

# Constitution And Doctrinal Statement

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## **ARTICLE I : NAME**

(Some Scripture to be considered in this article: Matthew 16:13-18)

This organization shall be called Valley Chapel Community Church.

## **ARTICLE II: DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

(Some Scriptures to be considered in this article: II Timothy 2:15, Jude 3)

We believe the following doctrinal statement to accurately represent the Word of God. The Word of God is our authority, not our statement of its contents.

### **I. Bibliology (Doctrine of the Scriptures)**

God, in His sovereignty, through His Spirit, revealed His Word to His own holy men who recorded it through their own distinct personalities and circumstances, yet without error in the original manuscripts.

The Scriptures as we know them (without the apocryphal books) are therefore the final authority in all we do and believe. They are enduring and eternal because they are the Word of God. They are inerrant, infallible, and verbally inspired in the original manuscripts.

They must be interpreted in dependence on the Holy Spirit using the literal, historical, grammatical, contextual method of hermeneutics, which leads one to a dispensational understanding of God's working.

- A. The source of the Scriptures
  1. Breathed by God -- II Timothy 3:16
  2. Spoken by men -- II Peter 1:21
    - a. Not speaking of themselves --II Peter 1:20
    - b. But speaking by the Spirit -- II Peter 1:21
- B. The nature of the Scriptures
  1. Truth -- II Timothy 2:15
  2. Authority -- James 1:22-25; Psalm 119; II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21, 3:15-16
  3. Alive -- I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12
  4. Enduring -- I Peter 1:23-25; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18
  5. Effective -- Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17; Isaiah 55:11; I Thessalonians 2:13
  6. Sufficient -- II Timothy 3:17; II Peter 1:3,4
  7. Complete -- II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; II Peter 1:3-4; Revelation 22:18-19
- C. The interpretation of the Scriptures
  1. Must be interpreted correctly -- Luke 4:16-21; II Timothy 2:15; II Peter 3:14-16
  2. Are only understood with the Spirit's help -- I Corinthians 2:9-16

### **II. Theology Proper (Doctrine of God)**

God exists eternally within Himself as a triune God. That is, He is one God manifested in three distinct yet unified persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is far above us in position and power yet near to us because of His nature. He is a Spirit. He is superior to all others as seen in His revelation of Himself--generally in nature, and specifically in the Scriptures. God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days and not in millions of years or by a process of evolution. He is Sovereign over all His creation.

- A. The existence of God
  1. He has always existed as God -- Psalm 90:2; Psalm 93:2
  2. He was in the beginning -- Genesis 1:1
  3. He exists in and of Himself -- Exodus 3:14; John 5:26
  4. He exists as a Spirit -- John 4:24
- B. The trinity of God
  1. God is one God -- Deuteronomy 6:4; I Timothy 2:5; Isaiah 45:21
  2. God is three persons
    - a. God the Father -- John 3:16; I Timothy 1:2; John 5:17-47

- b. God the Son -- John 1:1; John 8:58; Matthew 3:17
  - c. God the Holy Spirit -- Genesis 1:2; I Corinthians 3:16, 11:17; Acts 5:3-4
- 3. God is a triunity -- Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:26; 11:17; II Corinthians 13:14
- C. The attributes of God
  - 1. Loving -- I John 4:7-8; John 3:16
  - 2. Holy -- I Peter 1:16; Leviticus 11:44; Psalm 99:5
  - 3. Omnipotent -- Mark 10:27; Jeremiah 32:27
  - 4. Righteous -- Daniel 9:14; Romans 1:17
  - 5. Merciful -- Micah 7:18; Psalm 103:8-11; Titus 3:3:5
  - 6. Omnipresent -- Jeremiah 23; 24; Psalm 139:7-13
  - 7. Just -- Psalm 89:14; Isaiah 45:21
  - 8. Omniscient -- Psalm 139:1-4, 16; John 21:17; Isaiah 40:13-14, 28
  - 9. Immutable -- James 1:17; I Samuel 15:29; Malachi 3:6
  - 10. Gracious -- I Peter 5:10; Nehemiah 9:17, 31
  - 11. Long-suffering -- II Peter 3:9; Numbers 14:18
- D. The Sovereignty of God
  - 1. Over all men -- Isaiah 40:22-25, Acts 4:23-28
  - 2. Over all angels -- Matthew 26:53; Job 1-2; Revelation 4-5
  - 3. Over all gods -- Isaiah 40:18-25; Exodus 18:11; Deuteronomy 10:17
  - 4. Over all creation -- Job 38-42; Hebrews 1:1-3; Isaiah 45:5-7, Ezekiel 32:8; Amos 4:13
- E. The Revelation of God
  - 1. In Nature -- Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-6
  - 2. In the Scriptures -- See “ ‘C’ - The attributes of God”
  - 3. By the Spirit -- I Corinthians 2:9-13; II Peter 1:20-21
  - 4. In Christ -- John 14:7-11; Hebrews 1:1-2
- F. The Creation by God
  - 1. Heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1-2:25)
  - 2. Six literal days (Genesis 1:1-2:25, Exodus 20:11)
  - 3. Not by a process of evolution (Colossians 1:15-17)

### III. Anthropology (Doctrine of Man)

God purposefully created sinless man and woman in His own image, therefore making them responsible to Him. He created them to be equal in value, and mutually dependent, yet distinct in role and position. They had a free will to either obey or disobey God. Man became a sinner because of willful disobedience and a sin nature has been passed on to each descendent. Since this sinfulness has permeated every facet of our being we are without hope of gaining any merit before the one holy God or of living a holy life without His intervention. All persons will exist forever in either the lake of fire or with God our creator.

- A. Creation of mankind
  - 1. Created by God -- Genesis 1:26-27; 2:4-7, 18-22; Psalm 100:3
  - 2. Created to be different (Male and Female)-- Genesis 1:27; 2:18-22
- B. Purpose of mankind-- created for God's will -- Revelation 4:11
- C. Condition of mankind
  - 1. All are sinners -- Romans 3:10, 23
    - a. By nature -- Romans 5:12
    - b. By choice -- Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-12
    - c. Sin affected in every aspect of our being (Romans 7:18, 24-25; 8:18-25)
  - 2. All are guilty -- Romans 3:9, 19
  - 3. All are without merit -- Romans 3:9-18, 23
- D. Position of mankind
  - 1. Responsible for our actions -- Revelation 20:11-15; Romans 14:12
  - 2. Responsible to God -- Revelation 20:11-15; Romans 14:12
  - 3. Lower than the angels -- Hebrews 2:7
- E. Destiny of mankind

1. All will exist somewhere forever -- Matthew 25:46
2. Believers with the Lord forever -- I Thessalonians 4:16-18
3. Unbelievers in punishment forever -- Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:11-15

#### **IV. Hamartiology (Doctrine of Sin)**

Sin has its roots in Satan and is manifested and described in numerous ways. Man became a sinner in the Garden of Eden as he willfully disobeyed God. Sin caused separation from God, a guilty condition before God and a curse on all creation. Sin has corrupted each aspect of man's being. All men are sinners by nature and by choice, and all sin must be punished.

- A. Definition of sin
  1. All unrighteousness is sin -- I John 5:17
  2. For a weak believer to violate conscience is sin-- Romans 14:23
  3. To miss the mark -- Romans 3:23
  4. To go astray -- Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:12; James 2:10
  5. Transgression of law -- I John 3:4
  6. Illustrations of sin -- Exodus 20:1-17; Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 15:19-20; Romans 1:21-31; Galatians 5:16-21, etc.
- B. Entrance of sin
  1. By Satan -- Genesis 3:1-15
  2. By Adam -- Romans 5:12
  3. Upon all -- Romans 5:12
- C. Effects of sin
  1. Guilty before God -- Romans 6:23
  2. Curse on earth -- Genesis 3:17-19
  3. Curse on all creation -- Romans 8:22
- D. The Judgment of sin
  1. Conquered by Christ -- Romans 5:21
  2. Manifested in believers -- Romans 6:1-13

#### **V. Christology (Doctrine of Christ)**

Jesus Christ came to earth in the form of a man fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies pointing to the first coming of Messiah. He is the Second Person of the Triune Godhead, eternally one with the Father. He was begotten by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood are thus united in one person fully God and fully man, the God-man. He fulfilled the law and ransomed His people by giving His sinless life-blood as a satisfying payment for sin. He was crucified, buried and rose again the third day showing that His payment was accepted. He is now actively seated at the right hand of God waiting for the complete practical outworking of His victorious sacrifice.

- A. The existence of Christ
  1. He was with the Father (With glory, before the world existed) -- John 17:5
  2. He came from the Father -- John 8:4
  3. He is eternally one with the Father -- John 8:58
- B. The deity of Christ
  1. He is God -- John 1:1, 8:58
  2. He is one with God -- John 5:17-18, 10:30
  3. He is fully God -- Colossians 2:9
- C. The incarnation of Christ
  1. He was Born a redeemer -- Galatians 4:4-5
  2. He was Born of a virgin -- Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26, 34; Matthew 1:18, 23, 25
  3. He was Born under the law -- Galatians 4:4
  4. He was Born without sin -- II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:22
  5. He was Born a king -- Luke 1:32-33
  6. He was Born a Savior -- Luke 2:11
  7. He was Conceived by the Spirit -- Luke 1:35
  8. He was Born Messiah -- John 4:25-26
  9. He was Born fully a man -- John 1:14, Colossians 2:9
- D. The work of Christ

1. He was a servant -- Mark 10:45
  2. He fulfilled the law -- Matthew 5:17
  3. He was the sacrifice -- John 1:29
  4. He was the substitute -- II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24
  5. He gave His life -- John 10:10-11
  6. He paid a ransom -- Mark 10:45; Galatians 4:4
  7. He shed His blood -- I Peter 1:18-21
  8. He was crucified -- I Corinthians 15:1-4
  9. He was buried -- I Corinthians 15:1-4
  10. He raised from the dead -- I Corinthians 15:1-4
  11. He made atonement for sin -- I John 2:2
    - a. Sufficient for the world--John 3:16, Revelation 22:17
    - b. Efficient for the elect -- John 10:10, 15:13, Ephesians 5:25
- E. The position of Christ
1. He is exalted by the Father -- Acts 2:33
  2. He is seated at the right hand of the Father -- Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3
  3. His name is above all others -- Philippians 2:9
    - a. All will bow to Him -- Philippians 2:10
    - b. All will confess Him -- Philippians 2:11
    - c. All are subject to Him -- Philippians 3:21; Hebrews 2:8
  4. He is Judge -- Revelation 5
    - a. His person -- John 5:22; 12:48
    - b. His words -- John 12:48

## VI. Soteriology (Doctrine of Salvation)

Man's need for salvation from sin is only met in Jesus Christ, the Way. God reveals His love and righteousness in the Gospel message. This message is that Jesus Christ was truly God and Messiah and that He died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. He came to earth, lived a sinless life, died as a substitute for all who would put their faith in Him, and rose again in a victorious resurrection. By placing our faith in Christ (trusting the person and work of Christ) we have salvation which brings a position, a relationship, the righteousness of God, eternal life, deliverance, and a changed heart. This salvation is a sovereign act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously saves, sanctifies, and glorifies.

- A. The need for salvation
  1. The condition of men -- See Anthropology
  2. The effects of sin -- See Hamartiology
- B. The way of salvation
  1. Is by sovereign election from God
    - a. This sovereign election occurs before the foundation of the world -- Ephesians 1:4, Romans 8:28-30
    - b. This sovereign election is in harmony with God's character -- Romans 9:11-16
    - c. This sovereign election does not remove the responsibility of men.
      - 1) to repent --Acts 17:30
      - 2) to evangelize --II Corinthians 5:18-21
  2. Is in Christ -- Acts 4:12
  3. Is by faith and repentance -- Romans 3:22a, Ephesians 2:8,9, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30; I Thess. 1:9
  4. Is offered to all -- Romans 3:22b-23; John 3:16
  5. Is as a gift -- Romans 3:24-26; 6:23
  6. Is apart from works -- Romans 3:27-28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
  7. Is confirmed by the resurrection -- Romans 4:25
  8. Is without the law -- Romans 3:20,28
  9. Is by imputation of Christ's righteousness -- II Corinthians 5:21
- C. The results of salvation
  1. A child of God -- John 1:12
  2. Peace with God -- Romans 5:1
  3. In Christ -- Colossians 3:3

- a. In Christ's body -- I Corinthians 12:13
- b. In Christ's death -- Romans 6:1-10
- c. In Christ's life -- Romans 6:1-10
- 4. Security for eternity -- John 6:37; Romans 8:28-39; John 17:9-12
- 5. Free from the law -- Romans 10:4
- 6. Free from sin-- Romans 6:6-10
- 7. Eternity with Christ -- John 14:3; Revelation 22:3-5
- 8. Regeneration - to be given new life -- Titus 3:5
- 9. Justification - to be declared righteous -- Romans 8:30,33; Romans 5:1
- 10. Sanctification - to be made holy -- Romans 1:7; John 17:17; II Thessalonians 2:13
  - a. Positional: sets the believer apart by the Holy Spirit from sin unto God
  - b. Progressive: continues throughout the life of the believer as he changes and grows to become more like Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit
  - c. Perfect: believer is saved from presence of sin when he sees the Lord
- D. The evidence of salvation
  - 1. There is evidence -- I John 5:13
  - 2. Obedience is evidence -- I John 2:3-4; 3:9-10; 5:18
  - 3. Love is evidence
    - a. Love for believers -- I John 2:9-11; 3:14; 4:7
    - b. But not for the world system -- I John 2:15-17
  - 4. Proper belief is evidence -- I John 2:23, 3:23-24; 5:1, 5:4-5, 5:12
  - 5. The Holy Spirit is evidence -- I John 2:24; 4:13

## **VII.Pneumatology (Doctrine of the Holy Spirit)**

God the Holy Spirit works in both unbelievers and believers. His work in unbelievers is primarily to convince. His work is multifaceted in believers but primarily to help and to position the believer in the body of Christ. He was given to be our helper in Christ's stead. We must therefore continually walk with Him, depend on Him, and be controlled by Him. He has gifted the church with certain men and gifts. The main purpose being ministry, but some of these gifts were also for confirmation of His Word and His workers. Based on application of the Scriptural record (I Corinthians 13:8-10, Hebrews 2:3-4) we do not believe the confirming gifts are the norm for today.

- A. The person of the Spirit
  - 1. He is a person -- John 14-16
  - 2. He is God -- Genesis 1:2; I Corinthians 3:16-17; Acts 5:3-4
- B. The work of the Spirit
  - 1. In unbelievers -- John 16:8-11
    - a. To convince of sin
    - b. To convince of righteousness
    - c. To convince of judgment
  - 2. In believers
    - a. To comfort -- John 14:16
    - b. To abide -- John 14:16
    - c. To indwell -- John 14:17
    - d. To assure -- John 14:20; Romans 8:16; I Corinthians 1:22
    - e. To remind -- John 14:26
    - f. To illuminate -- I Corinthians 2:13-16
    - g. To guide -- John 16:13; Romans 8:13
    - h. To empower -- Acts 1:8
    - i. To control -- Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16
    - j. To baptize -- I Corinthians 12:13
    - k. To assure -- Ephesians 1:14
    - l. To gift -- I Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:3-8; I Peter 4:10
    - m. To seal -- Ephesians 1:13

- C. The giving of the Spirit
  - 1. For our benefit -- John 16:7
  - 2. In Christ's stead -- John 14:16, 25-26
  - 3. At Christ's request -- John 14:16, 15:26
- D. The gifts of the Spirit
  - 1. The giving
    - a. To all believers -- I Corinthians 12:11; I Peter 4:10
    - b. At the Spirit's will -- I Corinthians 12:11
    - c. At Christ's will -- Ephesians 4:7-8
    - d. For profit -- I Corinthians 12:7
    - e. For use -- Romans 12:6-8
    - f. To promote unity -- Ephesians 4:7-16; I Corinthians 12:1-27; Romans 12:3-8
    - g. To manifest the Spirit -- I Corinthians 12:7
  - 2. The gifts
    - a. Gifted men -- Ephesians 4:7-16
    - b. Confirming gifts -- Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4; II Corinthians 12:12
    - c. Ministering gifts -- Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:16; I Peter 4:10
- E. Our relationship to the Spirit
  - 1. We must depend upon Him -- Galatians 5:16; John 14:16
  - 2. We must yield to Him -- Galatians 5:18; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 6-8
  - 3. We must be continually conscious of Him -- John 14:16-18; Galatians 5:16
  - 4. We must not grieve Him -- Ephesians 4:30
  - 5. We must not quench Him -- I Thessalonians 5:19

### **VIII. Angelology (Doctrine of Angels)**

Angels were created by God to be higher than men, yet ministers of God to both Himself and His creation. There are several names given to angels suggesting distinction within the angelic host.

Satan is an angel who has fallen from his original state taking with him a group of angels who presently work with him in opposing and deceiving within the work of God. Believers can resist and stand against Satan because he is subordinate to God and defeated by Christ. We are victorious in Christ; Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

- A. The creation of angels
  - 3. By God -- Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16
  - 4. For God -- Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16
- B. The work of angels
  - 1. To help -- Genesis 24:7, 40; Exodus 23:20; Exodus 33:2
  - 2. To destroy -- Exodus 12:23; I Chronicles 21:15
  - 3. To reveal -- Judges 13:3; Luke 1:11, 28; Acts 27:23-24
  - 4. To minister -- Matthew 4:11; Hebrews 1:14
  - 5. To worship -- Revelation 5:11-14
- C. The names of angels
  - 1. Living Creatures -- Ezekiel 1:4-28
  - 2. Seraphim -- Isaiah 6:1-3
  - 3. Cherubim -- Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 10
  - 4. Gabriel -- Daniel 8:16; Luke 1:26
  - 5. Michael, the Archangel -- Daniel 12:1; Jude 9
- D. The fallen angels
  - 1. Are evil -- Psalm 78:49
  - 2. Are followers of Satan -- Matthew 25:41
  - 3. Are going to be judged -- II Peter 2:4; I Corinthians 6:3
  - 4. Are being judged -- Jude 6; II Peter 2:4
  - 5. Are not what they were intended to be -- Jude 6
  - 6. Are defeated -- Romans 8:38; Colossians 2:15
- E. Satan
  - 1. Was created by God -- Colossians 1:6

2. Fell from his original position -- I Timothy 3:6; Revelation 12:3-4
3. Is our adversary -- I Peter 5:8
4. Is defeated -- I Corinthians 15:27-28; Revelation 12:10-11
5. Must be resisted -- James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18
6. Will be cast into the lake of fire -- Revelation 20:10
7. Is evil -- John 8:44
8. Is powerful -- II Thessalonians 2:9
9. Is subordinate -- Job 1-2
10. Is deceptive -- John 8:49; II Corinthians 11:14

### **IX. Ecclesiology (Doctrine of the Church)**

Christ established His bride, the Church, on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets; He is the chief cornerstone of the foundation. He formed this new body of Jews and Gentiles by Spirit baptism. This began in Acts chapter two on the day of Pentecost.

The Church is manifested in both the universal Church made up of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, and the local Church, a group of universal Church members gathered together, biblically organized and led, in one location. The local church is to equip believers for ministry. The Word of God and spiritual gifts are to be used in the equipping of believers to minister and in the ministry of all believers. The local church is to be equipped by a Pastor/Teacher, ruled by Elders and served by Deacons.

Christ expects His body, the Church, to be involved in evangelism, service, praise, spiritual growth, and worship. He also expects us to maintain two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- A. The beginning of the Church
  1. Began at Pentecost -- Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:15-16
  2. Began by Spiritual baptism -- Ephesians 3:5-7; I Corinthians 12:13
- B. The foundation of the Church
  1. Christ -- I Corinthians 3:11; I Peter 2:5-8
  2. Teachings of the Apostles and Prophets -- Ephesians 2:20
- C. The purpose of the Church
  1. Evangelism -- Matthew 28:19-20
  2. Service -- Ephesians 2:10; 4:12-16
  3. Praise -- Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 107
  4. Worship -- John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3
  5. Spiritual growth -- II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:1-24
- D. The ordinances of the Church
  1. Baptism -- Matthew 28:19-20
  2. The Lord's Supper -- I Corinthians 11:17-34; Matthew 26:26-29
- E. The government of the local Church is to be
  1. Equipped by a Pastor/Teacher -- Ephesians 4:11-16
    - a. Who is a gift to the church -- Ephesians 4:11
    - b. Who is an elder -- I Peter 5:1-4
    - c. Who is a servant -- Mark 10:35-45
  2. Ruled/led by elders -- Acts 20:17-32; I Timothy 5:17
    - a. Who are shepherds -- I Peter 5:1-4
    - b. Who are examples -- I Peter 5:1-4
    - c. Who are accountable to God -- Hebrews 13:7
    - d. Who are submitted to by men -- Hebrews 13:7
    - e. Who are qualified -- I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
    - f. Who are willing -- I Timothy 3:1
    - g. Who are servants -- Mark 10:35-45
  3. Served by deacons -- I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7
    - a. Who are qualified -- I Timothy 3:8-12

- b. Who are helper to the Elders -- Acts 6:1-7, I Tim. 3:10
  - c. Who fill an important role -- I Timothy 3:13
- F. The distinction within the Church
- 1. The universal Church -- Matthew 16:18
  - 2. The local Church -- I Timothy 3:1
- G. The position of the Church -- Ephesians 5:23-27
- 1. Subject to Christ -- Ephesians 5:23-24
  - 2. Body of Christ -- Ephesians 5:28-30
  - 3. Bride of Christ -- Ephesians 5:32

## **X. Eschatology (Doctrine of the Last times)**

Christ left the earth with a promise that He would return. He will come in the clouds to snatch away His Bride, the Church. We the Church will then receive rewards at the judgment seat of Christ and participate in Christ's marriage supper and whatever else Christ has for us. On earth there will be a time of wrath (the Tribulation) specifically concerning the nation of Israel. These events will however involve all who are on the earth, climaxing in the battle of Armageddon. At this time Christ returns to earth in victory and establishes His kingdom of 1000 years, while Satan is bound. Satan will be loosed for a little while but then condemned to the lake of fire forever with the beast and the false prophet. God will destroy the world as we know it and make a new heaven and earth. Believers will abide with him forever and ever.

- A. Rapture (the catching up of believers)
- 1. By Christ -- I Thessalonians 4:16-17
  - 2. By Promise -- John 14:3
  - 3. For the Church -- I Thessalonians 4:16-17
  - 4. Before the Tribulation because:
    - a. We are not under God's wrath -- I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9
    - b. There are still promises to Israel -- Daniel 9:24-27
    - c. There must be someone to populate the Millennial Kingdom -- Matthew 25:31-46
    - d. There must be time for the Judgment Seat of Christ -- I Corinthians 3:12-15
    - e. There must be time for the Marriage of the Lamb -- Revelation 19:7-9
- B. Tribulation
- 1. For Israel -- Daniel 9:24-27
  - 2. Not for the Church
    - a. We are not under the wrath of God -- I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9
    - b. Yet we are not without persecution -- II Timothy 3:12; I Peter 4:12-13
- C. Millennial Reign of Christ
- 1. After Christ's return -- Revelation 19:11-20:6
  - 2. Christ will rule -- Revelation 20:6
  - 3. We will rule with Him -- Revelation 20:6; Matthew 25:14-30
  - 4. Satan will be bound -- Revelation 20:1-3
- D. Great White Throne Judgment
- 1. Is for unbelievers -- Revelation 20:5-6, 20:11-13
  - 2. Is according to works -- Revelation 20:13
  - 3. Leads to eternal punishment
    - a. The second death -- Revelation 20:14
    - b. The Lake of Fire -- Revelation 20:15
- E. New Heaven and Earth -- Revelation 21:1
- 1. Old heaven and earth are destroyed -- Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:12-13
  - 2. New heaven and earth are made -- Revelation 21:1
  - 3. Believers will reign with Him forever -- Revelation 22:5

## **ARTICLE III: SOVEREIGNTY AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this Article: Matthew 28:18; Galatians 1:10; I Timothy 3:14-15; I Corinthians 6:2-4, etc.)

We believe in the independence of the local church, which means freedom to discuss, discern and do the will of God without restriction, supervision, or domination from any outside individual or organization. This church is to be autonomous and self-governing but restrained, ruled, and supervised by Jesus Christ through diligent adherence to the Scriptures which will be our sole authority.

This church desires the fellowship of churches and Christian groups of like faith and practice and will cooperate with them, when possible and expedient, to promote the cause of Jesus Christ.

#### **ARTICLE IV: PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this Article: Ephesians 4:1-6:18; Colossians 2:6-8; II Peter 1:1-21)

The purpose of the church shall be to work joyfully (I Corinthians 1:24) in fellowship (Ephesians 4:1-7) to make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) and to edify believers in Christlike character and conduct (Ephesians 4: 11-16) for the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31).

We shall attain this purpose by functioning in dependence on God (Proverbs 3:5-6) and according to the teaching of the Scriptures (II Timothy 3:16-17).

#### **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this Article: Matthew 18:15-20, Acts 2:41-47, Acts 20:28-32, I Corinthians 5:6; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28-29; Hebrews 10:24-25)

##### **SECTION I: PURPOSE OF MEMBERSHIP**

To help and serve us in living out the biblical commitment God requires of the local church we shall have an official church membership list. Each regular attendant shall be encouraged to submit to this biblical commitment through church membership (Ephesians 4:11-16, I Corinthians 5:1-13, Acts 20:28).

##### **SECTION II: REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

- A. This Church shall be composed of members who know and believe the gospel, who confess repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ and who have been baptized following their confession of faith in Christ, by immersion, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- B. All persons desiring to unite with this church shall meet with at least two Elders to affirm knowledge and belief of the gospel and give testimony of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). They shall affirm essential agreement and willing adherence to the doctrinal statement and constitution of this church to the satisfaction of the Elder Board. They shall affirm willingness to respond to the spiritual care of this church, including biblical discipline, and to contribute to the spiritual care of the members, including biblical discipline. They shall give testimony of believer baptism by immersion or be baptized by immersion as a requirement for membership. They shall also receive any personal discipleship and/or membership classes recommended by the Board of Elders.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders, candidates shall be presented to this church. A majority vote of voting members present is required to approve an individual for membership.

##### **SECTION III: JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**

In an attempt to recognize both the responsibility and limitation of young people this church shall offer a junior membership. Believers who meet the requirements and desire membership but are under the age of 18 shall be received as valued junior members. These junior members shall be received under the authority of their parents or guardians and shall not vote at church meetings or be subject to church discipline. They shall be cared for within and through the authority and responsibility of their parents or guardians.

Junior members shall fulfill the duties of a church member at an appropriate level within the authority of their parents or guardians and thereby learn the blessings and responsibility of church membership. Parents or guardians shall be responsible for encouraging and teaching their children toward church membership; they shall also be responsible for helping junior members fulfill their duties and learn the responsibility and blessing of church life.

The process for membership shall be the same as Article V, Section II, paragraph B with the understanding that parents or guardians shall accompany their children through the membership process.

At age 18 junior members shall meet with at least 2 elders to reaffirm knowledge and belief of the gospel and give testimony of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Upon satisfactory reaffirmation they shall automatically become adult members with full voting privilege and membership responsibility. Without this reaffirmation Junior membership shall automatically expire at age 19.

#### SECTION IV: NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Any member who is not able to attend services regularly for reason of sickness, temporary residence in another locality, member of the armed forces, or those in missionary and other Christian service may be carried on the roll of the Church as non-voting members.

#### SECTION V: DUTIES OF MEMBERS

The duty of each member is:

- A. To grow in Christlikeness and to have joy in Him-- II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 5:9-10; Philipians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:16; James 1:2-4; I Peter 5:6-11
- B. To seek to live within the authority of the Bible --II Timothy 3:16-17
- C. To regularly assemble with us to give and receive ministry -- Hebrews 10:24-25
- D. To cheerfully contribute financially within his ability -- I Corinthians 16:2
- E. To help build others in Christlikeness-- Ephesians 4:11-16
- F. To help bring others to Christ-- Matthew 28:18-20
- G. To serve the church family as a good steward of his gifts and abilities--I Peter 4:10
- H. To follow the leadership of the elders in biblical teaching, counsel and discipline.--Heb. 13:7, 17

#### SECTION VI: WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

- A. Since we recognize the commitment God requires of us to one another within the church, and the responsibility of the Elders to care for the church, and the necessity of perseverance in trials even within the assembly, we shall endeavor to minister in a manner worthy of that commitment, responsibility and perseverance. (I Thessalonians 5:12-14; Galatians 6:2; James 1:2-4).
- B. Members desiring to withdraw may do so by first notifying the Board of Elders in writing. At least one elder will seek to meet with the member to hear the reason(s) for withdrawal in order to minister to them. The member may then be withdrawn from membership at the elders' discretion for the best interests of the member and the church.
- C. Any member in good standing may be granted a letter of transfer to a church of like faith and practice upon request and at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

#### SECTION VII: INACTIVITY OF MEMBERS

Membership shall terminate upon failure, without just cause, to participate in the ministry of the Church for a period of 6 months ("participate" is minimally defined as a reasonable attempt to attend at least one service per week more often than not). Individuals will be contacted by the elders in an effort to re-enlist participation during the 6 months. Discipline may ensue. It shall be the serious responsibility of the full Elder Board to lovingly determine "just cause", "participation", to minister in the spirit of Christ and to determine if discipline should ensue.

#### SECTION VIII: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

Any member who is continuing in sin without repentance after having been confronted according to the following four steps of Matthew 18:15-20 may be removed from the membership of the Church upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at any constitutionally called congregational meeting.

1. Matthew 18:15 -- The offender should be sought out and meekly confronted personally with his sin in such a way that seeks, encourages, and helps his repentance. If he repents, he must be forgiven.
2. Matthew 18:16 -- If there is no repentance, the offender should be sought out and meekly confronted by two or three believers in such a way that seeks, encourages and helps him to repent. If he repents, he must be forgiven.
3. Matthew 18:17a -- If there is no repentance, the church body should then be told the offense(s). The church body should then confront the offender and meekly seek to encourage and help him repent. If he repents, he is to be forgiven.
4. Matthew 18:17b -- If there is no repentance, the Church should graciously but firmly treat him as an unbeliever and remove him from the membership of the church in an attempt to seek, encourage and help him repent. If he then repents, he is to be forgiven. The church should remember her authority for church discipline, her responsibility for church discipline, and the presence of Christ during church discipline. (Matthew 18:18-20).
  - a. The Board of Elders shall be required to carefully hear out, lead and minister appropriately in any charges respecting the disciplining of members according to the pattern found in Matt.18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:1-13, II Corinthians 2:1-11, Galatians 6:1 and II Thessalonians 3:14-15. The Board of Elders shall be responsible to lead this ministry and call on help from others as desired. The Board of Elders shall seek to discern when and if we need to proceed to the next level of response. No charges by an individual shall be brought against any member of the church in a public meeting. Any church action regarding the disciplining of a member must come before the Church as a recommendation of the Board of Elders.
  - b. Any person who has been removed from the membership in discipline may be restored to membership upon repentance communicated to the Elder Board. Full restoration shall be by recommendation of the Board of Elders and by a majority vote of the members present at any constitutionally called business meeting. This forgiveness and restoration shall occur with joy and thanksgiving.

#### SECTION IX: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The members of this church shall resolve all conflict by the methods, attitudes and authority set forth in the Holy Bible. As conflicts arise within the congregation because of offences, personalities, differences, decisions of the board, etc., these conflicts shall be resolved within the membership of the church following biblical attitudes and principles. This resolution will include but not be limited to appropriate biblical processes of conflict resolution, church discipline, biblical submission to the leadership of the church, and biblical attitude toward others (Matthew 5:9, 21-16; Romans 12:1-16; I Corinthians 3:3, 11:18-19; Galatians 5:13-15; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:1-8; I Peter 3:8-18).

Furthermore, this church shall seek to resolve conflict with fellow Christians (in or outside our church) without the use of the court system. This does not prohibit the Board of Elders from soliciting the help of Christian conciliation to help resolve a conflict should this be deemed necessary by the Elders (I Corinthians 6:1-8). Neither does this preclude use of or participation in the court system for areas outside the Church's biblical authority and within the biblical jurisdiction of government (Romans 13:1-7) or if forced to participate by the initiative of others.

#### ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this Article:

I Corinthians 16:1-4; II Corinthians 8:1-9:15; Acts 11:27-30;

I Corinthians 14:40; Proverbs 27:23-27; Proverbs 22:29; Luke 16:10-13)

#### SECTION I PERSONNEL /DUTIES

The Board of Elders shall be vested with authority over the financial matters of the church and they shall have oversight and responsibility for the disbursement of all funds.

A. Treasurer. The Elder Board shall elect one elder, not the Pastor(s), as church Treasurer (Officers, Article VIII, F). The Treasurer may work with an elected deacon(s), the appointed financial Secretary (Officers, Article VIII, G), and one or more appointed members of the congregation as assistants. This elder is responsible for oversight of the church's financial affairs. The Elder Board or Treasurer may appoint an assistant as treasurer whose ministry is to perform the many practical duties that are essential to the operation of the church. The Treasurer shall routinely provide reports of income and expenditures for board and congregational meetings. The duties of the financial officers include the collecting and accounting of all church monies and disbursing funds according to the church budget or as directed by the Board of Elders. In addition, they shall assist the Treasurer in the preparation of an annual budget and financial statement for presentation to the congregation.

B. Financial Secretary. The Board of Elders shall appoint a Financial Secretary from the church membership. He (or she) shall keep an accurate record of all expenditures. He shall make all disbursements by check as directed by the Treasurer. He shall make his records available to the Church Auditing Committee.

## SECTION II PROCEDURES

A. The support of this church shall be by free-will offerings and gifts. All special church projects or gifting shall be first approved by the Board of Elders. All gifts designated for special projects will be used for that purpose, returned to the donor(s) if not needed, or used for another project(s) with the donor's agreement. Neither the church nor any of its auxiliaries shall hold profit-making projects.

B. The Church's annual operating budget shall be published and presented to the congregation for majority vote at the beginning of the fiscal year.

C. The financial statement for the fiscal year shall be published and presented to the congregation at the first quarterly meeting following the fiscal year-end meeting.

D. A committee shall be formed at least annually or, in addition, anytime at the discretion of the Board of Elders for the purpose of auditing the books and records of the church accounts. The Auditing Committee shall consist of three or more members of the church nominated and elected by the church at any constitutionally called business meeting. Their report should be submitted to the Board of Elders within thirty (30) days of the audit, and subsequently posted for the congregation.

E. Any major capital improvement, real estate purchase, loan, or transfer of property not previously covered in the church budget must be submitted to the congregation for majority approval at a regular or specially called congregational meeting. At least two weeks' notice shall be given to the congregation.

## ARTICLE VII: GOVERNMENT

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this article: Mark 10:42-45; Acts 6:1-8, 14:21-23, 15:1-16:4, 20:28-32; I Corinthians 4:1-2, 16:15-16; II Corinthians 1:24,4:5, 5:9; Philippians 1:1; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; I Timothy 3:1-16, 5:17-25; Titus 1:5-11; Hebrews 13:7-8, 17; I Peter 5:1-4)

### SECTION I ELDERS

- A. The government, oversight, and direction concerning all church matters shall be vested in a Board of Elders, men who demonstrate mature Christlike character and ministry worthy of imitation (I Timothy 4:12-16) and meet the required biblical qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Elders should seek to jointly lead and care for the church as a ministering and decision-making body. They shall also individually minister for the spiritual well-being of the body, including preaching/teaching the Word, defending the faith, providing oversight of various church functions, discipleship, counseling, visitation, and prayer. The elders may seek assistance, and designate tasks, assignments, or ministries to church officers, deacons, or individuals as described in this constitution. The church shall seek to have at least one Elder remunerated as vocational Pastor/teacher(s) of the flock (I Timothy 5:17) (See Article VIII, B).
- B. Elders will be nominated by majority vote of the Board of Elders as the occasion arises. These men shall meet the qualifications listed in the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), demonstrating the character and possessing the ministry ability required for the work of an Elder. Nomination requires the full attendance of all elders. Nominees will be presented in a church meeting for a time of public examination to be questioned by church members. Nominees shall then be referred to the congregation for election. Elections may be held at any Quarterly Congregational Meeting or at specially called meetings as determined by the Board of Elders. A list of nominees shall be announced and publicly posted in the church for at least two Sundays preceding the election. Election and re-election shall require a three-quarter (3/4) majority of membership present and shall be by secret ballot. Elders are elected to this office for a four year term unless they should become disqualified according to the Scriptures in the judgment of the majority of the Board of Elders. In such case, the removal from office of an elder shall follow the format of removal of a Pastor as described in Article VIII, Section B. 4, of this constitution.
- C. Elders will elect one of their members to serve as Chairman of their meetings. Board of Elders meetings shall be at least once per month, date to be determined by the members. Any one of the elders has authority to call a special meeting by duly notifying all board members. A simple majority constitutes a quorum, and a simple majority of those present shall decide all matters except where stated otherwise in this constitution.

- D. The Elders shall represent the church as trustees.
- E. A minimum of three men, including the Pastor(s), are required for the Board of Elders. In the event this requirement is not met, a deacon(s) shall be appointed to be elected in accordance with Article VII, Section II, A. to serve as an ad hoc board member and the quorum for a meeting shall then become three men. Said committee members will act in an advisory capacity to the Elders for matters of church policy or ministry, but will have equal voting privileges with the Elders as church trustee(s).
- F. In order to assure qualifying character and effectiveness of elder ministry an annual affirmation by the congregation shall be conducted at the first quarterly congregational meetings to affirm the character and effectiveness of each of the elders' ministry. The Board of Elders shall initiate and facilitate this accountability for the benefit of all. Should an elder's character or ministry not be affirmed, the Elder Board shall immediately take biblically appropriate remedial steps.

## SECTION II: DEACONS

- A. Recognizing the biblical responsibility and authority of elder oversight and the noble task of deacon assistance, the Elder Board shall appoint, with a congregational vote of approval, deacons who meet the biblical qualifications to assist them in any area of ministry and oversight of the church. These deacons' responsibilities and authority shall be determined by the Elder Board, and they shall be accountable to the elders and the congregation. Elders and deacons shall view each other as partners in the ministry and fulfill their responsibilities as associates even while recognizing differing gifting, responsibilities, authority, and oversight.
- B. Deacons shall be men who demonstrate mature Christlike character and ministry worthy of imitation (I Timothy 4:12-16) and meet the required Biblical qualifications in I Tim. 3:8-13. The elders shall thoroughly review and evaluate the character and ability of each potential deacon before they are presented to the church. Their nomination is by a majority vote of the Board of Elders. They may be nominated at the elders' discretion to a designated term of service or to a specific ongoing service ministry without a designated term. In addition they may be elected to work individually or to be responsible for some area of the church as a group.
- C. Proposed deacon nominees' names shall be publicly posted and announced for at least two Sundays prior to a vote. It is the duty of the congregation to soberly consider each deacon candidate prior to the election based on the above qualifications. They shall be considered elected when they receive a majority congregational vote by secret ballot at any regular or specially called meeting. Deacons may be removed from their office by a majority vote of the Elders if they become unqualified or by resignation.
- D. The Elder Board shall give the deacon(s) authority commensurate to his responsibility, within elder oversight and accountability. Deacon responsibility and authority can be assigned in any area of church ministry or responsibility where the Elders deem assistance necessary. Furthermore, a deacon shall have authority to assemble a committee to help him in his area of service as is appropriate.

## SECTION III: CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- A. Congregational meetings shall be held once per quarter in the first month of the quarter at times to be determined by the Elders. Such meetings shall be announced and posted at least two Sundays in advance. The annual meeting shall be the April meeting at which time an annual budget shall be presented for approval by a majority vote of voting members present.
- B. A quorum shall consist of those eligible members present at any constitutionally called and publicly announced business meeting. In all meetings involving this Church a simple majority vote shall be sufficient to carry a motion except any situation is which a greater majority is required as stated in this Constitution.
- C. In addition, the Elder Board may call a special meeting at any time. Such meetings shall be announced and posted at least two Sundays in advance.
- D. The Elder Board shall appoint a moderator for each congregational meeting.
- E. An absentee ballot may be cast in case of illness, emergency or other reasonable cause that in the judgment of the elders makes attendance for voting impractical. This shall be by the request of the absentee. The request shall be made to any Elder and the ballot sealed and given to him before the vote occurs to be counted at the time of the vote.

## SECTION IV: COMMITTEES

The Board of Elders may appoint committees when it is determined that they will contribute to the purposes of the Church. Committees shall be responsible for and limited to performing only those specific duties for which they were appointed and shall be considered dismissed after completing the specific purpose for which they were appointed, or if the specific purpose is no longer needed.

Any officer, worker, or committee member may be removed by the Board of Elders, or committees may be dissolved by the Board of Elders if either instance is deemed in the best interest of the church.

## ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this article: Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12-14, Ephesians 4:1-16, II Timothy 1:6-7, I Peter 4:7-11)

The officers of this Church shall be the Elders, Pastor(s), Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. Each officer shall be a member of the church.

### A. Elders

See Article VII Section I.

### B. Pastor

1. The Pastor shall be an ordained minister of good reputation, espousing biblical theology, in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the church and willing to serve a non-denominational church. He shall also meet the biblical qualifications of an Elder (See Article VII, Section I)
2. The Pastor shall lead the congregation to spiritual growth and fulfillment of its purposes. He shall perform duties of preaching, teaching, visiting, organizing, and administration as prescribed by the Board of Elders.
3. The Pastor's salary shall be established by the Board of Elders with the approval of the congregation. He shall be entitled to an annual vacation and fringe benefits as determined by the salary schedule established by the Board of Elders. He shall be retained indefinitely. The Pastor shall give the Church sixty (60) days notice of his desire to relinquish his pastorate of the Church. The Church shall give the Pastor sixty (60) days notice of its desire for his resignation unless both mutually agree to another period of notice.
4. In addition, the Church may dissolve the pastoral relationship in the following way: When the majority of the Board of Elders votes in favor of a change of Pastor, they may call a special meeting of the Church membership to vote on their recommendation. This special meeting shall be announced publicly on two successive Sundays. Vote shall be by secret ballot. In the event that a majority vote should be obtained in favor of a change of Pastor, the pastoral relationship shall be considered terminated. A sixty (60) day notice shall be given to the Pastor or financial remuneration for that period of time shall be paid to him.
5. In the event of a vacancy in the pastorate, the Board of Elders shall be the pulpit committee to seek a suitable candidate for Pastor. This committee shall consist of a minimum of three members. The Board of Elders may also appoint one or more members of the congregation to this committee, at their discretion, for the best interest of the church. When they are agreed on a candidate, he shall be presented to the congregation. Action on the pulpit committee's recommendation shall be taken at a special meeting called for this purpose. If the candidate receives a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the membership present, he shall be considered elected. Vote shall be by secret ballot. If a candidate receives less than a 3/4 majority vote a new candidate will be sought.

### C. Deacons. See Article VII, Section II

### D. Trustees. See Article VII, Section I, D

### E. Secretary

The Secretary shall be an at-large appointment by the Board of Elders. He or she shall keep an accurate record of the procedures and decisions of all congregational meetings, and perform any other duties as necessary. He shall keep an accurate record of the Church membership rolls.

F. Treasurer

The church Treasurer shall be an elder, but not the pastor(s), elected by the Board of Elders. (See Article VI, Section I, A)

G. Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary shall be appointed from the church membership by the Board of Elders. (See Article VI, Section I, B)

**ARTICLE IX: AUXILIARIES**

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this article: Acts 20:28-31, Philippians 2:1-4)

Any organization, group, or club whose membership is composed primarily of members of the church and/or is recognized as church-sponsored, shall be considered an auxiliary organization of the Church and shall be subject to the constitution of the Church. Any auxiliary organization shall exist under the general direction of the board of Elders and in cooperation with the Board of Elders and any related ministries of the Church.

**ARTICLE X: COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION**

(Some Scriptures to be considered while carrying out this article: Acts 6:1-8, Acts 13:1-5, Romans 16:1-2, I Corinthians 16:10-18, I Timothy 2:11-15; 4:14; 5:22)

COMMISSIONING

From time to time, gifted persons (male or female) may be commissioned to represent the church in the mission field or home based, non-ordained ministry. Should a person desire recognition and commissioning, he may present himself before the Board of Elders for examination and recommendation to the church family. The board shall consider testimony, training, observation and experience in ministry to be convinced the candidate possesses suitable gifting, character, and preparedness. They shall also consider the readiness of the candidate’s family. With the help and counsel of the board of Elders, the person should be encouraged to participate in training that will help to develop gifts and fit him and/or his family more perfectly for the specific ministry. At a mutually accepted time the person(s) shall be presented to the church for a vote of confidence and formal commissioning.

ORDINATION

In addition to this, certain men (male only) may desire recognition as ordained vocational ministers of the Gospel. Should a man desire ordination, he may present himself before the Board of Elders for examination and recommendation for ordination. The board shall consider testimony, training, observation and experience in ministry to be convinced the candidate possesses suitable calling, gifting, character, and preparedness. They shall also consider the readiness of the candidate’s family. With the help and counsel of the board of Elders, the person should be encouraged to participate in any additional training that will help to develop gifts and fit him and/or his family more perfectly for vocational and ordained ministry. Upon approval, the Elders will assemble an examining committee consisting of the Elders and any other ministers and representatives the Elders may see fit to invite. Upon examination and three-quarter (3/4) affirmative vote the examining committee shall recommend any additional preparation and/or approve the granting of ordination as a fully accredited minister of the Gospel. A suitable public ordination service shall be arranged by the Board of Elders.

**ARTICLE XI: MISCELLANEOUS**

(Some Scriptures to consider while carrying out this article: I Corinthians 14:40, Matthew 5:9, Romans 12:17-21, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 2:3-4, I Peter 3:8-11, Proverbs 22:3)

SECTION I: Property Rights

The title to all real property shall be in the name of the Church. No member or group of members shall have any individual ownership rights in the assets of the Church.

SECTION II: Dissolution

If the church is dissolved, the properties shall be sold. After all liabilities have been financially resolved, all remaining proceeds shall be divided among the mission boards on a proportionate basis of current support.

### SECTION III: Amendments

This constitution may be amended and/or modified by a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting for business, provided that due notice is given that such action is to be introduced at such meeting. Due notice shall consist of public announcements and posting for two weeks of the proposed amendment in a conspicuous place prior to said meeting.