

# **CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF LIBERTY BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

10 Riverside St.  
Hooksett, NH 03106

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this assembly shall be the LIBERTY BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of establishing LIBERTY BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH is to bring glory, honor, and praise to God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, for the purpose of religious, educational, and charitable worship. As a local Independent Baptist Church, we shall accomplish this by (1) our gathering together as an assembly of believers to preach, teach, sing, fellowship, and worship around the Saviour and the Bible; (2) exhorting one another to a Godly, holy life that we may please our heavenly Father and be effective witnesses to the unconverted; (3) supporting any Biblical method of evangelism and growth of true Christianity in our community and world, including starting other Baptist churches.

This purpose is further expressed in the Church Covenant (Article V). This Covenant shall be read occasionally in the presence of the assembly and shall be accepted by each member for the purpose of promoting the foregoing objects, this church shall have the right to acquire either by gift or purchase and to hold, own, sell, mortgage, or encumber in any manner, lease and improve real estate and personal property for itself and other, either as trustee or otherwise, also including any automotive vehicle. The church shall also have the right to operate a Christian school, if the need arises, as an arm of this church, not as a separate entity.

### **ARTICLE III: CHARACTER**

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. We are affiliated with no convention, association, or fellowship. The only one who has control over this church will be the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **ARTICLE IV: HISTORIC BAPTIST PRINCIPLES**

Being in agreement with the historical doctrinal position of Baptists, we choose to be called a "Baptist Church", until this name shall be wholly associated with apostasy, heresy, and teachings other than those historical Baptist principles listed below:

- 1- The pre-eminence of Jesus Christ as our Eternal Lord and Saviour.
- 2- The supreme authority of the King James (AV-1611) Bible and its sufficiency as our only rule of faith and practice.
- 3- The competency of the individual soul to approach God and to interpret the Word of God according to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
- 4- The absolute separation of Church and State, but obeying magistrates and governors in all secular matters that do not annul scriptural Christian responsibility.
- 5- A regenerate Church membership, based upon faith in Christ as God's only way of Salvation.
- 6- The beautiful, symbolic ordinance of believer's immersion in water as a figure of the salvation experience, a testimony of dying to self and the world, and spiritual submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7- The complete autonomy of the local congregation, but also its interdependence in associated fellowship with other Baptist Churches of like faith.
- 8- We believe in that blessed hope -- the personal, pre-millennial, pre-tribulational and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when the church will be "gathered unto Him".
- 9- A world-wide program of missionary fervor and evangelism in accordance with Pauline ministry and doctrine.

### **CHURCH COVENANT**

The covenant that is most widely used among Baptists is the one we use at our Church and Mission. We have added Scripture references for the benefit of the new convert. It is as follows:

### **ARTICLE V: OUR COVENANT**

We the willing members of Liberty Bible Baptist Church do hereby covenant and agree before God and our fellow Christians to hold the following biblical admonitions in high regard not only in the presence of the brethren but also before the lost so as to demonstrate the true character of Christianity and Spirituality that the Spirit of God may move freely among us and them, and that

our witness, testimony, the words of the living God may be presented in truth and in purity without scorning or hindrance from us.

That we will submit ourselves one to another, in honor preferring one another, forgive one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.

That we will, with gentleness and meekness, care for one another, pray for one another with compassion and concern, helping to bear one another's burdens in times of affliction and trouble, the elder guiding the younger in the Lord; by work and deed being spiritual examples both to express God's presence and be humbly used according to God's will to strengthen those we have given to our fellowship.

That we will unite together as God allows in an organized service to worship in spirit and in truth with prepared hearts and minds in joyful communion, continue faithfully in supporting the work of the ministry through tithes and free will offerings as God hath prospered us in obedience to the scripture while seeking no temporal reward but looking for his blessing and love, realizing that if we sow bountifully we shall also reap bountifully.

That we will consider the world, the flesh, and the devil our adversaries while in our mortal bodies, but we will remain untangled from the affairs of this life to avail ourselves in the work of the Lord.

That we will study the scriptures to show ourselves approved unto God in doctrine and spiritual understanding, recognizing that all truth is defined from the scripture alone and no man may alter this truth, but only believe or deny it

Furthermore, that it is the very words that comprise scripture and conveys the message and the doctrine that is vital for sound faith; that we possess these words by the mercy and grace of God in the confines of the Authorized King James 1611 Bible entirely and without error

That it is the expressed and clear purpose of this church to disseminate, teach, promote, publish, preach, distribute in several forms, proclaim by voice in a righteous manner, and preserve these words as directed and supplied by the Spirit of God, to the fullest extent possible before the resurrection of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, in what we know and believe to be the rapture or translation of the saints before the tribulation.

## **ARTICLE VI SECTION A: ARTICLE OF FAITH AND DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

**WE BELIEVE IN THE INSPIRATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE SCRIPTURES WHICH ARE KEPT BLAMELESS WITHOUT ERROR IN THE AUTHORIZED VERSION OF THE KINGS JAMES 1611 BIBLE** Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4; Ezekiel 37:9-10; Psalms 12:6-7; 2 Peter 1:19-21, 23; Proverbs 30:5-6; Psalm 138:2; John 17:17; Psalm 119:89

**WE BELIEVE IN THE ETERNAL BLISS IN HEAVEN** for all who are saved by grace through faith in Christ's shed blood, his burial, and his resurrection, which we call the gospel 1Cor 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 1Pet 1:2-4; Rom 5:8-9; Eph 2:11-22; Rev 1:5

**WE BELIEVE IN THE IMMINENT, PRETRIBULATIONAL, PREMILLENNIAL RAPTURE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, WHICH IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**, which is to say we DO NOT BELIEVE, any member of the Body of Christ will go one second into the period known as the tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble, or Daniel's 70th week 1Corinthians 15:50-58; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2Thessalonians 2:1-3; Revelation 4:1

**WE BELIEVE IN A LITERAL HELL AND ETERNAL DAMNATION** for all who are unsaved because they chose ; Rom 3:22; 1Tim 2:4; Mt 25:41; Rev 20:11-15; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16; 22-31; Is 66:24

**WE BELIEVE IN THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER** John 3:16, 36; 1John 5; 12-13; Rom 8:11; 32-39; Jn 8:28-29; 1Pet 1:2-5; Eph 5:30; Titus 3:7; 1Jn 3:1-3

**WE BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST** Galatians 4:4-5; Luke 2:4-7; Isaiah 7:14

**WE BELIEVE IN THE UNITY OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS WHICH MAKES UP THE BODY OF CHRIST** 1Cor 12:12-14; 2Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22-23; Eph 5:22-25

**WE BELIEVE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH** for the purpose of preaching, teaching, and singing to the glory of God and for the worship of Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth. The local church is made up of members who are saved believers and have been baptized but may have in its services both the saved and the lost, and we have within our constitution and by-laws the right to keep those out who pose a threat to our safety and unity. **WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE UNIVERSAL, INVISIBLE BODY OR BRIDE OF CHRIST** because the local church is a visible organization and not an invisible organism, the local church is physical and not spiritual, the local church is earthly and not heavenly, the local church can have saved and unsaved in it and the body of Christ only has saved members, the local church can be destroyed but the body of Christ can never be destroyed, the local church has both male and female, Jew and Gentile but the body of Christ is one, the local church has sin in it but the body of Christ has no sin in it, the local church may have a few members but the body of Christ has many members Ephesians 1:20-23; 2:6, 20-22; 5:24-30; 1Cor. 12:12-13; Mt 28:18-20;

11:12; 16:18; Rom 1:14-16; 14:17; Acts 1:8-9; 1Cor 1:1-2; Gal 1:2, 22; Col 1:1-8; 2Thess 1:1-4; 1Tim 3:15; Acts 20:28-32; Gal 2:4-5; 3:28; 2Tim 3:8-9

**WE BELIEVE THAT THE ORDINANCES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER** by Baptism we mean the physical immersion of the believer in water after their testimony of salvation, where or when available, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as commanded by God in Mt 28:19. This act is not for salvation but is rather a figure of the gospel which is Christ's death, burial, and resurrection 1Cor 15:1-4; 1Pet 3:21; Mt. 1:16

By the Lord's Supper we mean the commemoration of our Lord's death by the bread and the fruit of the vine, which always proceeds self-examination 1Cor 11:23-28; John 6:52-53; Mt 26:26-30

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY FORM OF MODERNISM, HUMANISM, ATHEISM, ECUMENISM OR HERETICAL MOVEMENTS** 2Cor 6:14-17; Amos 3:3; 1Tim 4:13; 1Cor 13:8; 2Cor 12:12; 11:4, 13-15; 2Thess 2:9

## **ARTICLE VI SECTION B: ARTICLES OF FAITH (CONT.)**

### **1- THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-filled men and has been divinely preserved to date in the Authorized Version of 1611, and therefore, is the truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. We believe the Bible to have only one interpretation which may be revealed to any believer by the Holy Spirit.

A- By "The Holy Bible", we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as written and preserved in the Authorized Version of 1611, does not only contain and convey the Word of God but **IS** the Word of God.

B- By "Inspiration", we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and preserved, free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. II Tim 3:16-17 II Pet 1:19-21 John 17:17 Psalm 12:6-7

C- Whereas there are a number of other versions of the Bible in circulation, all of which are not reliable due to their omission of words and their being translated from corrupt manuscripts, we consider it, therefore, a necessity and privilege to use only the King

James Version AV-1611 in our pulpit and in our classrooms. Deut 4:2 Prov 30:5-6  
Rev 22:18-19

## **2- THE TRUE GOD**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons---the Father, the Son, and the Ghost or Spirit---equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Isa 44:6 Isa 57:15  
I Cor 8:6 Rev 4:11 I John 5:7

## **3- THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel (death, burial, and resurrection-I Cor 15:1-4) in our preaching and testimony; that He is the agent of the New Birth; that He seals, fills, leads, intercedes, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and comforts the believer. I Cor 3:17 John 14:16-17 Heb 9:14 John 14:16, 26 John 16:13-14 Luke 1:35 John 1:12-13 Gen 1:1-3 John 16:8-11 Acts 5:30-32 John 3:5-8 Eph 1:13-14 John 1:33 I Cor 12:13 I Cor 5:1-4

## **4- JESUS CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin; and that He is both completely man and completely God. He was subject to temptation, yet was without ANY sin. He is the Messiah for Israel, the Saviour of the world, the ONLY way any man can come to God the Father for forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. He is to be worshipped and glorified as the LORD. Isa 7:14 Isa 9:6-7 Luke 1:31-35 Matt 4:1-11 Heb 4:15 I Pet 2:22 John 4:42 John 14:6 John 20:28 Luke 24:52 John 16:14 Phil 2:9-11

## **5- SATAN OR THE DEVIL**

We believe he was created perfect, as a Cherub called Lucifer, in the original creation, and because of pride, rebelled against GOD and became the author of sin. After the creation of heaven and earth, he appeared to Eve in the garden of Eden and tempted her to willfully disobey God's command, resulting in the sin of Adam, thus the fall of man. We believe he was then cursed, to be henceforth referred to as a serpent, or the dragon. Now as a great red dragon he abides in the great deep and as the devil he appears on earth and in heaven as the god of this world to fulfill the ultimate will of God in judging, killing, deceiving, hindering, tempting, and accusing. During the fulfillment of Daniel's 70th Week, or the Great Tribulation, he will come down to earth to indwell the antichrist. After the antichrist is destroyed, he will be chained in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years, at the end of which he will be loosed to assemble an army of sinners for his last attempt to overthrow God. He and his army will be destroyed, and he will be

cast into the lake of fire forever. Ezk 28:12-19 Isa 14:12-15 II Pet 3:3-7 Gen 1:1-3, 28 II Cor 11:14 Gen 3:1-6, 14-19 Rom 5:12 Rev 12:3, 9 Job 41:31-34 Job 1:6-12 Job 2:1-7 II Cor 4:3-4 Jer 51:20-25 John 8:44 I Thess 2:18 II Thess 2:3-9 Rev 19:11-20 Rev 20:1-10

## **6- THE CREATION**

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God in the person of Jesus Christ without any evolutionary process; that man made up of spirit, soul, and body, was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. Gen 1 & 2 Col 1:16-17 Matt 19:4 John 1:3

## **7- THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in a state of innocence as a free moral agent under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression, Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, as a result of which all men are totally depraved (excluding the will), are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct; and therefore, are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen 2:17 Gen 3:1-6 Psalm 51:5 Rom 3:10-19 Rom 5:12, 19 Ezra 7:13

## **8- CHRIST'S ATONEMENT**

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 Him a body of flesh, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins by His death, which reconciles the sinner to God; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the shedding of blood, the just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen bodily from the dead, He is now seated at the right hand of God 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 and only High Priest for the believer. We believe this atonement is not limited but effectual to any sinner accepting it by faith. We believe this atonement is eternal and therefore, covers all sins, past, present, and future of the redeemed. Therefore, any individual under this atonement is eternally saved from eternal condemnation because of the atonement of Jesus Christ. Eph 2:8 Acts 15:11 Rom 3:24-26 Col 1:14 John 3:16 II Cor 5:18-21 Phil 2:7 Heb 2:14 Isa 53:4-7 I John 4:10 I Cor 15:3-4 II Cor 5:21 I Tim 2:5 I John 2:2 Heb 9:14 John 5:24 Rom 5:8-11

## **9- THE NEW BIRTH**

We believe that the new birth (being born again) is the regenerative act of the Holy Spirit upon a sinner when he repents of his sins and believes the Gospel according to the Scriptures, receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. As a result of the new birth, the sinner is made a new creature in Christ Jesus, partaking of the divine nature and receiving eternal life as a free gift of God. Regeneration of the spirit, resulting in the “new man” and consequently partaking of the divine nature in the spirit is brought about in a manner above comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth. John 3:3, 6-8 II Cor 5:17 I John 12-13 I Cor 4:15 I John 5:1 I Pet 1:23 II Pet 1:4 Rom 6:23 Eph 2:1 Col 2:13 Eph 2:15 Eph 4:24 Titus 3:5

## **10- JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be just and righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God’s righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood. Acts 13:39 Isa 53:11 II Cor 5:18-21 Rom 3:24-28 Rom 5:1, 9

## **11- SALVATION**

We believe that the salvation of a soul requires a biblical belief in the true and living God, repentance toward God, which involves turning from the belief of self-righteousness toward the righteousness of God; and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that this salvation is thereafter permanent and eternal to the believer. Heb 11:6 Acts 20:21 II Cor 7:9-10 I Thess 1:9 Acts 16:31 John 3:16 Eph 1:13 Eph 4:30

## **12- SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer’s spirit, or “new man” in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Saviour; second, a continuing process in the soul of the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the inner man, third; the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord’s return when the body, or old man, will then be changed and transformed in to a perfect, sinless body in the image of Christ. I Cor 6:11 Heb 10:10-14 I John 3:9 Eph 4:24 John 17:17 II Cor 3:18 II Cor 4:16 I Cor 1:30 Eph 5:25-26 I Thess 4:3-4 I Thess 5:23-24 Phil 3:21 I Cor 15:51-54 I Thess 4:13-17 Rom 8:29 I John 3:2

### **13- ADOPTION**

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of sons, in contrast with regeneration whereby the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by adoption as the sons of God awaits the glorification of the believer at the coming of the Lord and the redemption of the body. Eph 1:5 Gal 4:1-7 Eph 1:13-14 I John 3:1-2 Rom 8:15, 23

### **14- THE CHURCH**

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ, that He began to build after the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary (Acts 2:47 Acts 8:1,3 Gal 1:13 Heb 9:15-17), and will complete at the pre-tribulation rapture (I Thess 4:16-17), and into which all true believers of the present age are baptized immediately by the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:12-13 Eph 4:5)

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws in accordance with the Pauline revelation, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that its officers are pastors (also called elders) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture. We believe the true mission of the church is for the edification, perfection, exhortation and comfort of its members in spiritual matters; the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals; that the one and only head and overseer of the local church is the God-called and Spirit-filled pastor, just as Jesus Christ is the Head and Chief Shepherd over the entire church; that it is scriptural for true churches to fellowship with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its fellowship; and that all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Eph 1:10, 22-23 Eph 3:1-6 Gal 3:26-28 I Cor 12:12-13 Acts 1:5 Acts 2:4, 41, 47 I Cor 11:2 Titus 1:5-7 Eph 4:11-16 Acts 20:17-28 I Tim 3:1-7 I Pet 5:1-4 Heb 13:7, 17 Col 1:18 Eph 5:23-24 Acts 15:13-18

### **15- CHURCH ORDINANCES, BAPTISM, AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, under the authority of the local church, to show forth in a like figure our submission to the faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that this baptism is to be administered by the under shepherd or pastor, or whomsoever is appointed, baptism is

necessary in the life of any believer; that baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. The church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Saviour by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord. We believe that the Lord's Supper should be open to all believers and is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by serious self-examination and confession. Acts 8:36-39 Rom 6:3-5 I Pet 3:21 I Tim 1:1, 6 Acts 9:18 I Cor 9:25 I Cor 10:1-2 I Cor 11:23-32 Matt 28:19-20

## **16- CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings. Rom 13:1-7 I Pet 2:13-16 I Tim 2:1-2 Matt 22:21 Acts 5:29 Acts 4:19-20

## **17- SPIRITUAL GIFTS, MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS**

We believe the gifts of the Spirit in I Cor 12 are given today for the ministry to all parts of the body of Christ with the exception of those gifts which are specifically called "signs". Those gifts which are signs, wonders, or miracles were given by the Spirit during the beginning of the church in the book of Acts for these purposes: (1) to identify an "apostle" (2) to get the Jews to listen to the Gospel or to believe a new revelation (3) to confirm the Word or Scripture that was being spoken by the apostles, but not yet written form as we have the Scriptures today. Since there are NO apostles present today, the Gospel ministry is almost totally to the Gentile and as we have a complete Bible, we reject "speaking in tongues", "supernatural healing" as found in the apostolic ministry (we believe God heals today in accordance with His Word and divine will through faith and confession) and any other "sign or wonder" as heresy and "lying signs and wonders" produced by Satanic power in these last days to deceive the whole world. I Cor 12:1-11 Mark 16:16-18 Acts 2:4, 5, 43 Acts 3:7, 12 Acts 5:12 II Cor 12:12 I Cor 1:21-22 I Cor 14:21-22 Mark 16:20 Heb 2:3-4 James 5:14-16 I Cor 11:30-32 II Thess 2:8-9 I Tim 4:1-2 Matt 24:5, 11, 24

## **18- ISRAEL**

We believe in the selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she is being regathered to Palestine and after the rapture of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ. Gen 13:14-17 Rom 11:1-32 Ezk 37

## **19- THE RESURRECTIONS, JUDGMENTS, PRE-MILLENNIAL RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS**

A- We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Matt 28:6-7 Luke 24:39 John 20:27 I Cor 15:4 Mark 16:6 Luke 24:2-6

- B- The ascension of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:9-11 Luke 24:51 Mark 16:19
- C- The imminent pre-tribulation resurrection of all born again believers at the end of this dispensation. Phil 3:20 I Thess 1:10 I Thess 5:6, 11 Titus 2:13 Rev 4:1 I Thess 4:13-17 I Cor 15:51-53
- D- The judgment seat of Christ after the rapture of the Church, before the throne of God where the believer's works and motives for service will be tested by fire, with the promise of literal rewards and inheritance during the millennial reign. Rom 14:10 II Cor 5:10 II Tim 4:1 I Cor 4:5 I Cor 3:9-15 Col 3:23-24 II Tim 2:10-12 Luke 19:11-26
- E- The future conclusion of Daniel's 70th week, called the Great Tribulation, determined on the nation of Israel, involving the coming world church, a one-world government both of which will be dominated by the Anti-Christ. Dan 9:24-27 Matt 24:4-26 Rev 6-19
- F- The personal visible return of Jesus Christ to this earth to destroy the Anti-Christ and all his enemies at Armageddon and the judgment of the nations and then to establish the 1000 year reign with the Jew in Palestine as the head of the nations, the earth regenerated, and Himself the king of the earth ruling with a rod of iron on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Rev 19:11-21 Acts 1:10-11 Rev 16:12-16 Matt 25:31-46 Rev 20:1-6 Rom 11:25-27 Deut 28:13 Matt 19:28 Isa 11:1-10 Isa 9:6-7 Luke 1:32-33 Isa 24:23
- G- The Last Judgment, or Great White Throne Judgment, involving all the extent or degree of their damnation and eternal destruction in the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:11-15 Rev 20:5-6 Matt 23:14 Rev 14:10-11 Rev 21:8
- H- The New Heavens and Earth, eternal bliss and life of believers of all dispensations. Rev 21:1-22 Psalm 16:11 John 3:16

## ARTICLE VII

### Section 1.....Reception of Members and Visitors

- A- This Church shall be composed of members who profess to be saved by grace, through faith, and who have been baptized, when possible, following their confession of faith in Christ, by immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- B- All persons desiring to unite with this church shall meet with the pastor and shall give testimony of conversion and Christian experience, and members should accept and adhere to the articles of faith, constitution, and covenant of this church.
- C- Any and all persons are welcomed to visit any of our services, but it should be understood that it is at the hearers discretion and liberty to leave at any point they choose. We do not consent nor condone any form of homosexuality, lesbianism,

transgender, bestiality or other sexual pernicious and lascivious behaviors. The Pastor or preacher has liberty granted by God, the Bible and the Constitution to preach against and name all sin contained therein the Bible.

D- All members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the spiritual duties essential to a successful Christian life (i.e. prayer, Bible reading, witnessing, etc.); second, to attend regularly the services of the church, to give regularly to its support “as the Lord hath prospered,” through tithes, offerings, and “free will” offerings; and to share in its organized work when possible.

E- Members may be received in one of four ways:

- 1- After water baptism following salvation (1- Salvation 2- Baptism 3- Membership--No change in this order)
- 2- By letter from a church of like faith and order.
- 3- By confession of faith (when possible to secure a letter from prior church)
- 4- By restoration.

The Four are subject to Pastoral presentation and Congregational acceptance.

## Section 2.....Discipline of Members

A- Letters of recommendation may be granted to any member in good standing for the purpose of uniting with another Baptist Church; providing the request comes from that church.

B- The matter of discipline of the membership shall be under the authority, leadership, and direction of the pastor and assisted by any spiritually mature adult member. The scriptural principles of Matt 18:15-17, Gal 6:1, I Tim 5:20, Titus 3:9-11, II Thess 3:6, 14, and I Cor 5:1-7 shall be closely adhered to in all matters of disciplinary action.

C- Members failing to attend and/or support the church, without a legitimate excuse, within three months time will be dropped from the membership at the discretion of the pastor and leaders of the church, AFTER THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RESTORE THEM.

## **ARTICLES VIII OFFICES**

### Section 1.....Officers and Position

A- The officers of the church shall be the pastor and deacons. They shall be assisted by trustees, clerk, treasurer, Sunday School superintendent, teachers, and other positions deemed necessary by the pastor.

B- All positions shall be appointed and dismissed by the authority of the pastor in accordance with the spiritual welfare of the church.

- C- All positions of the church and all subsidiary organizations including the Sunday School, shall be members of this church, in good standing, and shall be required to subscribe to the Articles of Faith of the church. Upon refusal to subscribe, his office or position shall be declared vacant.

#### Section 2.....Qualifications

Any church member approved by the pastor and the leaders of the church who will agree to enter into the Covenant of Section 3 of this Article is entitled to hold office or position in this church.

#### Section 3.....Covenant

The following covenant shall be subscribed to by all officers and holders of positions in this church:

In assuming this office or position, I agree to be loyal to the interest of the church, to seek its purity and prosperity, and to be subject to its discipline. Furthermore, I cheerfully accept and subscribe to the following rules for officers and those appointed to position:

- 1- All officers and those appointed to position must be members of this church in good standing according to Article VII of this Constitution.
- 2- All officers and those appointed to position must be in full agreement with the doctrinal position of the church.
- 3- All officers and those appointed to position must be in harmony with the administration of the church as that administration is consistent with God's word.
- 4- All officers and those appointed to position are expected to be total abstainers from the use and sale of tobacco and alcoholic beverages.
- 5- All officers and those appointed to position must not belong to, and must sever all connections with any worldly organization or secret societies that are in opposition to the basic doctrines of the Bible or the spiritual welfare of the Christian.
- 6- As the work of the church is dependent upon prayer, each officer and those appointed to position are expected to conscientiously attend and participate in the regular prayer meeting of the church unless providentially hindered.
- 7- If at any time officers and those appointed to position find that they can no longer comply with these rules, it is their duty to report it to the pastor and surrender office.

#### Section 4.....Pastor or Bishop

- A- The pastor shall strive to meet the scriptural qualifications laid down in I Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and provide the balanced ministry demanded in Eph 4:11-13, I Pet 5:1-4, II Tim 2:1-6, and II Tim 4:1-5, and I Tim 6:11-20. He shall be afforded all scriptural support, as voted on by the members of the church, and authority given by the word of God in I Cor 9:7-14, I Thess 5:12-13, I Tim 5:17, and Heb 13:7, 17.

Although he is the leader of the church, he should likewise follow the Pauline example of being a servant of the Lord for the needs of the flock.

- B- The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns unless he becomes apostate or immoral. In this case or the event of his death, his assistant, should need arise to have one, shall become the new pastor.
- C- A candidate for the pastorate shall be carefully examined by the officers and leaders of the church acting as a pulpit committee as to his salvation, doctrine, Christian conduct, and call to the ministry. If he has served in other churches, his ministry there should be explored. He shall be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the Articles of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of the church. Any differences which he holds concerning these documents should be submitted to the pulpit committee in writing. The pulpit committee shall present only one man at a time for the consideration and acceptance by 75% of the membership.
- D- A call to a pastor shall be extended at a meeting of the church that is called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit for three services immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for a call. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A written call and agreement shall be presented to the prospective pastor, giving details of church-pastoral relationship, including salary, housing and car allowances, insurance, vacations, etc. after these matters have been discussed with the prospective pastor and approved mutually.
- E- The pastor shall have charge of the welfare of the church in tandem with his officers and those in position of leadership appointing and overseeing all church offices and positions, boards, and committees. The pastor shall preach the Gospel, teach the Word, and have charge of the services of the church and shall administer the ordinances and perform the usual duties of a scriptural pastor.

#### Section 5.....Deacons

- A- As the need arises, the pastor and leaders of the church shall prayerfully choose and ordain men from the congregation to the office of deacon. The scriptural qualifications of and instructions for calling out a deacon are laid down in Acts 6:1-7 and I Timothy 3:8-14. The duties of a deacon are to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual and material well-being of the church in whatever areas the pastor deems necessary.
- B- Since the deacons are called out by the assembly and ordained by the pastor, the length of their service will be determined by the needs of the church and their qualifications to fulfill the demands of the office and assistance to the pastor. In accordance with these statements, the pastor may at any time relieve a deacon of his office and duties.

#### Section 6.....Trustees

- A- The pastor with counsel from the leaders of the church in accordance with secular law, shall choose an adequate number of trustees to fulfill the legal obligations. Their length of position is at the discretion of the pastor.
- B- The trustees shall be responsible for attending to the physical and legal aspects of the church under the guidance of the pastor.
- C- The trustees shall be responsible for signing all legal papers, etc.

#### Section 7.....Treasurer

- A- The pastor with counsel from the leaders of the church shall select from the membership a spiritual and responsible member to fill the position of treasurer until terminated by resignation of the treasurer or discretion of the pastor. The treasurer shall receive all moneys of the church and apply the same as directed by the pastor; he shall keep a true and fair record of accounts.
- B- The treasurer will need the pastor's signature, or anyone so delegated, along with his own signature, on any check used in the rightful distribution of church funds. He must also post a monthly income and expenditure sheet on the church bulletin board.

#### Section 8.....Church Clerk/Secretary

- A- There shall be one clerk/secretary chosen by the pastor.
- B- It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business meetings of the church, to keep an accurate register of the membership of the church, to record the date and manner of admission and dismissal of members, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

#### Section 9.....Chairman of the Ushers

- A- There shall be one Chairman of the Ushers chosen by the pastor.
- B- It shall be the duty of the Chairman of the Ushers to count all offerings with the Treasurer. In event of the Treasurer's absence, he shall take charge of the offerings and secure one of the officers to count the offerings with him. The chairman of the Ushers will work closely with the pastor and follow his job description given to him by the pastor.

#### Section 10....Sunday School Superintendent

- A- There shall be one Sunday School Superintendent chosen by the pastor when the need arises.
- B- It shall be the duty of Sunday School Superintendent to take general charge of all matters pertaining to Sunday School for the young people and lower grades. He shall strive to make the Sunday School as scriptural and beneficial to the people as possible.
- C- The pastor and superintendent shall appoint teachers of the Sunday School. Teachers shall be evaluated yearly by the superintendent and pastor.

## Section 11....Miscellaneous Positions

Other positions will be established at the discretion of the pastor in relation to the needs of the church. This church shall call or employ such staff members as the church shall need. A job description shall be written when the need for staff members is determined.

## ARTICLE IX CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

### Section 1.....General

The church shall maintain programs of Bible teaching; church member training, church leader training, new member orientation; mission education, action, and support; and music education, training and performance. The church shall provide the human resources, the physical resources, and the financial resources for the appropriate advancement of these programs.

### Section 2.....Sunday School

The Sunday School shall be the basic organization for the Bible teaching program. Its task shall be to teach the biblical revelation, reach persons for Christ and church membership, perform the functions of the church within its constituency, provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church.

The Sunday School shall be organized by departments and/or classes, as appropriate for all ages, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Sunday School director and the pastor.

### Section 3.....Junior Church

The Junior Church shall be organized during Worship Service, as appropriate for the ages of 4 years to 10 years, unless by request of the parent(s) and consent of both the Sunday School Director and pastor, a child 3 years of age or over 10 years of age but not to exceed 15 years of age, is permitted to attend. Junior Church shall be conducted under the direction of the Sunday School director and the pastor

## ARTICLE X MISSIONS

### Section 1.....Policy

- A- It shall be the policy of this church to support only missions engaged principally in evangelization. They shall be known to be in agreement with our Confession of faith, both in doctrine and practice.
- B- The support of the poor shall also fall under "Missions," as it is also a scriptural mission of the church. This may also include support to other churches of like faith

who need financial help to start or continue. The support of the poor shall be based on Bible standards.

#### Section 2.....Selection and Funds

- A- The ministry of those to be supported shall be made known to the church by having the missionary or pastor involved to speak and present his work. After prayer, the members of the church shall determine whether or not to support the work by vote.
- B- Mission support shall come from the giving of the members over and above the regular giving (i.e. tithe). Each member may designate his or her mission support monthly to any missionary project approved by the church. It is hoped that each family represented will support at least one mission project monthly and become familiar with the needs and pray for them regularly.

#### ARTICLE XI MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

All ministries of the church not covered previously (i.e. internet, radio, CD, publishing, new works, etc.) shall be under the supervision of the pastor and shall be operated by those members chosen by the pastor.

#### ARTICLE XII BUDGET

The finance committee and pastor shall prepare and submit to the church for approval a budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and other expenses.

It is understood that membership in this church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular, proportionate gifts.

#### Section 1.....Accounting Procedures

All funds received for any and all purposes shall pass through the hands of the church treasurer and be properly recorded on the books of the church.

#### ARTICLE XIII CHURCH MEETINGS

#### Section 1.....Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening for the worship of the Almighty God. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism

shall be among the ingredients of these services. The pastor shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

Section 2.....Beginning times of Worship Services

Sunday School.....	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....	10:30 A.M.
Evening Services.....	5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Night Prayer Services.....	6:30 P.M.

Section 3.....Special Services

Revival services and any other church meeting essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar under the direction of the pastor.

ARTICLE XIV BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1.....General

The business of this church will be carried on by the pastor and the church leaders. Any important business, at the discretion of these men, needing a vote of the church will be brought before the church. The results of any business will be told to the congregation by the pastor if deemed necessary. There will be one annual business meeting around January 1st of each year, which is at the beginning of the new church year.

Section 2.....Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called to consider matters of a special nature and significance. These business meetings may be called by the moderator at any regular service or when deemed necessary. The special business meetings of this church will be carried on by the pastor and the church leaders. The results of any special business meetings will be told to the congregation by the pastor if deemed necessary. Any important business as a result of special meetings, at the discretion of these men, needing a vote of the church will be brought before the church.

Section 3.....Quorum

The quorum consists of those members who attend the business meeting, providing it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called. For a member to be entitled to vote, he/she must be a tithing member and present at the meeting, no mail in votes are acceptable or allowed.

#### Section 4.....Moderator

The pastor will be the moderator at all business meetings. In the event the church has no pastor, the leaders of the church shall appoint a moderator.

#### ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the members present at any called business meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given from the pulpit for one week prior to the meeting at which action is desired.