

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS**

**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

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BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I -- CHARTER

A. NECESSITY

1. Believing there is a need for an Independent Bible Church in the suburban areas of our community, we call for the organization of the Bible Fellowship Church.

B. ORGANIZATION

1. We believe the leadership of God through the Holy Spirit has been instrumental in bringing us together as a fellowship of believers knit with a spirit of unity and singleness of purpose.
2. Having established regular morning and evening worship services on the Lord's Day as well as Wednesday evening services, we believe it is God's perfect will that we call for the organization of Bible Fellowship Church.
3. Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the undersigned, organize the Bible Fellowship Church of Harrison County, Mississippi, on September 25, 1977.

C. MEMBERS

1. We, the undersigned, having accepted Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior and, furthermore, having confessed our faith in Him publicly, and through baptism, do hereby become charter members of the Bible Fellowship Church of Harrison County, Mississippi.
2. We do hereby pledge ourselves to become co-laborers with God in building this Christ centered Church upon the principles of the Word of God.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

CHARTER MEMBERS

Rev. S. O. Sigworth	J. P. Brummett
Electa M. Sigworth	Mrs. J. Paul Brummett
Low Alice Scandina	Irma Scandina
Michael Scandina	Pam Rager
Nancy H. Hughes	Valery J. Clugh
Ethel B. Smith	Conrad D. Clugh
Alfred	
Eula Bace	
Opal Rager	
Robert E. Rager	
Marcia J. Grant	
Arthur E. Grant	
Myrtle Thompson	
Catherine Smith	
Ben W. Stapp	
Robert E. Kennedy	
Caroline L. Kennedy	
Wayne Montgomery	

ARTICLE II -- CONFESSION OF FAITH

A. THE SCRIPTURES

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit.
Acts 1:16; 28:25; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21
2. We believe that it has truth without any admixture of error to its matter.
Psa. 119:105, 130, 160; Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; John 17:7
3. We believe, therefore, that the scripture is and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.
Psa. 19:7-11; 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:31; John 5:39, 45-47; 12:48;
Rom. 3:4; 15:4; Eph. 6:17,; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19

B. THE TRUE GOD

1. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth.
Gen. 17:1; Ex. 20:2-3; Psa. 83:18; 90:2; 145:5; Jer. 10:10; John 4:24; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6
2. We believe that this living and true God is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love.
Ex. 15:11; Mark 12:30; Rom. 11:33; I Tim. 1:17; Rev. 4:11
3. We believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.
Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; 15:26; 17:5, Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; 12:4-6; II Cor. 13:14;
Eph. 2:18; Phil. 2:5-6; I John 5:7

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature.
John 14:16-17, 26; Matt. 28:19; Luke 1:35; Heb. 9:14
2. We believe that He was active in the creation.
Gen. 1:1-3

3. We believe that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled.
II Thess. 2:7
4. We believe that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness.
John 16:8-11
5. We believe that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony.
John 14:26-27; Acts 5:30-32
6. We believe that He is the agent in the New Birth.
John 3:5-6
7. We believe that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer and that the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) is the evidence of His indwelling.
Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; 24:49; John 1:33; 14:26; 16:13; Acts 11:16; Rom. 8:14, 16, 26-27; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 1:13-14; 5:18-21; II Thess. 2:13, I Pet. 1:2

D. SANCTIFICATION

1. We believe that sanctification has a twofold meaning:
 - a. That of setting apart and cleansing of things, days, or persons specifically for God, and that the believer, at the time of regeneration, is so set apart by God the Father.
I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:10, 14
 - b. The progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God, experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature, which will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence.
John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; Col. 1:26-28; I Thess. 5:23

E. THE DEVIL OR SATAN

1. We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels.
Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:13-17; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:9
2. We believe that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world.
John 14:30; Eph. 2:2
3. We hold him to be:

- a. Man's great tempter.
Matt. 4:1, 3; I Thess. 3:5; I Pet. 5:8
- b. The enemy of God and His Christ.
Zech. 3:1-3; Matt. 13:25; 37-39; Luke 22:3-4; I John 3:8
- c. The author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy.
Mark 13:21-22; II Cor. 11:13-15
- d. The Lord of the Antichrist.
I John 2:22; 4:3; II John 7
- e. The author of all powers of darkness destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell - a place prepared for him and his angels.
Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 9:11, 16, 20; 12:7-9; 20:1-3, 10; Matt.25:41

F. THE CREATION

1. We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by the direct creation of God in His own image.
Gen. 1, 2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17

G. THE FALL OF MAN

1. We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker.
Gen. 3:1-6, 24
2. We believe that by voluntary transgression man fell from his sinless and happy state.
Rom. 5:12, 19
3. We believe that as a consequence of this fall all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but by choice.
Rom. 1:18; 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1-3; Ezek. 18:19-20
4. We believe, therefore, that man is under just condemnation without defense or excuse.
Rom. 1:20, 28, 32; Gal. 3:22

H. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, that he was born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born, or can ever be born of woman.
Gen. 3:15; Psa. 2:7; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4
2. We believe that He is the Son of God, God the Son, and Son of Man.
I Cor. 15:47; I John 5:20

I. THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

1. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God (who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature and, without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience) and who by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins.
Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; Isa. 53:4-7; Matt. 18:11; John 3:16; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; I John 4:10
2. We believe that his atonement consisted not in setting for us an example by his death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place - the Just dying for the unjust - Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree.
Isa. 53:11; John 10:18; Gal. 1:4; Phil. 2:8; Heb. 12:2; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18
3. We believe that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven and, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Saviour.
Isa. 53:12; I Cor. 15:20; Heb. 7:25; 9:12-15; I John 2:2; Heb. 9:23-28

J. GRACE IN REGENERATION

1. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again.
John 3:3; I Pet. 1:23; James 1:18
2. We believe that the New Birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus.
II Cor. 5:17; John 1:12-13; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 4:24; Gal. 2:20
3. We believe that the New Birth is instantaneous and not a process.
Luke 5:27; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; 16:30-33; I John 5:1
4. We believe that in the New Birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God.
Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; II Pet. 1:4

5. We believe that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel.
John 1:12-13; 3:8; Rom. 8:13
6. We believe that proper evidence of the new creation appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.
Gal. 5:22-24; Eph. 5:9

K. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

1. We believe in God's electing grace.
Rom. 8:29-30; Col. 3:12; I Thess. 1:4; Titus 1:1; I Pet. 1:2
2. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all through the gospel.
Isa. 55:1; Matt. 11:28; John 6:37; Rom. 10:13; Rev. 22:17
3. We believe that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these blessings by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith.
Isa. 55:1; Acts 2:38
4. We believe that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel - which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.
Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16, 18, 36; 5:40; Eph. 2:4-5; I Cor. 15:10; I Tim. 1:15

L. JUSTIFICATION

1. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness.
Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1, 9:8
2. We believe that eternal life is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but His righteousness is imputed unto us solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood.
Rom. 1:16-17; 4:1-3; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:14; 10:38; Titus 3:4-7

M. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

1. We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God.
Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; 20:21
2. We believe that thereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy.
Psa. 51:1-4, 7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13
3. We believe at this time of confession and supplication we heartily receive the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confess Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour.
Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11

N. THE CHURCH

1. We believe that a local Church of Christ is a Congregation of believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word.
Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:1-12; I Cor. 12:4, 8-13
2. We believe that its Scripturally designated officers are Pastors, Elders, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures.
Acts 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:23; 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-13
3. We believe the true mission of the Church is found in the great commission and applies to believers of this age and will probably have its ultimate fulfillment during the tribulation period. Also, the mission of the Church is further defined in II Cor. 5:17-20.
Matt. 28:19-20; II Cor. 5:17-20
4. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit.
Eph. 5:23-24; Col. 1:18; I Pet. 5:1-4
5. We believe that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation.
Acts 15:22; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 8:23-24; Jude 3-4
6. We believe that on all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence the will of the local church is final.
I Cor. 5:11-13; 6:1

O. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

1. We believe that water baptism is the outward sign of the believer's ingrafting into Christ, whereby he professes his death to sin and his resurrection to spiritual life.
Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:27; Col. 3:3
2. We believe that water baptism is the sign of regeneration, never the means of regeneration, and is never to be administered to the unregenerate, but to believers only.
Acts 10:47, 48
3. Although water baptism is not a requirement for membership in Bible Fellowship, we encourage all believers to submit to water baptism as a public profession of their faith in the finished work of Christ on their behalf.
Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 9:18; Rom. 5:18; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12, 13
4. We believe the ordinance of baptism is but once to be administered to any person.
5. We believe that our Lord Jesus, on the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death, and of His coming again.
I Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20
6. We believe that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination.
I Cor. 11:28

P. THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

1. We believe that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors.
Matt. 13:19-20; I John 2:19
2. We believe that a special Providence watches over the welfare of the Saints.
Psa. 121:3; Matt. 6:30; Rom. 8:28-39; Heb. 1:14
3. We believe that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.
John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Phil. 1:6; I Pet. 1:5

Q. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

1. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked.
Gen. 18:23; Prov. 11:31; Mal. 3:16-18; Rom. 6:17-18; I Pet. 4:18

2. We believe that only those who, through faith, are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem.
Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; I John 2:29; 3:7
3. We believe that all, such as those who continue in impenitence and unbelief, are in His sight wicked and under the curse.
Rom. 6:16, 23; 7:6; Gal. 3:10; I John 5:19
4. We believe that this distinction holds among men both in and after death; in the everlasting happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.
Prov. 14:32; Matt. 7:13-14; Matt. 25:32-41; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21-24; 12:25

R. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

1. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society.
Ex. 18:21-22; Rom. 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3; Dan. 4:17; I Peter 2:13-14
2. We believe that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of kings of the earth.
Matt. 22:21; Acts 23:5; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14, 17; Dan. 3:17-18; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Psa. 72:11; Matt. 10:28; 23:10; Phil. 2:10; Rev. 1:6

S. THE RESURRECTION. RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

1. We believe in the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus.
Matt. 28:6-7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4
2. We believe in the Ascension.
Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9, 11; Heb. 8:1; 12:2; Rev. 3:21
3. We believe in the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ.
Heb. 2:17; 5:9-10; 8:1-6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 7:24-27
4. We believe in the Pretribulation Rapture of the Saints in Christ.
I Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; I Thess. 4:16-17
5. We believe in the Bodily Resurrection of the dead, both righteous and unrighteous.
I Cor. 15:42-44, 52; I Thess. 4:16; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:5, 6; Luke 14:13-14
6. We believe in the Premillennial Second Coming of Christ.
Matt. 24:13, 27, 42; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:14; Heb. 9:28; James 5:8

7. We believe in the Throne of David.
Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30
8. We believe in Christ's Millennial Reign on Earth.
Psa. 72:8; Isa. 11:4-5; 32:1; I Cor. 15:25; Rev. 20:1-6

ARTICLE III -- CHURCH COVENANT (HOLY ASPIRATIONS)

A. AFFIRMATION

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and, on the profession of our faith, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.
2. We covenant together by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
3. We also covenant together to maintain family and secret devotions; to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.
4. We further covenant together to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.
5. We moreover covenant together that if we move from this community, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE IV -- PURPOSE OF CONSTITUTION

A. EXECUTION

1. The sole purpose of church government is to execute those laws which are already laid down in the Holy Scriptures.
2. Therefore, in full recognition of this Constitution, we do accept and adhere to the same with full understanding that all organizations governed by or connected with the Church shall be subject to this Constitution.

ARTICLE V -- PREAMBLE

A. CREED

1. We repose our faith wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, believing in the teachings, practices, and those great distinctive principles found in the Holy Scriptures:
 - a. The preeminence of Christ as our divine Lord and Saviour.
 - b. The absolute authority of the Bible and its sufficiency as our only rule of faith and practice.
 - c. The right of private interpretation and the competency of the individual soul in direct approach to God.
 - d. The absolute separation of the Church and State.
 - e. A regenerate church membership.
 - f. The ordinance of believer's baptism in obedience to the command of Christ.
 - g. The complete independence of the local church.
 - h. The solemn obligation of majority rule, guaranteeing equal rights to all and special privileges to none.
 - i. The spiritual unity of all believers for which the Lord so earnestly prayed.
 - j. A world-wide program of missionary fervor and evangelism in obedience to the final command of Christ.

B. PROLOGUE

1. We, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government, plan of worship and service, this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI -- ORGANIZATION

A. NAME

1. The name of this organization shall be the Bible Fellowship Church of Harrison County, Mississippi.

B. PURPOSES

1. The purposes of this Church corporation are as follows:
 - a. The maintenance of Christian worship.
 - b. The proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.
 - c. To study and teach the Bible.
 - d. The spiritual growth of its members.
 - e. The support of missionary work at home and abroad.
 - f. The administration of the ordinances.

C. INCOME AND DISTRIBUTION

1. No part of the income of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the corporation effecting one or more of its purposes) and no member, trustee, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation's assets on dissolution of the corporation.

D. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

1. The corporation shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful acts and things, and to engage in any and all lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable, or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering, or attainment of any or all the purposes for which the corporation is organized, including the ownership of such real and personal property as may be necessary or desirable in furtherance of such purposes. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the corporation shall exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes of the organization as set forth in Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and the regulations thereunder as the same now exist or they may hereafter be amended from time to time.

E. DISTRIBUTION ON DISSOLUTION OR LIQUIDATION

1. In the event of the liquidation or dissolution of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the corporation from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of the corporation shall be used or distributed, exclusively for the purposes set forth in Paragraph B above and within the intentment of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and the regulations thereunder as the same now exist or they may be hereafter amended from time to time.

F. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. No part of the activities of the corporation shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

ARTICLE VII -- CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

A. RECEPTION

1. Any person, professing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and accepting the Confession of Faith and Church Covenant, will be received into membership of the Church following a congregational vote of acceptance.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member is urged:

1. TO DEVELOP his spiritual life by means of personal growth in Grace (II Pet. 3:18; 1:5-10), and active participation in the life and ministry of the Church (Eph. 4:4-6; Eph. 2:19-22; Acts 2:41-47).
2. TO ENCOURAGE the maintenance and the prosperity of the Church ministry and administration by fulfilling the following Scriptural rules and regulations in the interrelated Church life and ministry (I Thess. 5:12-23).
3. TO EXERCISE discernment in Christian deportment and Church discipline in order that "All things might be done decently and in order" in the House of God. The New Testament Scriptural methods are to be earnestly and sincerely followed through according to the circumstances involved:
 - a. For personal problems: Matt. 5:23, 24; 18:15-19.
 - b. For public problems:
 1. The problem of heresy or false doctrine: Gal. 1:9; II John 10, 11; Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10.
 2. The problem of immoral conduct: I Cor. 5:1-11; Eph. 5:5-7.
 3. The problem of disorderly conduct: II Thess. 3:6-15.

POSTSCRIPT A - In the above passages, the following procedures will be observed:

1. The problem - Scripturally considered;
2. The process - individually and congregationally followed through and completed;
3. The perfect solution -
 - a. The restoration or suspension of the individual (s) involved;
 - b. The unity and harmony of the Church under the fear of God in all holiness and love;

- c. The work of the Church, vindicated in its profession of redemptive relationships before the unregenerative community it seeks to witness to and reach: Acts 1:8.
- 4. All of the above procedures shall be subject to the discretionary review and control of the Pastor and Board of Elders.

POSTSCRIPT B - In summary, we ought always to:

- 1. OBEY GOD and His Word: Acts 4:19, 20.
- 2. ENDEAVOR TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT among the body of believers: Eph. 4:1-16.
- 3. BE FAITHFUL TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN HIS Church SUPERVISION of the faith, the faithful, and the fortunes of the local witness of Christ: Rev. 2, 3; Matt. 18:1-10.

C. REQUIREMENTS OF

- 1. Every member should realize not only his privileges and responsibilities, but also the requirements of a member in good standing. For this reason, an active and inactive membership list shall be maintained. For the edification and coordination of those who desire to maintain and fulfill their Church Covenant vows, only active members will be able to vote and hold office when duly elected or appointed in the Church or in any of the auxiliary organizations.
 - a. Active membership shall consist of all who regularly attend the stated services of the Church, its communion observances, and participate in the financial support of its ministry.
 - b. Anyone failing to maintain an active membership for a period of one (1) year shall automatically lapse from active membership, his name being placed upon an INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP LIST. However, any inactive member showing a renewed interest in the life and ministry of the Church may, upon request to and by the vote of the Board of Elders, be reinstated as an active member.
 - c. If after four (4) years, one still neglects to fulfill his obligations (having been notified in the meantime), his name shall be permanently dropped from the roll without any special action of the Church. The matter of final adjustment shall be left to the Pastor and Board of Elders.
 - d. All active member voting privileges will begin at the age of sixteen (16).

ARTICLE VIII -- CHURCH OFFICERS

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The ordinary and perpetual officers in the Church are Pastors, or Ministers of the Word, who are commissioned to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances; Elders, whose office is to have the government and spiritual oversight of the Church; and Deacons, whose office is to receive and administer the offerings of the people. As in Scripture, the offices of both Pastors and Elders are given to men only who share equally in the governing of the Church.
Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9
2. No one who holds office in the Church ought to usurp authority therein, or receive any official titles of spiritual preeminence, except such as are employed in the Scriptures.
3. The congregation is the final authority on all Church matters.

B. THE PASTOR

1. This office is the first in the Church, both for dignity and usefulness. The person who fills it has in Scripture different titles expressive of his various duties. As he has the oversight of the flock of Christ, he is termed bishop. As he feeds them with spiritual food, he is termed pastor. As he serves Christ in the Church, he is termed minister. As it is his duty to be grave and prudent and an example to the flock and to govern well in the house and kingdom of Christ, he is termed presbyter or elder. As he is sent to declare the will of God to sinners and to beseech them to be reconciled to God through Christ, he is termed ambassador. As he bears the glad tidings of salvation to the ignorant and perishing, he is termed evangelist. As he stands to proclaim the Gospel, he is termed preacher. As he expounds the Word and by sound doctrine both exhorts and convinces the gainsayer, he is termed teacher. As he dispenses the manifold grace of God and the ordinances instituted by Christ, he is termed steward of the mysteries of God. These titles do not indicate different grades of office, but all describe one and the same officer.
2. He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning and be blameless in life, sound in the faith, and apt to teach. He should exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are outside the Church.
3. As the Lord has given different gifts to the Pastors and has committed to them various works to execute, the Church is authorized to call and appoint them to labor as pastors, organizing pastors, teachers, and evangelists, and in such other works as may be needful to the Church, according to the gifts in which they excel.
4. When a pastor is called to labor, it belongs to his office to pray for and with his flock, as the mouth of the people unto God; to feed the flock by reading, expounding, and

preaching the Word; to direct the congregation in singing the praises of God; to administer the Ordinances; to teach the children and youth; to visit the people, devoting special attention to the poor, the sick, the afflicted, and the dying; and with the other Elders, to exercise the joint power of government.

5. When an associate or assistant pastor is called to labor, he may be assigned special areas of responsibility.
6. When the Church appoints an evangelist or missionary, he is commissioned to preach the Word and administer the Ordinances in foreign countries, frontier settlements, or the destitute parts of the Church; and to him may be entrusted power to organize churches and ordain Elders and Deacons therein.

C. THE ELDER

1. As there were in the Church under the law, Elders of the people for the government thereof, so in the Gospel Church, Christ has furnished others besides the Ministers of the Word with gifts and commission to govern when called thereunto, which officers are entitled Elders.
2. These Elders possess the same authority and eligibility to office in governing the Church as the ministers of the Word. They should, moreover, cultivate zealously their aptness to teach the Bible and should improve every opportunity of doing so, to the end that destitute places, mission points, and churches without pastors may be supplied with religious services.
3. Those who fill this office ought to be blameless in life and sound in faith; they should be men of wisdom and discretion; and by the holiness of their walk and conversation should be examples to the flock.
4. Elders, the immediate representatives of the people, are chosen by them, that in conjunction with the Pastor, they may exercise government and discipline, and take the oversight of the spiritual interests of the church when called thereunto.
5. It belongs to their office, both severally and jointly, to watch diligently over the flock committed to their charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of morale enter therein. Evils which they cannot correct by private admonition, they should bring to the notice of the Board of Elders.
6. They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick.
7. They should instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children of the Church. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the people, be careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word among the flock, and should inform the Pastor of

cases of sickness, affliction, and awakening, and of all others which may need his special attention.

8. The BOARD OF ELDERS is charged with maintaining the spiritual government of the Church, for which purpose it has power to inquire into the knowledge, principles, and the christian conduct of the Church members under its care; to censure those found delinquent; to remove them for just cause; to grant letters of dismissal to other churches, which, when given to parents, shall always include the names of their children; to examine, ordain, and install Elders and Deacons on their election by the Church, and to require those officers to devote themselves to their work; to examine the records of the proceedings of the Deacons; to approve and adopt the budget; to approve actions of special importance affecting church property, and calling congregational meetings when necessary; to establish and control Sunday schools and Bible classes with special reference to the children of the Church; to establish and control all special groups in the Church such as men in the Church, Women in the Church, and special Bible Study groups; to promote World missions; to order collections for pious uses; to exercise authority over the time and place of the preaching of the Word; over all other religious services; over the music in the services; and over the uses to which the church building and associated properties may be put; to take the oversight of the singing in the public worship of God, to assemble the people for worship when there is no minister; to determine the best measures for promoting the spiritual interests of the Church and Congregation.
9. The Board of Elders shall hold stated meetings at least quarterly. Moreover, the pastor has power to convene the Elders when he may judge it requisite; and he shall always convene it when requested to do so by any two of the Elders. When there is no pastor, it may be convened by two Elders.
10. Every Church Board shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings, which record shall be submitted at least once in every year to the inspection of the Congregation.
11. The Board of Elders shall keep an accurate record of baptisms, of active and inactive members, and of the deaths and dismissions of Church members.
12. Meetings of the Elders shall be opened and closed with prayer.

D. THE DEACON

1. The office of Deacon is set forth in the Scriptures as ordinary and perpetual in the Church. The office is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need.
2. It is the duty of the Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute those gifts among the objects to which they are

contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without the approval of the Board of Elders and consent of the Congregation.

3. In the discharge of their duties, the Deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Elders. In a church in which it is impossible for any reason to secure Deacons, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the Elders.
4. To the office of Deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit, warm sympathies, and sound judgment.
5. The Deacons shall be organized as a Board, of which the Pastor shall be an advisory member. The Board shall elect a chairman and a secretary from their number. It shall meet separately at least once a quarter and when requested by the Board of Elders. The Board shall determine the number necessary for a quorum.
6. The Board of Deacons shall keep a record of its proceedings, of all funds and their distribution, and shall submit its minutes to the Elders yearly and at other times upon request of the Board of Elders.
7. It is desirable that the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons meet in joint session once a quarter to confer on matters of common interest.
8. It is often expedient that the Board of Elders should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the Deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need.

ARTICLE IX -- AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

A. AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH

1. Shall consist of the Sunday Bible School, Youth Groups, weekday programs for boys and girls, special adult programs, and Home Bible Study Groups, as needed.
 - a. All organizations, policies, and procedures shall be under the supervision of the Board of Elders.
 - b. All officers, teachers, and workers, elected or appointed, shall consist of active Church Members only, unless otherwise approved by the Board of Elders.
 - c. All organizations shall be in harmony with and promote the welfare of the larger ministry of the Church.

B. SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

1. The Sunday Bible School as the Church School shall promote a systematic and Scriptural program of Christian education. Its educational program shall be missionary as well as evangelistic, promoting Christian stewardship and church service.
2. The General Officers of the School, such as the Sunday School Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be elected annually by the Sunday School, and no officer, whether elected or appointed, shall succeed himself after three (3) years of service in the same office. All teachers shall be appointed annually by the Superintendent with prior approval of the Pastor and Board of Elders.

C. YOUTH GROUPS

1. These organizations shall encourage and develop the youth in active participation for “lay leadership” and “full time” service.
2. These organizations shall seek to capture and create the social and spiritual interests of the different age groups in weekly activities. They shall also be under the direction of adult (21 years of age or older) advisors annually appointed and approved by the Pastor and Board of Elders.

D. HOME BIBLE STUDY GROUPS AND SPECIAL ADULT PROGRAMS

1. These groups shall provide a well rounded social and spiritual ministry for the total Church through the study of God's Word at various homes.
2. All teachers shall be approved by the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE X -- CALLING OF PASTORS

A. ELECTION

1. The Pastor and/or ASSISTANTS shall be elected, when properly engaged, for an indeterminate time by a 75% vote of those present in a duly called congregational meeting announced two (2) weeks in advance for that purpose.
2. The VOTE on the call of a Pastor or Assistant requires a quorum of 20% of all active membership.

B. TERMINATION

1. A termination of relationship between Pastor or Assistant and Church may be brought about either by resignation or a 75% vote of those present in a duly called congregational meeting announced two (2) weeks in advance for that purpose.
2. The vote on the termination of a Pastor or Assistant requires a quorum of 20% of the active membership.
3. A six-week notice shall be provided by either party.

ARTICLE XI -- CHURCH MEETINGS

A. WORSHIP SERVICES

1. The Regular Worship Services of the Church shall normally be held each Sunday, morning or evening, and on Wednesday evening.
2. The Lord's Supper shall normally be observed on the first Sunday of each quarter.
3. Special meetings concerning missions, evangelism, Christian education, etc., shall be approved and designated by the Board of Elders.

B. BUSINESS MEETINGS

1. The Church will have two (2) congregational meetings each year on the third Sunday of January and July for the purpose of attending to the business of the Church.
2. An order of business for each congregational meeting will be prepared by the Board of Elders and posted on the bulletin board of the Church a minimum of ten (10) days prior to the meeting.
3. The first business of each meeting will be to amend and adopt the order of business. The order of business can be changed after adoption by a two-thirds vote of the congregation.
4. Church officers will be elected by secret ballot during the same meeting that these rules are adopted and at the July meeting of each following year.
5. A Moderator shall be elected at the July meeting of each year to serve for one (1) year.
6. A Clerk shall be elected at the July meeting of each year to serve for one (1) year.
 - a. The Clerk shall record the minutes of all congregational meetings.
 - b. The minutes of the congregational meeting will be signed by the Clerk and Moderator, read and approved at the next following meeting.
 - c. A copy of the minutes of all congregational meetings shall be given to the Clerk of the Board of Elders within seven (7) days following the meeting.
7. A Treasurer for the Church General Funds shall be elected at the July meeting to serve for one (1) year.
 - a. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse Church funds according to instructions of the Deacons and consent of the congregation, disbursing funds per an approved budget.

- b. The Treasurer shall submit monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports to the Deacons. Copies of the quarterly and annual reports shall be given to the Board of Elders and the congregation.
 - c. The Clerk of the Congregation and/or Moderator may co-sign Church checks. Church checks will require two (2) signatures. If a conflict of interest arises, the Board of Elders shall designate the cosigners.
 - d. The Treasurer's books shall be presented to the Deacons annually for audit and may be requested by the Board of Elders at any time for review.
8. The Board of Elders shall be composed of three (3) Elders and the Pastor.
 9. The Elders shall be elected according to Classes, with three-year terms, excepting the first two (2) classes of 1978 and 1979. At the first meeting, elect the following:
 - One (1) Elder for three (3) years
 - One (1) Elder for two (2) years
 - One (1) Elder for one (1) year
 10. The Board of Deacons shall be composed of three (3) Deacons and the Church Treasurer.
 11. The Deacons shall be elected according to Classes, with three-year terms excepting at the first election of Deacons, the procedure noted in rule 9 shall be used.
 12. Deacons will also serve as Trustees.
 13. The Elders' and Deacons' record books shall be brought to the January meeting for reference and review by the Congregation.
 14. The Elders' and Deacons' record books shall contain a copy of this Constitution.

POSTSCRIPT A - BUSINESS MEETINGS

The usual procedure followed:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Devotions
- c. Reading of the Minutes
- d. Standing Committee Reports
- e. Unfinished (old) Business
- f. New Business
- g. Prayer and Adjournment

The order that should be maintained is:

- h. All who desire to speak must stand and be recognized by the Chairman before speaking.
- i. Only appropriate remarks pertaining to the topic at hand should be made.

- j. No one shall speak twice on a given subject until all who desire to do so have spoken once, unless special permission is granted by the Chairman.
- k. In matters not specifically dealt with in this constitution, Roberts Rules of Order shall be the standard governing procedure.

The Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE XII -- MISCELLANEOUS

A. ASSISTANTS AND SPECIALIZED HELP

1. All specialized help, i.e., Director of Religious Education, or Music, or Youth, etc., shall be recommended by the Board of Elders and approved by the congregation. The Pastor shall oversee the ministering staff. Such assistants will be directly responsible to the Pastor in the performance of their work.

B. FINANCIAL POLICY

1. The work of the Church shall be financed only by the Scriptural method: Malachi 3:8-10; I Cor. 16:1, 2; II Cor. 8:1-16. At no time shall entertainments, suppers, bazaars, rummage sales, etc. be given by the Church or its auxiliary organizations for the maintenance or expansion of the Gospel ministry. The Church shall teach and promote storehouse tithing and cooperative giving for all of its members.

C. ORDINATIONS

1. Any man of unquestionable Christian character and adequate training in his field and Scripturally qualified may become a candidate for ordination:
 - a. By recommendation of the Pastor and Elders;
 - b. By the calling of the Congregation;
 - c. By a public Ordination Service recommended and approved by the Board of Elders.

D. AMENDMENTS

1. Constitutional amendments may be made only in the following manner:
 - a. Approval of the proposed amendment by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at any regular or special Congregational Business Meeting, plus the approval and enactment at the next subsequent regular Congregational Business Meeting by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

E. COMMITMENT

1. Every Church officer should reaffirm annually his full agreement with the Doctrinal Statement of Faith and his desire to support the spiritual ministry of the local body.
2. Any officer failing to attend the regularly scheduled meetings, the regular church services, or failing to perform the duties of his office shall, after three (3) months, be relieved of his office by discretionary action of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XIII -- DATE OF EFFECT

A. ADOPTION

1. Motion was made and carried that we adopt this Constitution and By-Laws, Covenant, and Confession of Faith, and that the adoption of these Rules shall be understood to rescind and annul any conflicting Rules in force prior to the date of this adoption.

Dated: February 5 1978