

Constitution and By-Laws



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Constitution updated August 2012

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PREAMBLE

Reposing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, believing in the teaching and the practices of the Baptists and those great distinctive principles for which they have stood, namely:

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ
2. The Bible, the standard of faith and practice
3. Regenerated membership
4. Believer's baptism (by immersion)
5. Progressive sanctification
6. Soul liberty
7. Separation of church and state
8. Congregational government

We, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of immersed believers in Jesus Christ and adopt, ordain, and establish for our government and plan of worship and service the following declaration of faith, covenant, constitution, and by-laws.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We, as New Testament Baptists, hold the historical Baptist belief that a scriptural church is a democracy of believers meeting in some local place, sovereign and autonomous in deciding matters of church policy and affiliation, and composed only of persons who profess to have been born again and have been immersed in water upon their confession of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration and absolute authority of the scriptures; in the pre-existence, the incarnation through His virgin birth and essential deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; in His substitutionary and atoning death providing redemption through His shed blood, and His bodily resurrection; in His ascension and

exaltation into heaven; in the person and work of the Holy Spirit; and in our Lord's personal, visible return and His ultimate kingdom and reign.

COVENANT

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, 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 doctrine and to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; 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.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions, to train our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and 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; and to abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ.

We further engage 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.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, 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.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the holy scriptures of the old and new testament to be the verbal, plenary, inspired word of God, the final authority for faith and practice, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; and John 16:12-13.

The Godhead

We believe in one triune God eternally existing; manifested in three personal distinctions known respectively as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections. Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Luke 1:31-32; I Peter 1:2-3; and II Corinthians 13:14.

The Person and Work of Christ

- A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might

reveal God and redeem sinful man. John 1:1-3;
Luke 1:35.

- B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Romans 3:24-4:25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5.

- C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our high priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate. Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1,2.

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment; and that he is the super-natural agent in regeneration, baptizing all born-again believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14.

- B. We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and responsibility of all born-again believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit. John 16:13; I John 2:27; and Ephesians 5:18.

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, and by the direct act of God; but that in Adam's sin the entire human race fell, inherited a sinful

nature and became alienated from God, and that man is totally depraved and of himself utterly unable to remedy this lost condition. Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12.

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Ephesians 2:8-10; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19, John 1:12.

The Eternal Security and Assurance of the Believer

- A. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5.

- B. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:16; Titus 2:11-15.

The Believer

- A. The Believer's Two Natures - We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature, in this life, are unscriptural. Romans 6:13, 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9.

- B. The Believer and Separation - We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to

bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord: that separation from worldly pleasures and practices should be practiced, that everything we do should be to the honor and glory of the Lord. II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Colossians 3:17.

C. The Believer and Missions - We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures, and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind. Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20.

The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will for the sick, needy, and afflicted. I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:7-12; John 15:7; I John 5:14-15.

B. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (I Corinthians 13:8; 14:21-22)

The Church

A. We believe that the Church is the body and bride of Christ who is the bridegroom and is made up of all

born-again persons of this present church age.
Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2.

- B. We believe that this church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of true believers who have been immersed upon their confession of faith in Christ and associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; and that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations - ecclesiastical or political, that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe the church and state must forever be separate entities, as each having different functions, and each with responsible duties, free from dictation or the patronage of the other. 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 each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

The Ordinances

We believe that the ordinances which are committed to the visible church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion, in water, of a believer in Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and symbolizes his spiritual resurrection to newness of life, and identification with Christ. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of His sacrificial death, and symbolizes the fact that the believer is continuously fed and nourished by Christ. Matthew 3:6, 13-17, 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Acts 8:36-38; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-29.

The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41; Revelation 20:10.

The Eternal State

- A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-15.

- B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and immediately present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

- C. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection and judgment of the great white throne at the close of the millennium, when, with the soul and body reunited, they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15.

Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11)

Human Sexuality and Marriage

- A. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. We believe that God intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:10-11; Ephesians 5:22-23; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)
- B. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of fornication, including but not

limited to: homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

Sanctity of life

Life is a gift of God and must be respected and defended from conception until natural death. (Exodus 20:13, 23:7; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

The Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is to be observed as the Lord's day, and is a day of rest for Christian fellowship, worship and communion with God. John 20:10, 26; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2.

Civil Government

We believe that the civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth. II Samuel 23:3; Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Timothy 2:1-8; Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:18-20; Revelation 19:16.

The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope", the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish

His Millennial Kingdom. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; Revelation 3:10.

AUTHORITY OF ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Articles of Faith accurately represent the teaching of the Bible.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be Grace Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to glorify God and honor Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour; to present the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to those at home who have not accepted Him and to those abroad through a vigorous missionary effort; to teach the word of God for the edification of believers; to seek the spiritual improvement of our members providing opportunities for worship, fellowship, and Christian service; and to stand without compromise for "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Grace Baptist Church shall consist only of immersed, born again believers who have been recommended by the pastor and/or deacons of the church, and received into membership by regular action of the church.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

The scriptural officers of this church are pastor and deacons. When deemed advisable, the church shall elect and appoint other officers to various forms of service as indicated by their titles and as defined in the by-laws.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Meetings for worship, prayer, praise, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as set forth in the by-laws.

ARTICLE VI – RELATIONSHIPS

Believing in the sovereignty of the local church as an autonomous body of believers under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, this church by official action shall determine the maintaining of fraternal fellowship; and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice; or with organized groups of Baptists or inter-church relationships; when our **CARDINAL BELIEFS WILL NOT BE COMPROMISED**. To such groups this church may send statistical reports and may be represented in their

meetings. No financial support is to be given to a work or worker whose doctrinal position is not in keeping with the Preamble of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting at any business meeting provided such amendments have been submitted in writing at one of the regular church business meetings four weeks prior to the vote.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this church shall be the Grace Baptist Church of Muncie, Indiana.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section I - Conditions

Persons who (1) confess the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, (2) receive baptism by immersion upon their profession of faith, and (3) accept the doctrinal statement contained in the constitution and agree to be governed in church affiliation by this constitution and by-laws, qualify for membership. All candidates for membership shall meet with the pastor, pastoral staff, and/or deacons, who shall, after due consideration, make recommendation to the church.

Section II - Reception of Members

- A. By Baptism - The candidate relates his Christian experience and his desire for baptism and church

membership, after which the church, if satisfied, votes that he be received as a member upon baptism.

- B. By Letter - Members of other churches of like faith and order may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches.
- C. By Statement - Persons who have fulfilled the conditions in Section I, may be received into this church upon relating their Christian experience.
- D. By Restoration - Those members who, for any reason, have been excluded or suspended, or whose names have been erased from the rolls of the church, may be restored to membership: those excluded or suspended, upon expression of repentance, and those erased, upon expression of renewal of interest. Restoration to church membership does not restore to an office held prior to dismissal (if office was held).

Section III - Dismissal of Members

- A. By Letter - A member in good standing may, upon written request, receive a letter of commendation and dismissal from this church in order to unite with another church of like faith and order. Membership terminates with this church upon the granting of this letter of dismissal.
- B. By Erasure - Members who are known to be deceased or who have joined some other church without notifying this church, or who request that their names be dropped from the membership, or whose residence is unknown for twelve months,

or who have been absent from the services of this church for a period of twelve months or longer and who fail to give satisfactory reason for such absence after communication by the pastor or deacons, may be erased from the membership.

- C. By Exclusion - When the church, in the exercise of its lawful authority and discipline, withdraws fellowship from one proven to be an unworthy member, his name may be excluded from the roll by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular business meeting.
- D. By Suspension - When a member so conducts himself as to cause the serious disapproval of the church, he may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, and any office held by said member shall be vacated and they shall not receive communion nor have the right to vote in any of the affairs of the church.

Section IV - Definitions

- A. A member in good standing is one who has been regularly admitted and has not lost his right to membership by one of the procedures in Section III.
- B. Admission to membership - Candidates for membership shall be voted on at any regular business meeting and will be received into membership with a majority vote.
- C. Dismissal from membership - Action upon the dismissal of members may be taken at any regular business meeting. A two-thirds vote of members present and voting is required. No action for

exclusion, erasure, or suspension shall be considered by the church until the pastor and deacons have prayerfully dealt with the offending or neglectful member.

Section V - Duties of Members

It is the duty of all members to endeavor by divine help to keep their covenant vows.

Section VI - Watchcare

Recognizing that students away from home may desire fellowship with the church and serve as teachers and ushers, or in some other leadership capacity, application can be made for watchcare privileges and responsibilities. Requirements for watchcare membership are: the candidate must be a student away from home and also hold membership in a church of like faith and practice. Candidates will follow the same procedure for regular membership except the transfer of letters. Watchcare membership terminates automatically when the individual is no longer enrolled as a student, joins another church, or leaves this community. It shall be the privilege of watchcare members to have all the rights of membership except holding elective office in the church and voting in a church business meeting. At the request of the watchcare member, the deacons may recommend to the church that the watchcare member be changed to full membership.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

Section I

The officers of the church shall be as follows:
Pastor, one or more deacons, three trustees, clerk, treasurer, financial secretary, and Sunday School superintendent.

- A. All officers listed in Section I of Article III, Sunday School teachers and officers, youth counselors, and other organizational officers shall be in agreement with the Spiritual Leadership Standards of the church.
- B. Teachers and officers of all church organizations shall be subject to the approval of pastor and deacons, and none shall be eligible except church members in good standing who are in harmony with the beliefs of the church as stated in the Articles of Faith.
- C. It shall be required perpetually that no person shall hold any office (elected or appointed) who does not wholeheartedly subscribe to the Articles of Faith herein stated; pastor included.

Section II - Pastor

- A. Duty - The pastor, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, shall have freedom of the pulpit and shall seek to promote with fidelity the welfare of the church as a "good minister of Jesus Christ." He shall be the moderator of the church and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. He may call the deacons, trustees, other officers, or the church, together for special meetings to transact the business of the church.
- B. Calling a Pastor - When the pastorate is terminated for any reason, a Pulpit Committee shall consist of the deacons and trustees. This committee shall take such steps as may be thought best for the securing of a pastor. No candidate is to be considered unless he is in harmony with the statement of faith of this church. The election (or

dismissal) of a pastor shall take place only in a meeting called for that purpose by public announcement, giving public notice at least two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting date. The vote shall be by ballot and three-fourths of the qualified voters present and voting shall be necessary for election (or dismissal). Only one candidate shall be considered at one time. No two candidates are to be considered simultaneously.

- C. Term of Office - The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term. His relationship shall continue until dissolved by written request of himself or of the church. Either shall have the right to claim 30 days from the time such request is formally made, before the relationship between them shall cease. However, in case the pastor is being dismissed for practices which bring reproach upon the name of Christ or the office of the pastorate, he may be dismissed immediately and without the 30 day notice being given, provided he is proven guilty of such practice or practices by the church.

Section III - Deacons

- A. Qualifications – All candidates for deacons must meet the Scriptural qualifications given in I Timothy 3:8-13. Only men who have been members for at least twelve months preceding the election and who are in good standing shall be eligible to serve.
- B. Term of Office - Deacons shall be elected to serve a term of three years. One-third, or as near one-third as possible, shall be elected each year, and one-third, or as near one-third as possible, shall retire each year on a rotating basis. A deacon who

has served a three-year term or portion of a three-year term, shall not be eligible for re-election until one year has expired.

- C. Duties - The deacons shall meet regularly with the pastor at least once each month. At the first meeting following the annual election, the deacons shall select a secretary and a chairman from among their own number. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes and proceedings of all meetings. The Chairman of the Deacons shall act as moderator of the deacons meetings and of the church in the absence or removal of the pastor. The deacons shall have the duties of visiting the sick, administering benevolence funds, and preparing and distributing the Lord's Supper. They shall cooperate with the pastor in the general supervision of the spiritual interests of the church and shall assist him in the performance of his duties. They shall make such other needful arrangements as may be advisable for the orderly conduct of the church services. They shall be in charge of the pulpit in the interim when the church is without a pastor. The deacons, along with the pastor, shall meet with all missionary candidates and recommend all items of missionary support to the church. The deacons shall review the pastor's remuneration annually in June.

Section IV - Trustees

- A. Election - The trustees shall be composed of three deacons, selected annually by the deacons. The term in office shall be one year or until his successor has been selected.

- B. Duties - The trustees shall have oversight of all church property, keeping it in good repair and insured. They shall act in an advisory capacity in all matters concerning legal transactions and church properties. They may not buy or sell any property without the vote of the church. They may not obligate the church for any single expense over \$1,000 without regular church action. The trustees shall meet with the pastor at his request.

Section V - Clerk

The clerk shall be elected for a term of one year. He may succeed himself. He shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the church, and other items of interest that occur in its history. He shall perform other duties as are entrusted to him by the church.

Section VI - Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected for a term of one year. He may succeed himself. He shall be responsible for disbursing church funds. He shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and the disbursements and make a written monthly report of the same to the church.

Section VII - Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall be elected for a term of one year. He may succeed himself. He shall make a proper record of all offerings given to the church, and deposit the same to the account of the bank designated by the church. He shall furnish offering envelopes to the church membership and others desiring them. At the end of each calendar year, he shall give to each contributing person a statement of the amount contributed through the envelopes.

Section VIII - Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School superintendent shall be appointed for a term of one year. He may succeed himself. He shall direct the Sunday School in cooperation with the pastor. He and the pastor shall appoint the Sunday School teachers and officers.

Section IX

The records of all the officers and committees shall be delivered to the properly elected or appointed successor.

Section X

All terms of office, except the pastorate, shall terminate June 30.

Section XI - Vacancies

When vacancies occur, the pastor and the deacons shall meet to determine whether to nominate a candidate for each vacancy.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES

Section I – School Advisory Committee

This committee shall exist to serve in an advisory role to the school headmaster.

- A. There shall be as many as 5 members of this committee, nominated by the school headmaster and pastor, approved by the deacons, to serve terms of one school year, which may be served consecutively.
- B. Each member of this committee must be a member of the church and cannot be a school employee or the spouse of a school employee. The committee shall consist of at least 3 deacons and shall meet during the school year

(as requested by the school administrator) and provide a report at monthly deacon meetings.

Section II

Any other committees, when established, shall exist for a specific purpose and shall dissolve upon completion of that purpose.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section I - Sunday Meetings

The church shall meet twice on Sunday, once in the morning and once in the evening.

Section II - Prayer Meeting

The church shall meet at least once during each week for prayer, edification, instruction, and thanksgiving.

Section III - Lord's Supper Meeting

The church shall observe the ordinance of our Lord's Supper at either the morning or evening worship service on the last Sunday of each month unless otherwise ordered by the deacons and/or pastor.

Section IV - Business Meetings

A regular business meeting shall be held by the church quarterly on the second Sunday of October, January, and April with the annual business meeting being held on the second Sunday of July.

Section V - Special Business Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the pastor or by the deacons, or by 10% of the voting members making written request. Notice of such special meetings shall be given from the pulpit on two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. No question may be voted upon unless stated in the notice of such meeting.

A quorum for the transaction of business at a special business meeting shall be 20% of the voting members. The majority vote of such members present and voting shall prevail unless the vote of a greater number is required by law of this constitution.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting at any business meeting provided such suggested amendments to the by-laws have been submitted in writing at any of the regular church business meetings two weeks prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VII - CONTROL BY OTHER CORPORATIONS

This corporation (church) shall not be controlled by any other corporation or persons: it is entirely independent and sovereign in all its actions.

ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH WORK

All activities of the church, whether conducted through societies, committees, or otherwise, are a part of the single church organization, and the pastor and deacons shall have a general oversight of them all.

ARTICLE IX - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section I

The deacons shall serve as the nominating committee.

Section II

The nominating committee shall submit a list of nominees for all offices to be filled. This list shall be posted in the church building at least one Sunday prior to the election. When qualified candidates are available, two or more may be nominated for each office.

Section III

Before posting the nominations, the committee shall approach each nominee and secure his consent to serve in harmony with the pastor and the constitution of the church, if elected.

Section IV

Members wishing to offer nominations shall submit their suggestions in writing to the nominating committee so that the nominee's qualifications may be ascertained.

Section V

All nominees must be in agreement with our Spiritual Leadership Standards and must wholeheartedly subscribe to the Articles of Faith. As far as possible they must meet the standard of separation set forth in I John 2:15-17 and II Corinthians 6:14; nominees for deacon must also meet the Biblical qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:1-13.

Section VI

Election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting, or in the case of a vacancy, at any quarterly meeting, or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. The election shall be by ballot and those nominees receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. As soon as the ballots are in, the deacons shall at once proceed to count the votes and shall report the

results to the church. In case of a tie, a new election shall immediately be held by ballot for the office in which the tie shall have occurred.

ARTICLE X - RIGHT TO VOTE

The right to vote upon church affairs is limited to members of the church in good standing, eighteen (18) years of age or over.

ARTICLE XI – PROCEDURE

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the rules of procedure at all business meetings.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

For pastors, church officers, all teachers (including assistant and substitute teachers), youth counselors and youth leaders. Recommended as a guide for all other officers.

Realizing the importance, privilege and responsibility of serving The Lord Jesus Christ in a position of leadership in the church, I hereby declare:

1. That I have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. (John 3:3).
2. That I have been immersed as a believer in Jesus Christ, and am an active member of this church. (Acts 2:38, 47).
3. That I believe in the Bible as the plenary, verbally inspired Word of God and in the literal

interpretation of its fundamental truths.
(II Timothy 3:16,17).

4. That I believe that my daily life by precept and example should be the separated life according to God's Word, (I Corinthians 6:19,20; II Timothy 2:21) and therefore be free from all questionable habits and indulgences, and any form of worldliness which might prove a stumbling block to others. I will endeavor to live daily so that others may see Christ in me. This means I will use my eyes, ears, hands, feet, lips, and all other members of my body to bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:13, 12:1,2).
5. That I believe in the scriptural requirements for leaders according to I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9, 2:1-8, and that I, as a leader, by God's grace, will endeavor to meet these requirements.

FURTHERMORE, I do now covenant with the Lord and with this church to endeavor:

1. To have family and private devotions daily. (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).
2. To study my Bible faithfully in order that I might be an approved workman. (Acts 17:11; II Timothy 2:15; Psalms 119:11).
3. To pray daily, especially for the church leaders, and also for those members of my class or group. (Ephesians 6:18; Psalm 88:9).

4. To witness daily to others by life, by spoken word and printed page, and to teach those in my care to be witnesses for Christ. (Acts 1:8, 5:42; II Timothy 2:2)
5. To attend regularly all the services of the church, including prayer meeting, and to encourage the members of my group or class to do likewise. (Hebrews 10:24,25).
6. To bring my tithes for the Lord's work systematically to this church and my offerings as the Lord directs. (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-7).
7. To cooperate fully with the pastor, superintendent, officers and other teachers of our Sunday School, and the officers of our church group and class. (Hebrews 13:7, 17; I Peter 5:2-3).
8. To prepare adequately lessons, programs, and duties. (Ezra 7:10).
9. To be faithful in my responsibilities and to notify the department superintendent or proper official as soon as I can, at least the day before if humanly possible, of my inability to be present to perform my duties. (I Corinthians 4:2).
10. To visit the members for whom I am responsible, and the prospects for Christ and the church, learning first hand about their homes and keeping in touch with them as much as possible. (Ephesians 6:7).