

**Faith Baptist Tabernacle
Constitution
Adopted April 15, 2007**

ARTICLE I. NAME

This congregation shall be known as Faith Baptist Tabernacle of Sherburne, New York, incorporation voted on May 18, 1949 and recorded on July 8, 1949 at 11:55 a.m. in Book 3 of Corporations, page 374 in Chenango County, New York. It is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Mission Statement

The mission of our church is to bring people in our community and throughout the world to the Lord Jesus Christ, help one another to grow in obedience to God's Word, provide opportunities to worship the Lord together, develop outreach and service for the Lord, encourage one another to show God's love, and engage in Christian family fellowship to the glory of God.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Introductory Statement

Our Statement of Faith is the foundation of what we believe. Based upon the Bible, it is the essential teaching to which all members of this church must agree, and all individuals and groups ministering in behalf of this church must subscribe.

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God's revelation to man. The Bible as originally written was verbally and plenary inspired and the product of men controlled by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21). The Bible is inerrant and infallible (John 10:35; Romans 7:12) and is the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which any question which relates to faith and practice shall be adjudicated. We believe that the Bible is historically, geographically, and culturally accurate in every detail.

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker 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 Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; 1 John 5:7).

III. Of the Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in the absolute deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the Eternal Son, co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit (John 1:1-3, 10:30; Ephesians 1:4; Micah 5:2). Prior to His incarnation, He appeared in the Old Testament as the Angel of the Lord (Genesis 16:9-11; 22:11, 15; Numbers 22:22-35; Judges 13:13-21; 2 Samuel 24:16; 2 Kings 1:3, 15). He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:20, 23-25). He lived a sinless life, and in His death He became the complete and perfect substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, the just dying for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus Christ arose bodily from the grave (1 Corinthians 15), and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) where He now intercedes for us as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). He will return bodily to earth to establish His Kingdom (Revelation 19).

IV. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person (Acts 5:3-4), equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in creation (Genesis 1:1-3); that in His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled (2 Thessalonians 2:7); superintended the writing of Scripture (John 14:26, 2 Peter 1:21); that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11); that He does the work of regeneration (Titus 3:5); that He indwells (Romans 8:9), baptizes into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), seals (Ephesians 1:13-14), fills (Ephesians 5:18), teaches (1 John 2:27), leads (Romans 8:14), and prays for (Romans 8:26) believers.

V. Of the Devil (or Satan) and Angels

We believe that Satan is a person and was created without sin and enjoyed heavenly honors as Lucifer; but that through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew after him a host of angels (Isaiah. 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17); that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians. 2:2). He is man's great tempter (Matthew. 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:5); the enemy of God and His Christ (Revelation 20:1-3); the accuser of the saints (Revelation 12:9); and the author of false religions (2 Corinthians. 11:13-15; Revelation 13:13-14). Satan is destined to final defeat at the hands of Christ (1 Corinthians 15: 24-28), and to the judgment of eternal torment in the lake of fire which was prepared for him and his angels (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 20:10).

Angels are created beings which possess intellect, emotion, and will (1 Peter 1:12; Luke 2:13; Jude 6). They apparently neither reproduce nor die (Mark 12:25; Luke 20:36). They worship God (Isaiah 6:1-3; Hebrews 1:6). They are messengers of God (Daniel 9-12; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-33, 2:13 Revelation); ministers of God (Hebrews 1:6, 7, 14; Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43; Acts 12:7); and the military of God (2 Kings 6:17; Matthew 13:36-43; 26:53). Fallen angels are those who chose to follow Satan, including demons (Matthew 12:24). They may be divided into those who are free to oppose God (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 16:13, 14) and those confined for later judgment (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6).

VI. Of Creation

We believe that God created all things in the universe during the six literal twenty-four hour days as recorded in the Genesis record. This record is the literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process (Genesis 1 & 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3).

VII. Of Man

We believe that man was created directly by God out of the dust of the ground, and God breathed into him the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). Man is both physical and immaterial. He was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). He was created in innocence. Adam and Eve are the seminal parents of the human race (Genesis 1-2).

By the voluntary transgression of Adam, man fell from his sinless state, so now all men are born with a sin nature received from Adam (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12). Man is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1-3), and is totally depraved, having no ability to please God. All men are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Romans 1:18-3:20).

VIII. Of Sin

God is not the author of sin; He utterly abhors sin (Deuteronomy 32:4; Job 34:10; James 1:13). However, He created beings with a capability to sin.

Sin entered into the world with Satan (1 John 3:8; John 8:44). Sin entered into the human race with the fall of man (Genesis 3:1-7).

The word "sin" means to fall short of the standard which God has established. 1 John 5:17 states that "all unrighteousness is sin;" and 1 John 3:4 defines sin as lawlessness. Sin resulted in the separation of the entire human race from God (which is spiritual death) and the separation of the body from the immaterial part of man (which is physical death).

IX. Of Salvation

We believe that the basis of our salvation is the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Romans 3:24-26). It has been purchased by the Precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:16-19). Christ is the sinless, substitutionary Savior (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24) Who suffered in our place for our sins.

Salvation is totally by the grace of God which is freely given. We cannot earn it (Ephesians 2:8-9). We are saved by the grace-faith principle. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). The Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and convicts of sin, and righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-11), and the sinner repents (Acts 20:21). God gives the gift of faith (Ephesians 2:8), the person believes on Christ (Romans 10:13), and the Holy Spirit does the work of regeneration (Titus 3:5).

The results of salvation are manifold. We are redeemed (Romans 3:24). We are reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21). We are delivered from the power of darkness (Colossians 1:13). We are accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6). We are assured of future glorification (Romans 8:30). We are justified or judicially declared righteous (Romans 3:24). We have our citizenship in heaven (Philippians 3:20). We are of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19). We receive the Spirit of adoption and so are heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 1:3). We receive the position of sonship and are legal heirs by adoption (Galatians 4:4-7). We are indwelt by the Godhead (Ephesians 4:6; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19). We are positionally sanctified or set apart unto God (1 Corinthians 6:11). We are eternally secure (John 5:24; 10:27-30).

X. Of the Local Church

We believe that the local church is an organized body of believers who have been immersed and who have covenanted together for the purposes of maintaining the apostles' doctrine, continuing in fellowship, worship, prayer, and the ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and the implementing of the "Great Commission" (Acts 2:41-42; Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). We believe that these activities are to be carried out by each member through a holy lifestyle and an active verbal witness to build up believers and to reach the unsaved for Christ.

We believe that the two offices of the local church are the bishop (pastor-teacher) and deacons (Philippians 1:1; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3; 1 Peter 5). The qualifications for these offices are listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:1-10, and clearly indicate that only men can fill these two church offices. We believe that a congregational form of church government has the best support in Scripture (1 Corinthians 5:5; Acts 14:23; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Peter 2:5, 9)

XI. Of Future Events

The Rapture is the next event to occur prophetically. It is the event in which the church, the body of Christ, His Bride, will be caught up in the clouds to

meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians. 4:16-17). There are no signs to be fulfilled before this event can take place. The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation and is not to be confused with the Second Advent of Christ.

Following the Rapture is the seven year Tribulation, which is the Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24-25; Revelation 4-19). During this "time of Jacob's Troubles" on earth the Christians are judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) which takes place in heaven.

At the end of the Tribulation is the Second Advent of Christ (Revelation 19), following which Christ establishes His Millennial Kingdom, His thousand year reign on earth (Revelation 20:4-6).

At the end of the Millennium, Satan is loosed for a "Little Season" at the end of which he is cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

The Great White Throne judgment occurs next which is the judgment of the unrighteous (Revelation 20:11-15).

Finally, the Eternal State is established (Rev. 21-22).

XII. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government was established by God for the interests and good order of human society (Romans 13:1-7). Our Biblical responsibilities include praying for those who have authority over us (1 Timothy 2:1-2), respecting and obeying them except in those things opposed to the Word of God (Daniel 3:17-18).

We believe that separation of church and state is a principle to follow (Matthew 22:21). God established government (Genesis 9:1-6). God expects believers to be responsible citizens (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). When there is a conflict between God's Word and government, we are to obey God (Daniel 3; 6; Acts 5:17-42).

XIII. Of the Value of Human Life

We believe in the sanctity of human life as God has created man in His own image (Genesis 1:27; 9:6). We believe that life begins at conception (Psalm 139:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44), and therefore abortion, the taking of a human life while in the womb, is murder and is morally wrong. Euthanasia, the taking of the life of a person who is considered hopelessly ill or injured, is also morally wrong

XIV. Of Marriage and Family

We believe that God has established marriage and the family (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33). As God created male and female and gave them the responsibility to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:27 -28), we believe that marriage is between one man who was born genetically a male and one woman who was born genetically a female. As God has given the husband and the wife

the responsibility to care for the sexual and intimate needs of one another (1 Corinthians 7:2-5), and the marriage is honorable and the bed is undefiled (Hebrews 13:4), any and all other sexual relationships including homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9).

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce (Malachi 2:14-17; Mark 10:1-12), and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies (Romans 7:1-3). We believe that those believers who have been divorced or divorced and remarried are to unite with a local church (Acts 2:41-47), and they are to serve in the local church and be greatly used of God. However, they are disqualified from serving as a pastor or deacon (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6).

XV. Of Separation

We believe that the Bible teaches personal separation from worldliness (James 4:4), the sinning brother (1 Corinthians 5:11-13) and all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22) to maintain a proper testimony before the saved and unsaved for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31-32).

We believe the Bible also teaches ecclesiastical separation from those who teach false doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 2:16-18). Therefore, a Biblically sound church can cooperate only with churches of like faith and practice.

XVI. Of Sign Gifts

We do not believe that the present day charismatic movement is Biblically based. Sign gifts (tongues, healing) were specifically for the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:22). They were signs confirming God's choice of an individual and the message he preached. The times when these sign gifts were prominent were limited to a two-generation span during which these gifts were passed on from the first to the second generation, but not passed on to a later generation (Moses - Joshua; Elijah - Elisha; Christ - His disciples).

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH COVENANT

Church Covenant

Scripture References

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to God and each other to do the following:

We will safeguard the unity of our church by learning to actively practice its doctrines, by acting in love toward one another, by praying for one another, by helping one another, and by using our speech to build up and not tear down one another, and by following Biblical leadership.

We will serve the ministry of our church by exercising our God given abilities and gifts, by being equipped for works of service, and by developing a servant's heart.

We will share in the growth of our church by praying for its increase, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit, and by furthering our relationships with them.

We will support the testimony of our church by attending faithfully, by living godly lives, and by enabling our church through our regular financial giving to reach our community and the world for Christ.

1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 5:2
James 5:16
Colossians 3:12-14
Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:29
Hebrews 13:17
1 Corinthians 12:4-7
2 Timothy 3:16-17
Mark 10:43-45
Philippians 2:3-7
1 Thessalonians 1:2
Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8
Romans 15:7
1 Corinthians 10:32-33
Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 1:27
Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 16:2
2 Corinthians 8:105

ARTICLE V. THE ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. We believe that a local, independent Baptist church is a voluntary association of baptized believers, equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external ecclesiastical or associational control whatsoever. We believe God's Word commands every believer (and only believers) to be baptized and that scriptural baptism is by immersion in water.

SECTION 2. We believe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper should be observed as Christ said, in remembrance of His broken body and shed blood for us, and that the supper has no sacramental virtue.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Definition

The membership of our church shall consist of baptized believers who cheerfully subscribe to the Statement of Faith and Covenant as given in this constitution.

SECTION 2. Qualifications

A person may be considered a candidate for membership in our church who has professed saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, having been baptized by immersion as a public testimony of that faith.

SECTION 3. Admission

Every candidate shall meet with the deacons and pastor to share his/her testimony of salvation, state that he/she has been baptized by immersion and is in full agreement with our Statement of Faith, Covenant, and Constitution, and answer any such questions which the deacons and pastor deem necessary. A candidate who has not been baptized by immersion needs to be baptized prior to being voted on for membership. The deacons and pastor will recommend to the church those candidates who qualify to be voted upon at a regular or special business meeting. Names of candidates will be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled vote. If an active member has a concern regarding a candidate, he/she shall share that concern with the deacons and/or pastor. If the reason for concern is sufficient, the candidate shall meet again with deacons and pastor before being voted upon for membership. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote is needed to accept a candidate into membership. A person who is a member of a secret religious society may not become or remain a member of the church.

SECTION 4. Duties (As stated in our Covenant)

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the names of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to God and each other to do the following:

We will safeguard the unity of our church by learning to actively practice its doctrines, by acting in love toward one another, by praying for one another, by helping one another, and by using our speech to build up and not tear down one another, and by following Biblical leadership.

We will serve the ministry of our church by exercising our God given abilities and gifts, by being equipped for works of service, and by developing a servant's heart.

We will share in the growth of our church by praying for its increase, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit, and by furthering our relationship with them.

We will support the testimony of our church by attending faithfully, by living godly lives, and by enabling our church through our regular financial giving to reach our community and the world for Christ.

Members desiring to work in children's ministries will be asked to complete a volunteer application and follow an established written policy prior to working with minors.

SECTION 5. Membership Status

An active member is one who is regular in attendance at scheduled services and in financial support of the church allowing for individual circumstances to be considered by the deacons and pastor.

An inactive member is one who has neither attended services nor supported financially the church for a period of three (3) months. Should this occur, the deacons and pastor will attempt to contact to encourage each inactive member to fulfill his/her duties as stated in the Church Covenant. To be restored to active status, a member will need to attend services on average of three weeks a month for a three-month period. The deacons and pastor will inform the clerk as to change in status of a church member.

Should a member be inactive for a period of one year, the deacons and pastor will recommend that person be removed from the church membership roll at a regular or special business meeting.

SECTION 6. Discipline

Discipline of a member is the responsibility of the deacons and pastor. The purpose of church discipline is always to be the restoration of that person to fellowship with the Lord and the church family (Galatians 6:1), and maintaining the purity of the church body (I Corinthians 5:1-5). Members are to follow the principles and process of restoration from sin as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. Should a member fall into sin and be unrepentant, the deacons and pastor will make every reasonable effort to restore that one. If that member refuses to repent and be restored to fellowship, deacons and pastor will recommend to the church that such a one be removed from the membership (Romans 16:17-18; II Thessalonians 3:6-15). Should, at a later date, that person repent, the deacons and pastor will consider recommending to the church that he/she be restored to fellowship with the church (II Corinthians 2:5-8).

If a member wishes to present charges (violation of Covenant obligation, immorality, and ungodly behavior) against another member, such charges must be submitted in writing to the Deacons, and be signed by the accuser.

SECTION 7. Termination of Membership

A member may choose to have his/her name removed from membership at any time. Should a member leave our church to unite with another church, his/her membership will be terminated. Upon request, the clerk will be directed to write a letter to that church stating this has been done. Membership may also be terminated by church action for discipline reasons (see Section 6).

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

SECTION 1. OFFICER TITLES

The elected officers of the church shall be Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Education Coordinator, Worship Coordinator, Church Family Ministries Coordinator, and Missions Committee members.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

All officers, elected or appointed, are at all times servants of the church and subject to its corporate action. They shall be active members in good standing as outlined in Article VI, Section 5.

A. Pastor:

The Bible commends a man desiring the office of a bishop (pastor) as one who desires a good work (I Timothy 3:1) and commands Christians to walk worthy of the vocation to which God has called them (Ephesians 4:1). Therefore, the pastor shall set a godly example in his home, before the church and in his community (I Timothy 3:1-7). While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture (I Timothy 2:12-13).

B. Deacons:

The Bible commends those who have served well. A deacon shall support and encourage the pastor in teaching and ministering to the needs of the church. He shall set a godly example in his home, within the church body and in his community (Acts 6:2-4, I Timothy 3:8-13). As with the pastor, the office of deacon is limited to men as qualified by Scripture (I Timothy 2:12-13).

C. Trustees:

A trustee shall be at least 18 years of age as he/she serves as a corporate officer of the church in accordance with New York State law.

D. Other Elected Officers:

All officers shall be spiritually minded, demonstrating the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), loyal to the Word of God and dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ and the spiritual welfare of His church.

SECTION 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. The Pastor:

Pastor's Call. After thorough investigation by the Pulpit Committee, one candidate at a time shall be considered and presented to the church body. He shall be extended a call at a special meeting of the church with public notice of such action having been announced for two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of the total voting membership present and voting shall be necessary for his call.

The candidate, before he is called, shall be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the Statement of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of this Church. In addition, he shall meet with the church for a period of questioning at which time he shall also have opportunity to ask questions.

Pastor's Resignation/Dismissal: The Pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose. Public notice shall be given on two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

The Pastor shall give the Church in writing, his intent to resign not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to date of termination of his ministry.

B. Deacons

The number of Deacons shall be determined by the number of spirit filled men available who meet the qualifications outlined in Article VII, Section II. B.

The church shall elect them at its annual business meeting in such a manner that each shall be elected for a term of three (3) years on a rotating basis, as the terms expire (approximately one-third of their number shall be elected annually). A deacon may be re-elected to the same office.

C. Trustees:

The Trustees shall not be less than three (3) in number. The church shall elect them at its Annual Business Meeting in such a manner that each shall be elected for a term of three (3) years on a rotating basis, as the terms expire. A trustee may be re-elected to the same office.

D. Other Elected Officers

The following officers shall be elected by the church at its Annual Business Meeting for the term of one (1) year: Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Christian Education Coordinator, Worship Coordinator, Church Family Ministries Coordinator, and Missions Committee members.

All officers and committee members shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified, so that neither neglect nor failure to elect a successor, nor the failure of any person so selected to accept and enter upon the duties of his office, shall cause a vacancy to exist in the office. They shall also faithfully and promptly deliver to their successors in office all monies, papers, and property of the church.

E. Nomination of Officers

By November 1st, the clerk will distribute nominating ballots to each active member listing each office to be filled. Nominating ballots will be returned to the clerk by November 15th.

Deacons will review the nominations eliminating anyone who is unqualified for office. They will contact all nominees to affirm they are willing to serve in the office for which they have been nominated. If no one is nominated for an office, the deacons will contact qualified persons to fill that office.

The deacons will post the ballot for the church at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

F. Vacancies

Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his/her office shall resign from his/her office. If and when any officer shall refuse to subscribe to the Covenant,

Statement of Faith or Constitution of this church, his/her resignation shall be requested by the Deacons. See Article VII. Section III. A.2. for specific terms of Pastor resignation/dismissal. Should an office become vacant, the Deacons will appoint a person to fill that office until the next annual meeting and then, by the church, fill the unexpired term.

SECTION 4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Pastor's Responsibilities:

- The pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church.
- The pastor shall preach the Gospel.
- The pastor shall conduct and lead the services of public worship or delegate those responsibilities as appropriate.
- The pastor shall act as moderator at all business meetings.
- The pastor shall submit a written report at the Annual Business Meeting.

B. Deacon's Responsibilities:

- The deacons shall assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church and shall exercise prudent watch care over members by seeking out members who may need assistance.
- The deacons, with the pastor, shall constitute the discipline committee.
- The deacons, with the pastor, shall work with the Christian education, worship, and church family ministries coordinators in appointing positions and shall disciple and mentor those in ministry responsibilities.
- The deacons shall meet with candidates being considered for church membership.
- The deacons shall assist in administering the Lord's Supper and Baptism.
- The deacons will serve as the nominating committee.
- The deacons shall elect their own officers and meet quarterly and as needed.
- The deacons shall present a written report at the Annual Business Meeting.
- The deacons shall serve on the pulpit committee.

C. Trustees' Responsibilities:

- The trustees shall have charge of the property of the church.
- The trustees shall provide for the care and maintenance of the church buildings and grounds. Trustees shall superintend and perform any improvements that are not entrusted to a special committee. The trustees shall perform such business that concerns the Church as assigned to them by the Church.
- The trustees shall make no expenditure exceeding an amount set at the Annual Meeting except by authorization of the church.
- The trustees shall not have authority to sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber the real estate and property of the church without a 2/3 vote of the voting membership present.
- The trustees shall elect their own officers and shall meet quarterly and as needed.
- The trustees shall present a written report to the church at the Annual Business Meeting.

D. Clerk Responsibilities:

- The clerk shall have charge of the official correspondence and shall keep record of all business meetings of the church and the Church Board. The clerk shall provide copies of the minutes of each Church Business Meeting and each Board Meeting to the pastor and Board Chairman.
- The clerk shall keep a record of members received and dismissed, marriages, and baptisms.
- The clerk shall provide the treasurer with a transcript of the minutes of each church business meeting in which authority is granted for the disbursement or transfer of funds.
- The clerk shall perform such other duties as properly belong to the office, making annual reports to the church.
- The clerk shall certify, annually, to the bank the names of officers who are authorized to have access to the safety deposit boxes and to sign the checks for disbursement of funds.
- The clerk shall compile annual reports submitted by different ministries/offices for the Annual Business Meeting.
- The clerk shall prepare and distribute ballots for nomination of elected officers.
- Upon retirement or removal from office the clerk shall deliver to the successor of that office or to the chairman of the board all records, files and/or other papers belonging to the church, and shall present the same with all contents complete to the date of surrender of such documents.

E. Treasurer Responsibilities:

- The treasurer shall have charge of all monies for paying the expenses of the church.
- The treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of all financial transactions and provide regular reports to the Church Board, post a quarterly report for the Church, and an annual written report for the church membership at the Annual Business Meeting.
- In case of emergency or absence of the financial secretary, the treasurer shall perform all duties of the financial secretary until such time he/she returns or is replaced.

F. Financial Secretary Responsibilities:

- The financial secretary shall count in the presence of a person approved by the trustees and record all monies received through tithes, offerings and other gifts given to the church.
- The financial secretary shall deposit all monies into the bank accounts approved by the trustees and then check and initial the deposit slips before presenting them to the treasurer.
- The financial secretary will maintain records for all contributors and provide them with annual giving statements.
- In case of emergency or absence of the treasurer, the financial secretary shall perform all duties of the treasurer until such time he/she returns or is replaced.

G. Christian Education Coordinator Responsibilities:

- The Christian education coordinator shall oversee the Christian education committee.
- The Christian education coordinator shall recommend, with approval of pastor and deacons, people to fill the following ministry positions as needed: including, but not limited to, Sunday school superintendent and Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, children's ministry leaders, camp captains, and Bible study leaders. (Implementation of these ministries/positions is included in the Standard Operating Procedure Manual.)
- The coordinator shall oversee and work with the leaders in above-mentioned ministries through mentoring and equipping the various leaders in carrying out the responsibilities of those ministries. In the event that a person is not carrying out his/her responsibilities, the coordinator shall, along with the deacons and pastor, meet with that person to provide counseling and/or to determine if that person should continue in that position or be replaced. As outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure Manual, the coordinator shall conduct periodic reviews of the various ministries under the direction of the Christian education committee.
- The coordinator will call meetings of the Christian education committee as needed.
- The coordinator will present a report to the church from the Christian education committee at the Annual Business Meeting.

H. Worship Coordinator Responsibilities:

- The worship coordinator shall recommend, with the approval of the deacons and pastor, people to fill the following ministry positions as needed: including, but not limited to Head Usher, the Nursery Director, Music Coordinator, and Greeters.
- The worship coordinator shall be responsible for overseeing corporate worship through music and reading of the Scriptures.
- The worship coordinator shall work with the musicians and pastor in developing and organizing the music ministry in the church.

I. Church Family Ministries Coordinator Responsibilities:

- The church family ministries coordinator shall oversee all ministries developed to serve and care for the needs of our church family.
- The church family ministries coordinator shall recommend, with approval of deacons and pastor, people to fill the following positions: including but not limited to chairpersons of Ministries of Compassion, Sunshine committee, Social Committee, and Senior Adult Fellowship.
- The church family ministries coordinator, with the deacons and pastor, shall mentor and encourage those who chair each of the above ministries.
- The church family ministries coordinator shall be informed by the deacons and pastor of needs in our church family and shall, in turn, keep the deacons and pastor informed of how these needs are being met.
- The church family ministries coordinator shall develop a prayer chain to inform the church family of critical prayer requests and needs.

- The church family ministries coordinator shall present a report to the church from each of these ministry areas.

J. Missions Committee Responsibilities: (See Article VIII, Section 3, B.)

ARTICLE VIII. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. CHURCH BOARD

A. Composition

- Members of the Church Board shall be composed of pastor, deacons, trustees, church clerk, and treasurer.

B. Responsibilities:

- The Church Board shall coordinate the ministries of the church.
- The Church Board shall prepare the church budget to be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- The Church Board shall be advisory in all matters pertaining to church administration not otherwise delegated in this constitution.
- The Church Board shall appoint two (2) auditors and a church historian.
- The Church Board shall elect their own officers.
- The Church Board shall meet quarterly and as needed.
- The Church Board shall present a written report to the church at the Annual Business Meeting.

SECTION 2. COMMITTEE LIST

The following ministry areas will be served by:

- **Christian Education:** Christian Education Committee
- **Church Family Ministries:** Social Committee, Ministries of Compassion, Senior Adult, and Sunshine
- **Missions Committee:** Missions committee
- **Auditing Committee**

SECTION 3. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Christian Education Committee:

- The Christian Education Committee shall be composed of the Coordinator, the Pastor or Deacon, and representatives from active Christian Education ministries.
- The purpose of Christian Education Committee shall be to promote the spiritual education of the church body and to coordinate its educational program for the equipping of its members for ministry and service.
- The Coordinator shall facilitate the coordination of all educational groups to review all materials and programs of those groups and make recommendations to the Deacons for final approval. The committee shall consider ideas for activities and will plan and organize activities suggested.

B. Missions Committee:

- The missions committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the church to be elected by a vote of the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting, pastor, one (1) deacon, and one (1) trustee.
- The missions committee shall recommend missionary candidates to the church for approval at a regular or special business meeting. Each missionary candidate shall state, in writing, their acceptance of our Statement of Faith.
- The missions committee shall maintain correspondence with all missionaries to monitor their doctrinal position and ministry needs on a regular basis. The missions committee shall develop local outreach ministries of the church with approval of deacons and pastor. The tract and literature chairperson shall be responsible for the selection, purchase, and maintenance of all gospel tracts displayed in our tract rack.
- The missions committee shall draft an annual missions budget to be submitted to the church board for its action at least four (4) weeks before the Annual Business Meeting of the church.
- The missions committee shall present special missionary needs to the church for approval at a regular or special business meeting.
- The missions committee shall develop and update, as needed a missions policy.
- Following the Annual Business Meeting, the missions committee shall elect its own officers.
- The missions committee shall meet at least quarterly and as needed.

C. Social Committee:

- The social committee shall organize fellowship dinners and other church family social functions.
- Social committee workers shall be selected by the chairperson, as needed.

D. Ministries of Compassion Committee:

- The ministries of compassion committee shall coordinate meeting the emergency needs of the church family.
- Ministry workers shall be selected by the chairperson to help prepare meals and provide care for church family members.

E. Sunshine Committee:

- The sunshine committee shall have the responsibility of sending appropriate cards, gifts and/or flowers in instances of sickness, death, or other hardship.
- Sunshine workers shall be selected by the chairperson, as needed.

F. Senior Adult Fellowship Committee:

- Implementation of how this ministry shall be developed is included in the SOP Manual.

G. Auditing Committee:

- The auditing committee shall be composed of two (2) members appointed by the Church Board following the annual election of its officers.
- The auditing committee shall examine the financial accounts and records of the

treasurer and financial secretary.

- The auditing committee shall present a written report of their findings to the church at the Annual Business Meeting.

H. Pulpit Committee:

- As the need arises, the Pulpit Committee shall consist of all Deacons, one Trustee, the Church Clerk, and two church members not currently serving on the Church Board. At least one member of the committee shall be a woman.
- The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible:
 - A. To arrange pulpit supply when the church is between pastors.
 - B. To seek potential pastoral candidates
 - C. To present each candidate to the church for consideration in the call of a pastor (See Article VII, Section 3, Item A.)
 - D. To regularly update the congregation as to the progress of the pastoral search.

I. Other Committees:

- Other committees may be appointed by the church as they are deemed necessary.
- They shall appoint their own officers, schedule meetings as needed, and report back to the church as needed.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Public Worship

- The church shall conduct regular Sunday services as established by the pastor and deacons.
- The church shall regularly have a mid-week meeting with the emphasis on prayer and praise.
- The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a month.

SECTION 2. Business Meetings

- The official fiscal year shall begin the 1st day of January and close the 31st of December.
- The annual corporate business meeting shall be held on the fourth (4th) Sunday in January unless rescheduled by the Church Board because of an emergency.
- The clerk will make available copies of the Annual Report at least one (1) week prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Required reports from ministry areas will be submitted to the clerk at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- Special meetings may be called by the deacons, pastor, or at the request of ten (10) families who are members of the church and who request, in writing, a meeting including a clearly stated purpose of such meeting. No other business shall be transacted at such meeting.
- Special meetings can be called at any time with two (2) weeks notice.

SECTION 3. Moderators

- The pastor, board chairman, or other church member appointed by the deacons in their absence shall serve as a moderator at all business meetings of the church.

SECTION 4. Voting Members

- Only members eighteen (18) years of age and above shall be eligible to vote on any and all church business.

SECTION 5. Quorum

- A quorum of 30% of the active members shall be required at all business meetings.

SECTION 6. Other Meetings

- All public gatherings arranged under the auspices of this church shall be first approved by the deacons.

SECTION 7. Rules of Order of Business

- Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the accepted guidelines for conducting business.

ARTICLE X. GENERAL

SECTION 1. Use of Church Property and Name

- Use of the property for other than regular scheduled meetings or activities shall first be approved by the deacons.
- All gatherings off the church property held in the name of the Church shall first be approved by the deacons.
- Any speaker must have the approval of the deacons and pastor.

SECTION 2. Monetary Principles

- No money shall be raised by the church or by any auxiliary organization except by free will giving.
- All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church body. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all such suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature.

ARTICLE XI. NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. This Church shall have the right to own, buy or sell tangible properties, both real and personal in its own name and through properly elected and authorized officers.

SECTION 2. No profit shall ever accrue to the benefit of any person from the assets,

holdings or other transactions in which this corporation may become involved.

SECTION 3. In event of the dissolution of this corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members, but shall be irrevocably dedicated by the trustees, to agreement with the letter and spirit of this the requirements of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 (Section 501 c-3) or any subsequent amendments thereto.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. The articles of this constitution may be amended by a 3/4 vote of members present and voting at any annual business meeting or at a special business meeting. The proposed amendment must be posted conspicuously in the church for two (2) weeks and read for two (2) Sundays preceding the meeting date.