



# Northwest

BIBLE CHURCH

## CONSTITUTION

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# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible, in its original autographs, was inspired (*verbal plenary = every single word and the sum total of all the words*) by God and recorded by Spirit controlled men. It is, therefore, truth without error. The Bible has been preserved by God in 66 books which are not alterable in intended content but only in readable language. It is the only perfect and error-free rule for all faith and practice. It is both the duty and delight of all Believers to deepen their knowledge of God's Word through regular study of it.

Isaiah 40:8; Isaiah 59:21; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Peter 1:19-21

## THE GODHEAD

We believe in the Triunity of Godhead. He is one God, yet eternally and coequally exists in three distinct persons, namely the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; John 10:30; John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-8

## THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father orders and accomplishes all things according to His own purposes and glory. He is the only entity that can truly create (*ex-nihilo = out of nothing*) and He has perfectly created all things in six literal days. In addition, He sustains His creation by His might. The Father's attributes are superlative and point to His holiness and righteousness which both segregate Him from sin yet also redeem man from sin. He is completely compatible in all His attributes and His dealings with His creation are wholly just. The Father is transcendent in that He is far superior to His creation yet He is also immanent in that He works within His creation. No man can fully comprehend the Father's personhood and nature yet He is to be worshipped exclusively for what He has done and for who He is.

Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 103:19; Psalm 145:8-9; Matthew 6:30; John 1:3; John 4:24; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:4-11; Colossians 1:15-17

## THE SON

We believe in Jesus Christ as the second person of the Triunity of God. He has and does and will exist coequally with the Father and the Spirit. He created all things. He was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary to simultaneously become both fully God and fully man. He emptied Himself of the independent exercise of His Deity, yet retained His very divine nature. By His own purpose, He allowed Himself to be killed. He suffered and died on the cross to bear the sins of the whole world. He was buried, and on the third day bodily rose from the dead. He ascended to Heaven where He makes intercession for all Believers. He is the head of the church. He will receive the church in the Rapture and then return again in glory with His bride to reign as Sovereign during the Millennium. Ultimately, all will give an account before Him as a perfectly equitable judge.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 7:14; Psalm 2:7-9; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-2; John 1:11-18; John 3:16; John 5:22-23; John 10:30; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:51-58; II Corinthians 5:19; Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-17; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:25; II Peter 2:1; I John 2:2; Revelation 20

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, co-equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature. He created all things and directly magnifies Jesus Christ. His work in the lives of non-Believers is conviction, drawing, and enlivening. His work in the lives of NT Believers is predominantly, yet not exclusively, baptism, indwelling, filling, sealing, guidance, and illumination of the Word of God. These works solidify God's relationship with man, insuring that salvation will be finally realized. In addition, the Holy Spirit empowers the church for service by the giving of spiritual gifts. Some of these gifts (*sign gifts of I Corinthians 12*) have fulfilled their purpose and use due to the completion of the superior canon (*66 books*) of Scripture.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:13; Psalm 139:7; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 3:5-7; John 15:26-27; John 16:8-19; Acts 2:33; Romans 8:23-27; I Corinthians 6:19-20; I Corinthians 12:4-13; I Corinthians 13:8-13; II Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 4:10-13; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 2:1-4; II Peter 1:19-21; I John 2:20-27

## ANGELS

We believe in sinless spirit beings created by God called angels. They were created to worship and minister to God and to His saints. One of these angels (*Lucifer*) rebelled against God, thus becoming Satan. He, along with a large number (*one third*) of the angels are destined for judgment in the Lake of Fire. Today, Satan and the fallen angels are operating, under God's sovereignty, as the gods of this world. Angels are not redeemable creatures and their eternal fate has been sealed.

Genesis 3:1-19; Job 1:1-2:10; Isaiah 6:2-3; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Romans 5:12-14; Ephesians 6:10-12; Colossians 1:16; I Timothy 3:6; Hebrews 1:14; II Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6; Revelation 20:10

## MAN

We believe that man was created by God in His own image, free from sin and its effects. His purpose is to glorify God by living in His will and enjoying fellowship with his Creator. By his voluntary transgression, he fell into sin thus plunging the whole human race into depravity, corruption, death and condemnation. Thus, all men are sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration. Jesus Christ is the only human to not possess a sinful nature. All men inherently stand in great need of redemption, which is exclusively provided to man by God through faithful obedience to the Gospel.

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 43:7; Jeremiah 17:9; John 8:44; John 14:6; Romans 1:16; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 5:10-12; Romans 8:6-7; I Corinthians 2:14-16; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:16; I John 3:8

## SALVATION

We believe that salvation is initiated and completed by God. In His grace He has established a new vital relationship with sinful man. This relationship is realized by the response of man by faith to God's effectual call to be saved. In His grace, He has chosen us to be the elect before the foundation of the world. Our new relationship places us in Christ and Him in us. At the very moment of our new union, we are converted into a new creation by the gifts of repentance and faith.

John 15:16; Acts 13:48; Acts 18:27; Romans 2:4; Romans 8:27-30; Romans 9:22-24; II Corinthians 7:9-10; Ephesians 1:4-11; Philippians 1:29; II Thessalonians 2:13; II Timothy 2:10; Titus 3:4-7; I Peter 1:1-2

Justification is the act of God whereby He declares us righteous. It is apart from any effort of natural man and is attributed solely to His grace. It involves the placing of man's sin upon Christ. In addition, through the substitution of Christ, His righteousness is imputed to us. We are completely forgiven, declared as holy saints, and brought into the family of God.

Acts 2:33; Romans 3:20-26; Romans 8:33; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Peter 2:21-24

Sanctification is the work of God whereby we are transformed (*past, present, & future*) into the image of Christ. God gives provision for victory over the power of sin initially, daily, and eternally. We do not experience eradication of sin while we are bound in the flesh. However, since God's work is complete, we can be assured of salvation based on the promises of God, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the transformed life of the Believer. God can be trusted to finish the work of salvation that He has initiated, thus the Believer, regardless of his deeds, will eternally and securely persevere. Until perfected by Christ and removed from the flesh, all Believers are responsible to grow and change according to the Spirit's teaching of the Word of God in the context of a local church.

John 14:1-4; John 17:17-19; Acts 20:32; Romans 6:1-22; Romans 7:1-6; Romans 7:22-25; Romans 8:15-17; Romans 11:29; I Corinthians 1:1-2; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:20-24; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 3:9-10; I Thessalonians 4:3-4; II Thessalonians 2:13; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24-25

Glorification is the work of God whereby our union with Christ will be fully and perfectly realized. Our adoption as sons of God will be completed and we will experience the total absence of sin and its effects. The culmination of the work of the triune God in salvation will be manifested in a new people, a new body, a new age, and a new creation.

Romans 8:27-30; Titus 1:11-14; Philippians 3:21; I Corinthians 15:35-44; I Corinthians 15:50-54; II Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 20:6; I John 3:1-3;

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe that the Church is a New Testament organism. It was unknown to the Old Testament prophets and was established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head. It was revealed through the Apostles and is empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit. The church began at Pentecost and will end at the Rapture. It is unique and is given its own distinct promises apart from those of God's chosen people, namely Israel. It is promised a future as the bride of Christ and is considered to be His body, even as Christ is the head. The church is both universal and local in scope. All those who have believed the Gospel unto salvation are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the universal body of Christ. The New Testament also clearly displays a pattern of developing and maturing a local body of Believers known as the local church. The local church is responsible to make disciples by evangelism of the lost and education of the saved. The church is to provide regular opportunity for collective assembly focused on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, involving worship, fellowship, and training. The local church is to carefully be involved in the regular practice of the two ordinances, namely Communion and Believer's baptism. Communion is the memorial celebration, by Believers, of the death of Jesus Christ as modeled at the last supper of Jesus with His disciples. Believer's baptism is the outward identification of a Believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and is correctly pictured by immersion in water. This symbol of unity with Christ is also the NT pattern for Believers to be united with a local church. In addition, the local church is to be autonomous and self-governed under the principles of the NT. The local church has two offices, that of Pastor (*synonymously named in the NT, Elder or Overseer/Bishop*) and Deacon. These men are to lead as servants of Christ in the affairs of the local church and are endowed with His authority as outlined in their Biblical qualifications.

Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-21; Acts 2:38-42; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-11; I Corinthians 10:32; I Corinthians 11:28-32; I Corinthians 12:12-13; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Ephesians 3:1-6; Ephesians 4:11-15; Ephesians 5:32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Timothy 3:1-13; I Timothy 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:19-25; I Peter 5:1-5; I John 1:3

## **LAST THINGS**

We believe that physical death involves the separation of the soul from the body and that there is no loss of our immaterial consciousness. The Believer's soul passes immediately to the presence of the Lord awaiting reunification with our glorified bodies at the Rapture. All men will be bodily resurrected. The saved will be raised unto eternal life and the unsaved will be raised unto eternal judgment and wrath. All men will receive judgment. The saved will experience reward for their service to the Lord at the Bema Seat (*Bema = reward*) and the unsaved will experience eternal punishment and separation from God for their sin and unbelief at the Great White Throne.

Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; John 6:39; Romans 8:1-11; II Corinthians 4:14; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-24; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 20:4-15;

We believe the personal bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the clouds to catch away His church will occur prior to the Great Tribulation (*Pre-Tribulational Rapture*). This Rapture will be followed by seven years of wrath and judgment from God which will be used to arouse Israel to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. The culmination of the Great Tribulation will be the physical return of Jesus Christ with His church to the earth to rule and reign for a thousand years (*Pre-Millennial Second Coming*). This Millennial Kingdom will be immediately preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon and the removal of Satan from the world to the Abyss. The Millennial Kingdom will come to a close with the release of Satan for one last attempt of rebellion known as the Battle of Gog & Magog. Christ will be victorious and will destroy the elements of the earth with fire and will usher in the New Heavens and the New Earth where all Believers will experience perfect fellowship with God and each other without the effects or presence of sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father and the Triune God will reign for all eternity!

Deuteronomy 28:15-68; Isaiah 65:17-25; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Daniel 7:17-27; Daniel 9:27; Daniel 12:1-3; Zechariah 8:1-17; Matthew 21:43; Matthew 25:41; John 5:21-30; John 14:1-4; Romans 11:1-26; I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Corinthians 3:11-15; I Corinthians 15:24-28; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; II Thessalonians 2:2-7-12; Titus 2:13; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 7:9-17; Revelation 20:4-15; Revelation 19:11-21; Revelation 20:7-8; Revelation 21-22

# CORE VALUES

## OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE

We hold in the highest esteem the supremacy of God. His glory is the purpose of our actions, the basis for our beliefs, and the reason for our very existence. While God ultimately will be glorified in, through, and despite man's actions, we strive to bring our lives, both individually and corporately, in line with God's heart and purposes. Our goal is to lift high the glory of God in everything we do, say, and even think. All of Northwest Bible Church's core values will flow out of this overarching principle.

## WE VALUE PRAYER

We believe in the power of God through prayer (our direct communication to God) and that prayer glorifies God [Ps. 50:15, Jn. 14:13-14, Jm. 5:16]. Prayer is necessary and foundational to all ministries of our church [Jn 15:5b, Is. 56:7b, Eph. 6:18]. We believe God commands us to pray continuously (both individually and corporately) and that he answers prayer according to His will [1 Jn. 5:14-15, I Thess. 5:17, Mk. 11:24, Matt. 7:7-8, Heb. 11:6].

## WE VALUE WORSHIP

We believe the Scriptures command us to worship God and God alone [Ex. 34:14, Jn. 4:23-24, Lk. 4:8]. Out of reverence for who God is, what He's done, and what He will do, we choose to bring our heart, soul, and mind under His will [Rv. 4:8, Gn. 1:1, Rv 21:3-8, Jb 38-40, Mt. 22:37 ]. We strive to honor and exalt God's name in our activities, in our lifestyle, and in our increasing knowledge of Him [Rm. 12:1, I Co. 10:31, I Th. 5:23].

## WE VALUE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We believe God commands His church to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ [Hb. 5:13-6:1]. Individually, it is our responsibility to discern right from wrong, good from evil, by meditating on Scripture and pursuing holiness continuously so that we may become complete in Christ [Phil. 3:12-15, Ps. 119:11, Ps. 1:2]. Corporately, and through the Bible, we will provide an environment that encourages spiritual growth; warning, teaching, and praying for everyone that we might present everyone mature in Christ [Col. 1:28-29, Eph. 4:11-16, Col. 1:9-12].

## WE VALUE TRUTH

We believe all Scripture is true and that the God of creation has revealed Himself to man through the Bible [Ps. 119:160, Jn. 8:31-32, Jn. 14:6]. God intended for mankind to understand His word and its literal interpretation. God inspired the Bible and it is used for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness [2 Tim. 3:16-17]. Through the testing and examination of one's heart, every person must choose to accept or reject God's truth. Corporately, we purpose to walk in God's truth continuously through the strength of the Holy Spirit [Jn. 15:26, 2 Th 2:15, Hb 4:12].

## WE VALUE EVANGELISM

We believe God commands and empowers us to spread the gospel to bring glory to Himself [Acts 1:8, Mt. 28:18-20]. Individually, it is our responsibility to be ready and able to communicate to others that the hope we have is because of the Gospel [I Pt. 3:15, Mt. 4:19]. Corporately, we purpose to be intentional regarding evangelism in all of our ministries [Gal. 6:9, Acts 4:20].

# BY-LAWS

## section #1 **GOVERNMENT**

- A. The name of this church shall be “Northwest Bible Church.” It shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Board of Directors will facilitate the business and legal functioning of the corporation. (see Board of Directors “Articles of Incorporation”)
- B. The government of this church shall be vested in its membership.
- C. The fiscal and business year shall coincide with the calendar year (January 1 - December 31). An annual business meeting shall take place during the month of January each year. The exact date, time and location of this meeting shall be published at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
- D. A special meeting of the congregation may be called by the Elders of the church to transact any needed business. At least a two week notice must be given before a special meeting is convened.
- E. Official voting is available to all those members who are at least 18 years of age.
- F. A quorum to transact official business shall be one fourth (25%) of the church voting membership.
- G. Official voting will be done in person and will not include proxy ballots or absentee ballots.
- H. All business of the church, requiring voting action, shall be determined by a majority vote (67%), unless otherwise designated in these by-laws.
- I. No less than two tellers will be appointed by the moderator to tally votes.
- J. An Elder will serve as the moderator of the church during all official business.

## section #2 **MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Qualifications – Anyone desiring to become a member of this church shall:
  1. Give testimony of an authentic personal faith in Jesus Christ.
  2. Have been baptized by immersion as a Christian.
  3. Be committed to changing and growing (progressive sanctification) as a disciple of Jesus Christ.
  4. Be committed to a general understanding and upholding of the doctrines and membership covenant of this church.
- B. Becoming a Member – Potential members may join in one of three ways:
  1. By baptism and testimony.
  2. By testimony, having previously been baptized as a Believer.
  3. By restoration from discipline.

Potential members shall meet with the Elders, who shall pass upon their qualifications. Having been recommended by the Elders, the person’s name shall be submitted to the membership for a majority (67%) vote. The Elders shall evaluate the membership roll twice per year.
- C. Responsibilities of Members – Members are expected to adhere to the Membership Covenant.
- D. Removal of Members – A member may be removed from the membership roll for the following reasons:
  1. Death – their names will automatically be removed upon notification
  2. Transfer - Members who relocate should transfer their membership in a timely manner in accordance with our church covenant. Membership is immediately terminated when a member joins the membership of another church. If a member does not issue a request for transfer within approximately one year of leaving, the membership shall vote to either terminate or extend that individual's membership, as wisdom dictates.
  3. Biblical discipline – While the purpose of church discipline is the restoration of the erring member (Gal 6:1; 2 Cor 2:5-8), there are times when the assembly must fulfill its responsibility to terminate the membership of an unrepentant member. This requires a majority vote (67%) by the church body. As representatives of Christ, Northwest Bible Church is commissioned with the responsibility to execute disciplinary measures with unrepentant members, even if they should tender their resignation from membership. Covenanting with the assembly in order to identify oneself with the membership of the church is not a unilateral agreement. In like manner, the termination of membership is not a unilateral affair. As the body that originally received the member, the local church must be sufficiently informed of the nature of the erring member's delinquency so as to honorably voice its collective call for the erring member to repent and so as to corporately extend to the impenitent the offer of forgiveness and restoration to fellowship.

## section #3 OFFICERS

### A. Pastor / Elder

All Elders shall be called for an indeterminate term. They shall qualify according to the prescribed Biblical requirements (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7) and shall be committed to a specific understanding and upholding of the doctrines, by-laws, and membership covenant of this church. The specific guidelines for calling an Elder shall be spelled out in the document "NWBC Pastor Search Workbook" which should be reviewed on a regular basis and remain on file. They shall minister the affairs of the church in keeping with the NT. Notice of any proposed choice of an Elder shall be given at least two weeks preceding the voting. They shall be recommended by the Elders and shall be elected by the membership with at least a seventy five percent (75%) majority ballot vote. His pastorate may be terminated by either voluntary resignation or seventy five percent (75%) majority ballot vote with pay not to exceed sixty (60) days without church approval. The Elders shall be a member ex-officio of all groups, committees, and other organizations within the church. The Elder and his spouse shall automatically become members of the church at the start date of his term.

#### 1. Types of Elders

a. Lead Elder. The Lead Elder is a compensated officer and shall perform the duties of an Elder, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching, teaching, and shepherding people. He shall be the primary preacher at worship meetings, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in these bylaws. In the absence or incapacity of the Lead elder, the other Elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.

b. Vocational Elder. A vocational elder is a compensated officer whose relationship to the lead elder is that of associate. He shall perform the duties of an Elder, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time or part time ministry of preaching, teaching, and shepherding people. He shall partner with the Lead Elder and other Elders in the performance of their regular duties, and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of Elder. The other Elders shall define the responsibilities of the vocational elders.

c. Lay Elder. Lay Elders are typically non-compensated officers that have the ability to preach, teach, and shepherd people. He shall partner with the Lead and the other Elders in their duties as defined by the Elders.

#### 2. Role

a. Elders are to fulfill a pastoral function, leading and nurturing the spiritual health of the flock. They are to remain qualified for office as stipulated by Scripture. Their duties will differ according to their God-given abilities and assignment (1 Tim 5:17).

b. The Lead Elder shall primarily be responsible for the preaching ministry of the church. He shall serve as the leader among his fellow elders.

c. Employees of the church shall be hired, and discharged with the knowledge and approval of all the elders.

#### 3. Term of Office

a. An elder shall serve for an indefinite period of time with the right to terminate his services upon thirty days' notice, or earlier if the church so orders it, at which time his official pastoral duties shall end.

b. If at any time an Elder's qualification is questioned, he shall be confronted and counseled biblically (Matt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1-2; 1 Tim 5:19). If church discipline is exercised against an elder by seventy five percent (75%) majority vote of the members, his pastoral duties and church membership will be terminated immediately as will all claim to, and possession of church property.



4. The Lead Elder may be the moderator of the church and shall be the moderator of the Deacons.
5. An Interim Pastor may be secured, should the church be without the services of a Lead Elder for a prolonged period of time. He shall assume the pastoral responsibilities as defined by the Elders for that interim period. He shall be elected in the same way as any other Elder. His term shall end upon completion of a predetermined time period or the calling of a new Lead Elder, whichever comes first.

#### B. Servant / Deacon

1. Qualification of Deacon – He shall qualify according to the prescribed Biblical requirements (1 Timothy 3:8-15) and shall minister the affairs of his office in keeping with the NT. He shall be a member of this church for at least six months and be committed to a specific understanding and upholding of the doctrines, by-laws, and membership covenant of this church.
2. Election of Deacon – A deacon shall be elected for a three-year term. The number of Deacons shall be determined by need and by a simple consensus of the Elders. He shall be nominated by the membership, approved by the Elders, and elected by the membership with at least a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority ballot vote. *[In the event that a tie occurs or a proper majority is not reached, the membership will re-vote, removing from the ballot, the nominee with the lowest tally of votes.]* He is eligible to serve for three consecutive elected terms, before vacating his office for at least one full year. In the event of a premature vacancy of his office, the Elders may appoint a qualified man to fulfill the vacated office for the remainder of the year. At the subsequent annual business meeting, the vacated office may then be replaced by standard procedure.
3. Role – Deacons are to serve the Church in an official capacity and in such a manner as to free the Elders for the ministry of the Word and prayer. The deacons shall fulfill responsibilities assigned to them by the elders including, as appropriate, service of the Lord's Supper; oversight of the benevolent fund; participation in the counting, recording, depositing, and reporting of church giving and other duties deemed appropriate.

### section #4 **MINISTRY POSITIONS**

Other ministry positions are expedient to the administration of the overall ministry of this church. Such positions may include, but are not limited to, Deaconess, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Clerk, and the like. These positions shall be determined by need and created under the direction of the Elders. These positions shall be recommended by the Elders, approved and appointed by the Elders. These individuals shall be members of this church for at least six months. Each position shall be for a term of one year and is subject to reappointment on an annual basis. In the event of a premature vacancy of a ministry position, the Elders may appoint a qualified person to fill a vacated position.

### section #5 **COMMITTEES / ORGANIZATIONS**

Committees and Organizations are expedient to the administration of the overall ministry of this church. Such Committees/Organizations may include, but are not limited to, Missions, Building, and the like. These Committees/Organizations shall be determined by need and created under the direction of the Elders. These Committees/Organizations members shall be recommended by the Elders, approved and appointed by the Elders. These individuals shall be members of this church for at least six months. Each Committee/Organization appointment shall be for a term of one year and is subject to reappointment on an annual basis. In the event of a premature vacancy on a Committee/Organization, the Elders may appoint a qualified person to fill a vacated role based on the specific Committee's/Organization's request.

### section #6 **TEACHERS**

All teachers are approved by and appointed by the Elders. They shall be members of this church and shall be committed to a specific understanding and upholding of the doctrines and membership covenant of this church. They shall have been in regular attendance at this church for at least six months. The Elders reserve the right to make exception for some who have been in attendance for less than six months, but whose testimony is well known.

*section #7* **AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by at least a seventy five percent (75%) voting majority ballot vote of the membership. Any proposed changes, shall be submitted to the membership in writing, at least two weeks preceding an official vote.

*section #8* **DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the disbanding of this church, all assets shall be given to a non-profit organization(s) [such as churches, missions, schools, and other ministries]. A seventy five percent (75%) majority ballot vote shall be required to both dissolve this corporation and to designate the recipient(s) of its assets. No individual shall personally benefit from the assets of the church.

# MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

As born again Believers in Jesus Christ and as members of this local church, we joyfully enter into a covenant with each other as one body in Christ. We desire and strive, by God's enabling, to walk together in Biblical unity, to promote the spiritual health of this local body, to encourage its corporate worship, to observe its ordinances, to undertake its discipline, and to practice its doctrines. Furthermore, we desire and strive to cheerfully support this local church with gracious giving, fervent prayer, regular attendance, and sacrificial love. It is our desire to maintain a godly home, a faithful testimony to the lost, and a holy lifestyle. We pledge, by God's enabling, to conduct ourselves in a manner which displays holiness and grace and at all times, reflecting the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Within His church, we promise to avoid disunity, improper speech, spiritual apathy, and any other trait which would harm both the universal and local body of Christ. In addition, we will apply ourselves to the love and care of the brethren with sincerity of heart and will foster an atmosphere of true fellowship with every member of Christ's church. Finally, should the need arise for us to remove ourselves from this local body, we will leave with a gracious spirit, eagerly attempting to unite with some other local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## NOTE:

*Readily recognizing the superiority of God's Word over man's words, it is the strong and purposeful intent of this church to be ruled in accordance with the Bible. We believe that this constitution is subordinate to the Scriptures themselves and it is our deepest desire that this constitution would accurately reflect the Word of God and would, in fact, be borne out of the Scriptures. In relation to governing documents for our church, the following priority will be observed in governing this local body:*

- 1.) *the Bible*
- 2.) *the Doctrinal Statement*
- 3.) *the By-Laws*