 2:13,14 | 24. Eph 3:10 | 27. Genesis 3 |
| 22. Job 38:4-7 | 25. I Peter 1:10-12 | 28. Rev. 20:10 |
| 23. Heb 1:13,14 | 26. II Cor. 4:4 | 29. Eph. 6:11,12 |

Section 7 - The Creation and the Fall

We believe in the literal account of creation, **completed in six solar days** as stated in Genesis, chapters one and two, rejecting any form of interpretation which involves evolution. We believe that God ordained marriage exclusively as one man and one woman¹ joined together in a lifelong legal union² as the foundation of society, and His decreed means of propagating the race³ & bringing glory to His name⁴. As such, legitimate sexual relations are defined by God as exercised solely within this covenant marriage⁵. Hence, sexual activities, such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia and bestiality are inconsistent with God's design for man as taught in the Bible.⁶ Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender are incompatible with the biblical witness⁷. We believe man was created in innocence,⁸ but by willful disobedience fell from his innocent state,⁹ in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners¹⁰ by birth¹¹ and by choice.¹² Thus man is spiritually dead in God's sight¹³ and deserves condemnation.¹⁴

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| 1. Gen 2:20-25 | 6. Gen 19:5-13; Lev 18:22-23; 20:10-17; | 10. Romans 3:23 |
| 2. Mt 19:4-6 | I Cor 6:9-10 | 11. Romans 5:12 |
| 3. Gen 1:28 | 7. Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:5-7; ITim 1:9-10 | 12. Romans 3:9-18 |
| 4. Eph 5:31-32 | 8. Gen 1:26,27 | 13. Eph. 2:1 |
| 5. Heb 13:4 | 9. Gen 3:1-24 | 14. Romans 6:23 |

Section 8 - Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is by grace through faith.⁸ Jesus Christ's voluntary death⁹ was sufficient to satisfy God's holiness, which was enraged by the sins of the whole world.¹⁰ We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again through faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour, that faith being an acceptance of God's record about Christ's work on the cross as true.¹¹ The believer's salvation is eternally secured in Jesus Christ.¹² The new birth is being born spiritually as a new creation in Christ¹³, is instantaneous and not a process.¹⁴ We believe that there is a complete difference between those who are saved and those who are lost.¹⁵ Those who have saved by grace thorough faith are seen by God as having Christ's righteousness.¹⁶ All others continue in unbelief under the condemnation for their sin.¹⁷ In the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature¹⁸ and receives eternal life, the free gift of God.¹⁹ The life of the believer is to be characterized by living the fruit of the Spirit,²⁰ doing God's will,²¹ exercising good works,²² and maintaining fellowship with God.²³

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| 8. Eph. 2:8,9 | 14. I John 5:1 | 19. Romans 6:23 |
| 9. John 10:17,18 | 15. Malachi 3:18 | 20. Gal 5:22,23 |
| 10. I John 2:2 | 16. Romans 4:21-24 | 21. Eph. 5:17 |
| 11. Acts 16:31 | 17. John 3:18 | 22. Eph. 2:10 |
| 12. Romans 8:35-39 | 18. II Pet. 1:4 | 23. I John 1 |
| 13. II Cor. 5:17 | | |

Section 9 – Separation

We believe in the Biblical doctrine of separation which encompasses three things: (a) the separation of the local church from all affiliation and fellowship with those who deny the truths of the Word of God;¹ (b) the separation of the believer unto God and from the worldly practices that would dishonor the Saviour;² and (c) the separation of state from the church³ as stated in the Constitution of the United States, and by our nations founding fathers.

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| 1. II Tim 3:1-5 | 2. Rom. 12:1,2 | 3. Matt. 22:15-21 |
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Section 10 – The Church

We believe that the church is the Body of Christ, consisting of all believers since the day of Pentecost until the rapture. A local church is a congregation of immersed believers⁴ under the headship of Christ.⁵ They observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.⁶ The Biblical officers of the local church are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the Scripture.⁷ They oversee the true mission of the church, which is the fulfillment of the Great Commission.⁸ We believe that the local church has the right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. On all matters of membership, policy, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. We believe that the mode of water baptism is immersion. Immersion is a symbol identifying us with the burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ We believe that the Lord's Supper is the memorial of the Lord's death by partaking of elements which picture His body and His shed blood. This memorial is to be observed until the rapture, and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination.¹⁰

- 4. Acts 2:41
- 5. Col. 1:18
- 6. I Cor. 11:2

- 7. I Tim. 3:1-13
- 8. Matt. 28:19,20

- 9. Acts 8:36-39,
Romans 6:3,4
- 10. I Cor. 11:23-24

Section 11 – Civil Government

We believe civil government is ordained of God for the interests and good order of human society.¹¹ The governmental leaders are to be prayed for,¹² honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to God's will¹³ as defined in the scriptures.

- 11. Rom. 13:1-7

- 12. I Tim 2:1,2

- 13. Acts 5:29

Section 12 – The Last Things

We believe in the imminency of the rapture,¹ the catching away of all believers since the Day of Pentecost² to meet Christ in the air. The dead in Christ will be raised first, and then all living believers will join them,³ each one receiving incorruptible, immortal, and glorified bodies.⁴ Christ will take the church to heaven, where each member of the Body will face the Judgment Seat of Christ,⁵ have his works tried by fire, and receive rewards⁶ and praise.⁷

Following the rapture, the Tribulation will take place for seven years, as God's wrath is poured out on an unbelieving world.⁸ The Tribulation will end at the Battle of Armageddon, when Christ returns to earth with the saints from heaven.⁹ After a time of judgment,¹⁰ the one-thousand year reign of Christ¹¹ will occur. At the end of the one-thousand year reign, Satan will lead a rebellion against Christ, be defeated in battle, and cast into the lake of fire.¹² The present heavens and earth will be consumed by fire,¹³ and all unsaved people – living and dead – will face the Great White Throne of Judgment¹⁴ and be cast into the lake of fire.¹⁵

For eternity, God the Father will rule over the righteous universe, fulfilling His promises of blessing to His saints.¹⁶

- 1. I Thess. 4:13-18
- 2. Acts 2
- 3. I Cor. 15:51,52
- 4. I Cor. 15:53,54
- 5. II Cor. 5:10
- 6. I Cor. 3:12-15
- 7. I Cor. 4:5

- 8. Rev. 6-19
- 9. Zech. 14:1-5,
Rev. 19:11-21
- 10. Matt 25:31-46,
Matt. 25:1-13
- 11. Rev. 20:6

- 12. Rev. 20:7-10
- 13. II Peter 3:10
- 14. Rev. 20:11
- 15. Rev. 20:12-15
- 16. I Cor.15:24-28,
II Peter 3:13

ARTICLE 5 CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Section 1 – The Means of Service

The believer is responsible for faithful attendance and Christian service through the local church. Service to God is to be rendered by exercise of spiritual gifts through the power of the Holy Spirit. Each member of the church should seek to discover the gifts they have and use them for God’s glory & the body’s growth.

Section 2 – The Permanent Gifts

- a. **The Pastor-Teacher** is the shepherd of the congregation, and has the care of the church for spiritual growth, protection and strengthening.
- b. **Teachers** are to explain and expound the meaning of scripture, especially to new Christians.
- c. **Evangelists** have the duty of taking the gospel message to people throughout the world who have not heard of God’s plan of salvation. This gift does not relieve those who don’t have it from the responsibility of a personal witness of Christ.
- d. **Exhortation** is the call to comfort, encourage, and strengthen the distressed, being able to appeal to their will and encourage them toward spiritual actions.
- e. **Faith** is the ability to lay hold of God’s promise for results beyond our normal achievement. This faith is to be distinguished from mental assent (James 2:19) and saving faith (Ephesians 2:8).
- f. **Giving** is the ability to share material benefits beyond the normal responsibility all believers have to support God’s work financially.
- g. **Showing Mercy** is the exercise of kindness in meeting the miseries of the poor, sick, afflicted, widows, fatherless, orphans, and needy.
- h. **Helps, or Ministering** is the ability to assist the pastor in guiding the church through the exercise of its responsibilities. This assistance is beyond the normal duty of all Christians to participate in the work of the Church.
- i. **Government, Rulings or Administration** is the ability to preside or stand before the church, giving leadership in its business affairs.

Section 3 – The Temporary Gifts

Some of the gifts were temporary and are no longer gifts to men per se. We enjoy some of these things as privileges or blessings from God. The following gifts were temporary in character, given as signs to demonstrate the authenticity of God’s message and His messenger, in a day before the Bible was completed and able to serve as the sole measure of God’s revealed truth.

- a. **Apostles** were sent out as messengers who had seen the resurrected Christ. They were the chief authorities in the founding of the church. In a non-technical sense, apostles are comparable with missionaries, the word “missionary” being from the Latin equivalent of the word “apostle”. Both are sent with a message to the lost.
- b. **New Testament Prophets**, or the gift of **Prophecy**, “forthtold” God’s revelation of what the church was to do, believe and teach. Occasionally this revelation included foretelling the future. This gift is to be distinguished from the Old Testament prophetic office, and also the doctrine of the last things

which is sometimes called prophecy. In a non-technical sense, a pastor may be considered a prophet, for he preaches God's revelation from the Word.

- c. **Tongues-speaking** was always the unlearned ability to speak in a foreign language. The word spoken offered special praise and worship to God. Tongues served as a sign especially to unbelieving Israelites.
- d. **Interpretation** was the translation of the tongue into the known language, and the determination of its spiritual meaning.
- e. **Wisdom** was the ability to make known to Christians God's plan and purpose for the church. The gift was the application of the truths understood through the gift of knowledge. This gift is not to be confused with the gathering of wisdom during the maturing process of the Christian life.
- f. **Knowledge** was the ability to have Holy Spirit-type understanding of spiritual things as they are, and was partial until the completed revelation of God in the scriptures. This gift is not to be confused with the gathering of spiritual knowledge by process of Biblical education.
- g. **Discernment** was the ability to distinguish between Godly and false prophetic revelations, in order to preserve the purity of God's word in its formative stages. This gift is nor to be confused with "trying the spirits", which is measuring the validity of things against the completed scriptures.
- h. **Miracles** were interruption of nature's laws to accomplish a special purpose of God. Miracles served as signs, wonders or powers demonstrating God's message. God still performs miracles today.
- i. **Healing** was a type of miracle given on occasion to restore a person's health. Healing authenticated God's message to the lost. God still heals the sick today.

Section 4 – The End of the Temporary Gifts

When the church grew out of its infant stage, it no longer needed the gifts of infancy (I Cor. 13:11). The completed Word of God was promised as a "perfect thing" (I Cor. 13:10 - "perfect" cannot refer to the Lord or the rapture, either contextually or grammatically). The temporary gifts were exercised "out of a part" (I Cor. 13:9); that is based on partial revelation. When the revelation was complete, the things done in part would cease to function (I Cor. 13 10). The Bible says that prophecies and knowledge would literally be "rendered inoperative" by God, and tongues "would cease of themselves" (I Cor. 13:8). As tongues and their abuse were a central problem in Corinth, Paul gave rules for their operation until the time they would cease (I Cor, 14). These rules do not constitute a proof that any temporary gifts are to be exercised today.

ARTICLE 6 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Qualifications

This church will be composed of members who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, been baptized by immersion after their conversion, acknowledge basic agreement with this constitution, and received into fellowship by vote of the church.

Section 2 - Admission

Upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons and favorable vote of the church, qualified applicants desiring membership may be received: (1) by letter from another church of like faith and order; (2) by confession of faith and baptism by immersion; (3) by restoration; or (4) by statement of Christian experience (having previously been baptized).

Section 3 - Dismissal

Members may be dismissed: (1) by letter to other Baptist churches; (2) by a certificate of Christian character to other evangelical churches; (3) by church disciplinary action; or (4) by erasure of name, whether at the member's request or by action of the church upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons. No open letters will be granted.

Section 4 – Classifications

- a. The active membership roll will include resident, non-resident and associate members. A resident member status will be a prerequisite for holding any Biblical position of an officer. An official or committee member status may also be held. Non-resident members are those living elsewhere, but in regular communication with the church, and for sufficient reasons desiring to remain on the roll. Such members will not have the right to vote. As associate membership role will be required for services as an official or committee member and such members are students, military personnel, or temporary residents desiring an active relationship to this church while retaining membership in a home church. Such members are eligible to vote except in matters involving legal transaction or in the calling or, dismissal of a Pastor and/or deacons.
- b. The voting membership roll will consist of all active, resident and associate members who have reached the age of eighteen (18) years.
- c. The inactive membership roll will consist of member who have been absent from the regular service of the church for three (3) months. Transfer to the inactive roll, will be by vote of the church and such status will remove the right to vote. The Pastor and the Board of Deacons will Contact by mail, and in person where possible, such members to counsel and pray with them, and to seek by example an exhortation to renew their fellowship with the church. A member's inactive status may be appealed by letter. After six (6) months, inactive members who have not been restored may be dropped from the rolls by action of the church.

Section 5 - Discipline

The Pastor and the Board of Deacons are to prayerfully seek the restoration of disorderly members by the procedure of Matthew 18:15-17. Such members may be placed under Deacon's discipline, being temporarily removed from their responsibilities in the church during this procedure.

Members who refuse to repent of disorderly conduct in the light of the standards of I Corinthians 5:11-13, will be brought before the church for disciplinary action. Upon the vote of the church, their names will be removed from the membership roll and the membership right and privileges denied.

Continuing efforts will be made by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons to seek the restoration of disciplined members.

ARTICLE 7 THE ORDINANCES

Section 1- Baptism

Those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour will be immersed in water, upon their request, by the Pastor, in accordance with the scriptural command.

Section 2 – The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Lord's Supper will be held monthly at the discretion of the Pastor. Since it is the Lord's table, no believer will be barred, but the Pastor will frequently state the scriptural teaching concerning this ordinance.

ARTICLE 8 OFFICERS

Section 1 - Pastor

- a. The Pastor's qualifications are those set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7; II Timothy 4:2-5; Titus 1:7-9; and I Peter 5:2,3. A Pastor will not be called unless he will promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and subscribe whole-heartedly to the spirit of this constitution.
- b. The Pastor's call will be by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the eligible members present and voting upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee at a business meeting. The meeting will be announced two (2) Sundays in succession from the pulpit, and the voting members will be notified by mail. The call will be made for an indefinite period of time.
- c. The Pastor's duties include watchcare over the spiritual life and interests of the church, preaching the Word, administering the ordinances, and taking charge of the pulpit and all religious services of the church. The Pastor is responsible to lead in evangelism and visitation, and to be available for counseling. In his absence, the Pastor and/or the Board of Deacons will determine the pulpit supply. The Pastor may at his own discretion is an ex officio member of all boards and committees, and he will serve as the moderator of the church.
- d. The Pastor's remuneration and benefits will be set by the church at the time of the call, and may be reviewed at any time. Yearly cost-of-living and incentive raises will be considered in light of the church's ability to pay. The church will defray the Pastor's normal expenses connected with associational meetings whenever financially able to do so. The Pastor will be granted, three (3) weeks vacation with pay each year. Absence beyond vacation time, will be at the discretion of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.
- e. The Pastor's resignation will be written and automatic after thirty (30) days, unless both the Pastor and the Board of Deacons are agreed to a shorter time. The letter of resignation will be read at a regular Sunday service.
- f. The Pastor's dismissal may be initiated by the Board of Deacons, if scriptural grounds for his dismissal exist. If the question of dismissal is brought before the congregation the voting members must be notified of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting at least two (2) Sundays it succession in advance. A Pastor may be dismissed by a simple majority vote of the eligible members present and voting by secret ballot. Dismissal is immediate but separation allowance will be granted.

Section 2 - Pastoral Assistants

The qualifications, remuneration and termination of Pastoral Assistants will be the same as those provisions outlined in ARTICLE 8, Section 1 for the Pastor.

The provisions of the call of Pastoral Assistants will be as those outlined for the Pastor in ARTICLE 8, Section 1, upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons.

The need for benefits and duties of Pastoral Assistants will be established by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons at the time of the call. The Pastor will exercise full authority over said Pastoral Assistants.

Section 3 - Deacons

- a. The Deacon's qualifications are those set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- b. The Deacons' duties will consist of helping the Pastor in the oversight of the spiritual ministries and interests of the church. The interviewing of prospective members, personal work, supervision of the membership rolls, and disciplinary watchcare over the church will be their responsibility. The Chairman of the board will serve as vice-moderator of the church. The members of the board will coordinate the operations of the committees of the church, one Deacon serving as the chairman of each committee, and/or ministry. The deacons will have full charge of the collection and distribution of the benevolent fund. They also will be responsible for arranging hospitality for visiting speakers. The Board of Deacons will be responsible to the church for the performance of all church officials and committees, and will have the authority to remove them from office for unscriptural performance in accordance with Matt. 18:15-17. All church activities, projects, and outreach programs must be approved by the Board of Deacons and the Pastor.
- c. The Deacon board will consist of qualified men, each serving for a term of three (3) years, with one-third elected each year. In addition, the board may have up to two (2) additional one (1) year members.

ARTICLE 9 OFFICIALS

Section 1 - Church Clerk

The Church Clerk will keep a fair and complete record of the business proceedings of the church. The Clerk will also act as Secretary of the Advisory Committee and maintain permanent records.

The Clerk will keep a record of baptisms and a roster of members with its various classifications. Letters of dismissal will be issued as authorized by the church. A record of pertinent dates and data will be kept in order to preserve an accurate history of the church.

In the event that the church hires or designates a Secretary, the church may delegate some of the duties of the Clerk to that person.

Section 2 - Treasurer

The Treasurer will keep a full record of all receipts and disbursements by the church. These records will include all church assets, perpetual funds, and moneys available to budgeted accounts. All records will be available for audit and permanent filing at the discretion of the Trustee Committee.

The Treasurer will disburse all money as directed by the church and the special provisions of this constitution. A monthly financial report will be submitted to the Trustee Committee for approval and posting; and a complete financial statement will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Section 3 - Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary will keep a complete record of all contributions to the church by the envelope system and/or by check. Offering envelopes will be provided to those desiring to use them. A confidential statement of giving will be provided at the end of the year or upon request.

The Financial Secretary will cooperate with the Trustee Committee in the counting of moneys received and in the deposit of said receipts in the bank. The Financial Secretary will give a weekly accounting of offerings to the Treasurer to provide a working balance of money.

Section 4 - Sunday School Superintendent

The Superintendent will be in charge of the administration and promotion of the Sunday School, working in close cooperation with the Pastor. The Superintendent will order materials keep accurate records handle any major discipline problems and hold periodic staff meetings. Special day programs will be at the Superintendent's discretion. A program of training will be made available on occasion, to help staff members in the advancement of the Sunday School.

Section 5 - Trustees

The Deacons shall serve as Trustees. Duties of the Trustees are: (1) the Trustees shall elect from their number a Chairman and Secretary. The former shall preside at their meetings and have general oversight of their work. The latter shall keep a faithful record of any important work, acts or transactions performed by the body. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairman, Pastor; (2) it shall be the duty of the Trustees to care for the property of the church, to hold, repair, invest, and preserve the same, including hiring and supervising the janitor; to superintend any improvements that are not intrusted to a special committee, and to perform such business concerns of the church as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the church. The trustees are at all times servants of the church and subject to it's corporate action; (3) the Trustees shall not have authority to sell, lease, give away, or dispose of church property in any manner to exceed one hundred (100) dollars in value; not to mortgage or incumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount except as the church shall order the same corporately; and (4) they shall audit the Treasurer's books.

ARTICLE 10 COMMITTEES

Section 1 - Standing Committees

- a. **The Advisory Committee** will be composed of all the officers and officials of the church. The committee will meet at the call of the Pastor, or the Board of Deacons when the church is without a Pastor. The Pastor will serve as Chairman of the committee, and the Clerk will act as Secretary. In May, the Advisory Committee will meet to develop a budget to recommend to the church at the June business meeting. Following the annual election of officers the Advisory Committee, upon recommendations by the Board of Deacons, will appoint missionary, music, and christian education committees as needed. They will also appoint a librarian, floral chairman, and church hostesses.
- b. **Head Usher**: The Head Usher shall be chosen at the annual meeting. He shall be the official representative of the hospitality of the church to its members, and to visitors, and shall appoint others to assist him in this worthy service.

Section 2 - Temporary Committees

- a. **The Nominating Committee** will be elected by the church by October 15th, based upon recommendations by the Board of Deacons. The committee will consist of the Pastor as Chairman, one Deacon, one Trustee and one Sunday School teacher. The Nominating Committee will place in nomination, at the annual election of officers, those deemed qualified to fill each elective position. The list of nominees will be posted two (2) Sundays in succession prior to the election, provided that before the posting, permission has been secured from the person to be nominated. If elective positions become vacated during the church year, the Board of Deacons will serve as a temporary committee to seek names to recommend to the church as appropriate replacements to fill the unexpired terms.

- b. **The Pulpit Committee** will be elected by the church during times of pastoral vacancies. The committee will be led by the chairman of the Board of Deacons, and the Church Clerk will act as Secretary. The rest of the committee will consist of up to four (4) members of the Board of Deacons, and up to three (3) members of the church-at-large, with at least one (1) representative from each. The Pulpit Committee will seek to recommend to the church pastoral candidates that fit the Biblical qualifications, in keeping with the procedure outlined in ARTICLE 8, Section 1 of this constitution. Pastoral candidates will be presented to the church one-at-a-time for consideration.

Section 3 - Optional Committees

- a. **The Missionary Committee** will function when the need arises and when there are sufficient qualified members to serve. The committee will consist of up to five (5) members of the church including the Deacon chairman and the President of the Women's Missionary Fellowship. Positions on the committee will be appointed by the church. The Missionary Committee will investigate missionary causes which may warrant the church's attention, and will seek ways to mobilize the entire membership in missionary work. All the recommendations of the committee will be made to the Board of Deacons for final consideration and presentation to the church.
- b. **The Music Committee** will function when the need arises and when there are sufficient qualified members to serve. The committee will consist of up to five (5) members of the church including the Deacon, choir director and/or music minister. Positions on the committee will be appointed by the church. The Music Committee will supervise the musical ministry of the church, and seek to enlist the participation of every musically gifted member of the congregation in a ministry of musical enrichment and blessing. The committee will be responsible to see that the music of the church is honoring to the Lord. Any recommendations of the committee will be made to the Board of Deacons one for final consideration and presentation to the church.
- c. **The Christian Education Committee** will function when the need arises and when there are sufficient qualified members to serve. The committee will consist of up to five (5) members of the church including the Deacons, the Superintendent and other leaders active in the administration of the church's educational programs. Positions on the committee will be appointed by the church. The Christian Education Committee will serve as a coordinating and planning committee for the entire educational program of the church. The committee will periodically review and seek to improve all training programs and educational materials. All the recommendations of the committee will be made to the Board of Deacons for final consideration and presentation to the church.

Section 4 - Other Committees

Any other standing or temporary committees may be elected by the church at any time the need warrants such an election. The composition of these committees and their duties may become a part of this constitution by the amendment procedure.

Other committees may also be appointed by the church, the Board of Deacons or the Advisory Committee as needed. The composition and duties of said committees will be outlined by those that appoint them.

ARTICLE 11 BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS

Section 1 - Annual Elections of Officers

The annual election of officers, officials and committees will be held during early December.

Section 2 - Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting will be held during early January. The business meeting will include the hearing of appropriate reports and other items of business deemed necessary.

Section 3 - Periodic Business Meetings

Monthly business meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday night of the month. Special business meetings may be called at time by the Pastor or the Deacons.

Section 4 - Quorum

Thirty five percent (35%) of the active voting membership will be necessary for transaction of business.

Section 5- Order

In the conduct of business, the rules contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order” will be in effect on any proceedings not covered by this constitution.

Neither proxy votes nor absentee ballots will be issued at any time. All motions and resolutions will be passed by a simple majority vote of the eligible members present and voting, excepting areas in which a greater consensus is required by this constitution.

Section 6- Church budget

The budget committee will propose a new church budget for fiscal year July-June, to be voted on in the June business meeting.

ARTICLE 12 AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible members present and voting at any business meeting, when the essence of the amendment has been made public from the pulpit at least two (2) Sundays in succession prior to the business meeting.

ARTICLE 13 DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable or religious purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of the owner, after providing for the debts and obligations thereof, the remaining assets will not be used to the benefit of any private person but will be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable or religious purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and then to be baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do joyfully affirm this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will walk together in Christian love. We will strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort. We will promote its prosperity and spirituality through evangelism, worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will give the church preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We will maintain family and personal devotions, religiously educate our children, and seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances. We will walk circumspectly in the world, being just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment. By God's grace we will avoid yield in to sin's temptations, in order that our testimony on behalf of Christ will not become blemished.

We will watch over one another in brotherly love by remembering each other in prayer, aiding each other in sickness and distress, and showing Christian hospitality. We will be slow to take offense, but ready for reconciliation without delay, in obedience to the rules of our Saviour.

When we leave this church, we will unite with some other church as soon as possible, where we may carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Section 9 – Separation

We believe in the Biblical doctrine of separation, which encompasses three things: (a) the separation of the local church from all affiliation and fellowship with those who deny the truths of the Word of God;¹ (b) the separation of the believer unto God and from the worldly practices that would dishonor the Saviour;² and (c) the separation of state from the church³ as stated in the Constitution of the United States and by our nations founding fathers.

1. **II Cor 6:14-7:1**; II Tim 3:1-5

2. Rom. 12:1-2

3. Matt. 22:15-21

Section 10 – The Church

We believe that the church is the Body of Christ, consisting of all **born-again** believers **in Jesus Christ** since the day of Pentecost until the rapture.³ A local church is a congregation of immersed believers⁴ under the headship of Christ.⁵ They observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.⁶ The Biblical officers of the local church are pastors/**elders/bishops** and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the Scripture.⁷ They oversee the true mission of the church, which is **to glorify God through worship, fellowship, discipleship, stewardship, and** the fulfillment of the Great Commission.⁸ We believe that the local church has the right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. On all matters of membership, policy, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. **We believe that church discipline is to be followed in obedience to the Lord's command⁹ when there is sin in a member's life that clearly violates the Scripture¹⁰; the purpose of which is restoration¹¹, but may necessitate public excommunication if there is no repentance.¹²** We believe that the mode of water baptism is immersion¹³, **which** is a symbol identifying us with the **death**, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁴ We believe that the Lord's Supper is the memorial of the Lord's **life and** death by partaking of elements which picture His body and His shed blood. This memorial is to be observed until the rapture, should always be preceded by solemn self-examination, **and is only to be partaken by born-again believers in fellowship with God.**¹⁵

3. II Ths 4:13-18

7. I Tim. 3:1-13

11. Gal 6:1-2

15. I Cor 11:27-32

4. Acts 2:41

8. Matt. 28:19-20

12. I Cor 5:3-8

5. Col. 1:18

9. Matt 18:15-20

13. Acts 8:36-39

6. **I Cor. 10:16-17**

10. I Cor 5:11-13

14. Romans 6:3-4

Section 11 – Civil Government

We believe civil government is ordained of God for the interests and good order of human society.¹¹ The governmental leaders are to be prayed for,¹² honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to God's will¹³ as defined in the scriptures.

11. Rom. 13:1-7

12. I Tim 2:1-8

13. Acts 5:**28-29**

Section 12 – The Last Things

We believe in the imminency of the rapture,¹ the catching away of all believers since the Day of Pentecost² to meet Christ in the air. The dead in Christ will be raised first, and then all living believers will join them,³ each one receiving incorruptible, immortal, and glorified bodies.⁴ Christ will take the church to heaven, where each member of the Body will face the Judgment Seat of Christ,⁵ have his works tried by fire, and receive rewards⁶ and praise.⁷

Following the rapture, the Tribulation will take place for seven years, as God's wrath is poured out on an unbelieving world.⁸ The Tribulation will end at the Battle of Armageddon, when Christ returns to earth with the saints from heaven.⁹ After a time of judgment,¹⁰ the one-thousand year reign of Christ¹¹ will occur. At

the end of the one-thousand year reign, Satan will lead a rebellion against Christ , be defeated in battle, and cast into the lake of fire.¹² The present heavens and earth will be consumed by fire,¹³ and all unsaved people – living and dead – will face the Great White Throne of Judgment¹⁴ and be cast into the lake of fire.¹⁵

For eternity, God the Father will rule over the righteous universe, fulfilling His promises of blessing to His saints.¹⁶

1. I Thess. 4:13-18
2. Acts 2
3. I Cor. 15:51,52
4. I Cor. 15:53,54
5. II Cor. 5:10
6. I Cor. 3:12-15
7. I Cor. 4:5

8. Rev. 6-19
9. Zech. 14:1-5,
Rev. 19:11-21
10. Matt 25:31-46,
Matt. 25:1-13
11. Rev. 20:6

12. Rev. 20:7-10
13. II Peter 3:10
14. Rev. 20:11
15. Rev. 20:12-15
16. I Cor.15:24-28,
II Peter 3:13