

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly host 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 doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior 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.

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
WATHA, NORTH CAROLINA**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the Missionary Baptist Churches affiliated with the Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Conventions, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the Church, and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This body shall be known as the Shiloh Baptist Church of Watha, Pender County, North Carolina.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Shiloh Baptist Church is organized for the purpose of advancing and promoting the worship of God through the reading and study of the Holy Bible as the revealed word of God, the teaching and preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, conducting the regular services of worship for the spiritual training, development, and benefit of each member, and for the winning of souls to Jesus Christ. This Church shall be missionary in spirit, extending the Gospel through our organized religious channels to the entire world. It shall promote and maintain the teachings and doctrines of that Christian denomination universally known and designated as the Missionary Baptist Denomination. It shall exist to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this Church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, by the Spirit of God, by immersion, who have subscribed to the Church covenant and constitution of this Church, and to the articles of faith, and who have been received into the membership by majority vote of the Church.

Section 2. In considering the duties involved, members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend regularly the services of the Church; to give regularly and systematically to its support and Kingdom causes; and to share in its organized work.

Section 3. Anyone who has once been a member of a Baptist Church of like faith and order, and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no regular letter of dismissal, may be received into our fellowship upon a statement satisfactory to the Church.

Section 4. Letters of dismissal may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members in good standing. When letters are granted, membership in this Church will terminate.

Section 5. When a member of this Church joins a Church of different faith and order, membership in this Church will terminate.

Section 6. The name of a member who has been absent from the Church for a period of two years, and has shown no interest in the Church and its program, such a member having been contacted, if possible, and urged to reinstate himself, the name of such a delinquent member will be transferred to an inactive roll, which will be kept in the roll book. This person will not be considered an active member and, therefore, will lose all voting privileges and other privileges given members in good standing. The removal of these names shall be under the direction and instructions of the active deacons.

Section 7. In considering the rights involved, members and members only may act and vote in the transactions of the Church.

Section 8. A member of another Baptist Church may be received by a vote of the Church upon promise of letter of transfer from the Church where that member did reside. Upon receipt of letter from that church, the candidate will be notified.

Section 9. Anyone who has been a member of a church which is not of like faith and order as our Church but who has been baptized by immersion following a conversion experience will be received for membership in this Church upon their statement of having been baptized by immersion.

Section 10. Application for membership under circumstances other than those described in Sections 1 through 9 above will be considered by the Church in conference and the decision of the Church will be final in each case.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. This Church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, and fellowship.

Section 2. This Church shall hold regular monthly business meetings to hear reports from the various Church organizations and to consider other matters essential to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the congregation.

Section 3. Other meetings of the Church as a whole or of authorized groups within the Church may be according to the needs of the congregation, using the Church calendar as a guide.

Section 4. All meetings in the Church shall be approved by the Church.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

The officers of this Church shall be a pastor, and other vocational leadership as needed, deacons, trustees, clerk, treasurer, and such other officers as shall be required to do the work of the Church in any of its departments or organizations. All of these shall be elected by the Church and shall be members in good standing at the time of election except that a pastor may not be a member until after his call.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

A. PASTOR

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the Church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the Church. In either case, at least 30 days' notice shall be given of termination of the relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed, with both pastor and the Church seeking to follow the will of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The call of the pastor shall take place at a meeting especially called for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a special committee elected by the Church to seek out and nominate a minister of the Gospel, who is a Missionary Baptist, affiliated with a Missionary Baptist church of the Southern Baptist Convention, and whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of pastor of this Church. The committee shall bring only one name at a time for consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot with a majority vote necessary for a call. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a majority vote, the committee will be instructed to seek another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate. Vote will be taken immediately following

the candidate's message. Should the candidate request a higher percentage vote, the Church will honor this request.

The dismissal of the pastor by the Church will take place at a meeting especially set for this purpose, of which at least one week's notice has been given the membership. The dismissal of the pastor will require a majority of the members present and voting. The pastor will be notified of such a meeting and informed of the charges by which he is being dismissed.

The pastor shall have in charge the welfare and oversight of the Church; he shall be ex-officio member of all organizations, departments, and committees, he may call a special meeting of the deacons or any committee according to procedures which may be set forth in the By-Laws; he shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to members of the Church and the community, and perform other duties that usually pertain to that office; he shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the Church and shall, in cooperation with the deacons, provide for pulpit supply when he is absent and arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and other special services. The pastor shall preside at all meetings of the Church except as otherwise provided by the By-Laws or when action by the Church directly involves the pastor. He shall be the administrative head of the Church and shall arrange and approve all absences and vacations of all Church employees. The pastor, upon the authority of the deacons, is authorized to call off any worship service due to bad weather conditions.

B. DEACONS

Section 1. There shall be at least two deacons for each 100 members of the Church with a minimum of six deacons. The number of deacons shall be odd in number to ensure that a tie when voting will not occur. The deacons shall be elected from among those members who have proven themselves to have Scriptural qualifications according to 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and Acts 6:1-6. They shall be elected for a term of four years.

Section 2. On or before September 1 of each year, each Church member will nominate, by secret ballot, no more than two nominees for each of the upcoming vacant office of deacon. A selection committee shall be formed consisting of the Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons and two Deacons appointed by the Chairman.

This committee shall be announced from the pulpit and in the bulletin. Their duties shall be:

- A.** Tabulate votes of all nominees.
- B.** Interview the top qualified nominees, present them with qualifications for deacons, and determine their willingness to serve.
- C.** Present these nominees to the Church on or before November 1.

These nominees will be voted on by secret ballot at the close of service. The votes will be counted and announced at that time. The two top nominees will be elected. The two remaining nominees shall be considered first and second alternates as determined by the votes. In the event a vacancy occurs during that year, it will be filled by the alternates. In the event they serve less than two years, they will be eligible for re-election.

Section 3. Qualifications.

A man nominated as a deacon must have been a member of this Church for at least one year, be 21 years of age or older, meet the qualifications as set forth in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and Acts 6, and express a willingness to strive for the plan outlined below:

- A. I am a professing Christian.**
- B. I will attend with faithfulness, the services of worship and prayer, the meetings of the deacons, the teaching and training programs in my Church, and absent myself from these functions only when in a clear Christian conscience, I may do so.**
- C. I will accept such responsibilities in the Church program as are in keeping with my talents and ever seek to increase my capacity to serve my Lord and His people.**
- D. I will contribute my time and finances to the support of my Church, keeping in mind the teachings of the Scriptures.**
- E. I will hold in highest esteem the reputation of my Church, subscribe to and promote its doctrines, defend its liberty, encourage the extension of its world-wide mission, work for the salvation of the lost, and support its pastor and those who are its elected leaders.**
- F. I will do all within my power to keep my family within the fellowship of this Church, and to guide my family in the ways of the Lord.**
- G. I will not engage in:**
 - 1. Sale and use of intoxicating drinks.**
 - 2. Sale or use of illegal drugs.**
 - 3. Gambling.**

Section 4. Duties.

Deacons, along with the Pastor, shall be the spiritual leaders of the Church, and are to consider and make recommendations to the Church in all matters pertaining to its works and progress. Deacons shall encourage all programs adopted by the Church, have oversight of the discipline of the Church, recommend policies, establish and maintain spiritual, fraternal relationships with all members of the Church, assist the Pastor in the observance of the ordinances, including preparation of the Lord's Supper, have general oversight of use of the Church property, promote the financial program of the Church, and act for the Church in emergency matters of benevolence between sessions. Deacons shall consider themselves servants of the Church and their decisions may be subject to the final vote of the Church in conference. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to discharge their duties. The Pastor or the Chairman of the Deacons may call the Deacons into special session whenever the need arises. The Pastor and the Deacons shall plan and lead in a service to ordain Deacons elected who have not been ordained. The Deacons shall elect their own officers at the beginning of each Church year.

C. TRUSTEES

Upon the adoption of this Constitution, the three persons now serving as trustees shall be deemed re-elected and at all times there shall be three trustees who are to hold the title to all Church property for the benefit of those members of the Church. The trustees shall execute all contracts, deeds, mortgages, or other instruments when authorized to do so by the Church in conference. The Church shall elect at least three members to serve as trustees whose term of office shall be for three years with one-third (1/3) elected each year; having served as a trustee during a previous term will not disqualify a member for reelection.

D. CLERK

The clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be his or her duty to attend or be represented at all Church business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business transactions, to prepare the annual association letter, and to notify all officers, members of committees, and messengers of their election or appointment. He or she shall issue or cause to be issued letters of dismissal as authorized by the Church, preserve all papers and valuable letters and records that belong to the Church, and preserve a true history of the Church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the Church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing addresses, and other pertinent information. It shall be the duty of the Church clerk to certify that a quorum is present to duly transact Church business at all conferences.

E. TREASURER-GENERAL FUND

Section 1. The treasurer shall be elected annually. The person so elected must be a member in good standing of the Church and shall take office on January 1 or upon notification by the Church clerk that the Church books for the prior year have been audited and found to be in order. This officer is eligible for re-election and if so, will automatically begin a new term of office on January 1.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive certificates of deposit, keep in a designated bank, and disburse by check upon proper authority all money or things of value that have been given to the Church, and keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; rendering a regular account to the Church to be preserved by the Church clerk. The treasurer's books shall be audited as arranged by the Church, and all books, records, and accounts kept shall be considered the property of the Church. The treasurer shall, upon invitation, meet with the Board of Deacons, and shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.

F. TREASURE - BUILDING FUND

Section 1. The treasurer of the Building Fund shall be elected annually. It shall be the duty of the person so elected to receive certificates of deposits covering any funds which have been credited to this fund by the approved depository, and to keep a complete record of such monies, making payments covering indebtedness to the Church for funds borrowed from mortgagor. He /she is also to make such additional payments from this fund which are authorized by the Church in conference.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of this officer to anticipate the income of the Building Fund and to make additional payments to the mortgagor from this fund as monies accumulate so that a more favorable interest rate may be realized.

Section 3. All records of the Building Fund Treasurer shall be audited by the auditing committee of the Church at least once a year.

Section 4. A report of the activities of the Building Fund shall be presented to the Board of Deacons monthly and to the Church in conference at each regular Church conference.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL

Section 1. License. When a member announces to the Church that he feels the call to the ministry, the Church, by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgement of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the Church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes or a certificate of license or both as he may desire as his credential. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the member shall be governed by state law.

Section 2. Ordination. In the event the Church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as pastor of a Baptist Church of like faith and order, the following procedure shall be followed:

The Church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at any regularly arranged business meeting of the Church shall invite the Associated Council on Ordinations to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the Association has no such council, this Church shall invite representatives of neighboring churches of like faith and order, to examine the candidate and report to the Church. Then in the event the report of the committee is favorable, the Church shall proceed with the ordination.

ARTICLE VIII. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The government of this Church shall be congregational in nature and shall be vested in the membership.

Section 2. Church Conference. A Church conference shall be held each month and at such other times as may be necessary. In addition to stated conferences, a conference of the Church may be called at any time by the Pastor or Chairman of the Deacons, or upon the request of any 20 members of the Church who are regular in attendance and support.

Section 3. Moderator. The moderator shall be the Chairman of the Deacons, in absence of the Chairman of Deacons, the Vice-Chairman of the Deacons will preside. In any event, no person that is not a member of Shiloh Baptist Church may preside over any meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than 20 members of the Church.

Section 5. Minutes. The Church clerk shall keep minutes of each business meeting and shall record the number present, whether a quorum was present and what actions were taken by the Church.

Section 6. A simple majority will decide all matters of business except those otherwise specified in this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7. Before a Church conference for any of the following purposes can be held, a notice of said conference must be given in the manner set out in Section 8 of this Article:

- A. The sale, mortgage, lease, or purchase of any Church real property, or of obligating the Church for the payment of money borrowed to be secured by a mortgage on Church property, of entering into a contract for new construction, or adopting annual budget.**
- B. For the purpose of acting upon the resignation of or dismissal of a pastor.**
- C. The withdrawal from affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, the North Carolina Baptist Association, or the Wilmington Baptist Association or other such association as may include the territory in which this Church is located.**
- D. The affiliation with any other Baptist Association or Convention.**
- E. For the purpose of taking adverse action against any officer or member for misconduct or breach of faith.**
- F. Any other action which is a departure from the established usages, customs, practices, doctrines, and organization of the Church as such usages, customs, practices, doctrines, and organization existed on the date of the adoption of this Constitution.**
- G. No individual, groups or organizations within the Shiloh Baptist may organize classes, clubs, groups, committees or any other church gathering, without prior approval of the church. Approval will require three fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members present when the vote is taken. It will be required that one week's notice will be given prior to this vote. Any individuals, groups or organizations not complying with this amendment will not be recognized by the church and will not be permitted to function within the church.**
- H. For the purpose of amending this Constitution.**

Section 8. Before any of the matters set out in Section 7 of this article can be acted upon, a notice will be printed in the bulletin at least 30 days preceding the date of the conference, and an announcement made from the pulpit at every regular Church service held on the Sundays preceding the date of the conference, which shall be at or immediately following a regular Sunday morning Church service, the purpose of the same, and a statement of the proposed business to be transacted.

ARTICLE IX. AFFILIATION

Section 1. This Church is a free, autonomous, independent body, congregational in nature with authority to determine for itself in the manner set forth in this Constitution, free of any outside control, authority of power, whether governmental or otherwise, the use of its property and all Church policies.

Section 2. Association. The Church recognizes the value and mutual helpfulness in the voluntary association of churches which are in such agreement in faith and practice as to make possible a spirit of fellowship and good will. It is recognized that association and cooperation between such churches will influence the missionary, educational, and benevolent interest of each other. The Church does, therefore, declare its intention as far as conscience will allow to work in mutual cooperation with other Baptist groups.

Section 3. Affiliation. Upon the adoption of this Constitution, this Church shall be deemed to have affiliated itself with the Wilmington Baptist Association.

Section 4. Cooperation. Upon adoption of this Constitution, this Church shall be deemed to be in friendly cooperation with the aims and purpose of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention as set forth in the Constitution of these autonomous bodies and through duly elected messengers will participate in their deliberative assemblies, and shall as we are able, support the missionary, benevolent and educational program of each.

Section 5. Missions. The Church shall encourage the establishment of missions in needed areas. All missions, whether Sunday School or churches, shall be approved by a vote of the Church in regular business conference and the personnel to operate them shall be elected by the Church in regular business meetings.

Section 6. Literature. All literature to be used in our Church or its missions shall be provided by the Southern Baptist Convention or its affiliates, until such time the Church withdraws from affiliation with the Association and/or the State Convention and/or the Southern Baptist Convention in accordance with Article VIII, Section 7 and 8 above.

ARTICLE X. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than 30 days after formal presentation of the Constitution to the Church, and notice of such meeting in which the vote is to be taken shall be given at least one week in advance.

Section 2. This Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the Church, provided, however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal shall have been given to the clerk in writing; and the proposed change shall have been presented to the Church at least 30 days prior to the time the vote is taken, except this Constitution shall not be amended within one year following the date of adoption.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEETINGS

The Church shall hold regular services of worship on Sundays and Wednesday evenings unless otherwise agreed upon by the Church. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter at a time approved by the Church.

ARTICLE II. OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. All Church officers subject to annual election shall be elected by the November Business Meeting.

Section 2. In addition to those named in the body of the Constitution, other officers of the Church shall be a Director of the Sunday School, Director of Church Music, Pianist- Organist, and such other officers as may be necessary and desirable. All officers of the church and its organizations, unless otherwise specified, shall be elected for a term of one year, and upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, it being understood, of course, that members of the Church may offer substitute nominations for any position for which the Nominating Committee makes nominations.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF THE CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1 . Moderator. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to make arrangements for the orderly conduct of all business meetings at which he shall preside as set forth in Article VIII, Section 3. He shall assure that the meeting is conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. In case of dispute between members, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to rule and the decision so given shall be final in all cases, except that an appeal may be made to the Conference and a majority vote may reverse the decision.

Section 2. Sunday School Director. The Director of the Sunday School shall have general oversight of the entire school, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with, and according to, the plans and methods of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the local Church. He/She shall acquaint themselves with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in this school. It shall be his/her duty to counsel at least monthly with his/her teachers and officers through officers' and teachers' meetings, giving advice and receiving suggestions from his/her co-workers. He/She shall see that a suitable report is made of the work of the Sunday School in the regular business meeting of the Church.

Section 3. Music Director. The Music Director of the Church shall be responsible for providing worshipful music at all services. He/She is to train and direct the choir, or choirs, and is to cooperate with the Pastor and other leaders in the selection of suitable music, and the devising of appropriate musical programs for all occasions where such services are needed.

Section 4. Pianist-Organist. The Pianist-Organist shall play for all public services and shall assist the Music Director in a suitable program of music for the Church.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. The Church shall elect such standing committees as may be deemed necessary to carry out the various phases of the program of the Church efficiently and effectively. In any event, the Church shall have at all times, the following standing committees: Ushers, Nominating, Budget and Finance, Audit, Building and Grounds, House, and any additional committees deemed necessary for the proper function of the Church. Each person so presented must have been contacted prior to such presentation.

Section 2. Temporary Committees. The Church, upon recommendation by the Deacons, may elect at any time committees to perform temporary functions.

Section 3. It is encouraged that at no time will two or more members of the same household or family serve on the same committee except where it is expedient.

Section 4. Duties of Committees:

- A. The Church Council.** The Church Council shall be composed of the Pastor, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and the Sunday School Director. The Pastor of the Church shall be the Chairman of the Church Council. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall act as chairman. In the absence of both the Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, the chairmanship of the council shall be assumed by the member next in line with precedence for succession following the order in which the members are listed under composition. The council shall meet at least quarterly and at such times as may be necessary at a time agreed upon by the council. The council shall coordinate and promote all activities sanctioned, sponsored, or supported by the Church. Specifically, the council shall be responsible for:
- (1) Providing policy guidance and active assistance for all activities sponsored by the Church;**
 - (2) Coordinating and scheduling Church activities to prevent duplication of effort and conflicts in schedules;**
 - (3) Making recommendations to the standing committees based upon a unified and integrated program of activities.**

B. Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Director of Sunday School, Pastor and three persons selected at the regular monthly deacons meeting on or before October of each year, jointly approved by the Deacons and Pastor. These three will be presented to the Church for election at the regular business meeting in October of each year. The committee shall present at the conference in November of each year the offices listed below. This does not prevent nominations from the floor during the business conference. The Director of Sunday School, Pastor, along with the three persons voted on by the Church will serve as the Nominating Committee for all officers of the Church.

The duties of the Nominating Committee are:

1. Select, interview, and enlist the Church program organizations leaders, church committee chairman, and general officers.
2. Approve volunteer workers before they are invited to serve in church-elected positions.
3. Distribute church leadership according to priority needs.
4. Assist the Church leaders to discover and enlist qualified personnel to fill and maintain the church elected positions of their respective organizations.
5. Present volunteer workers to the Church for election.
6. Nominate special committees as assigned by the Church.
7. The Nominating Committee shall present the Church program organization leaders and committee chairman to the Church for election at the regular church conference in December of each year.
8. The Nominating Committee, after election of full slate of officers, will fill all vacancies which occur due to death or resignation.
9. Officers and teachers for Bible School shall be recommended by this committee.
10. In event any elected officer or teacher under the jurisdiction of this committee fails to serve or requests to be relieved from his office, it shall be the duty of the committee to secure a replacement to serve for the remainder of the term. Such replacement need not be presented to the conference for approval unless deemed necessary by the chairman of this committee.
11. Any church officer other than a general officer shall resign to the department head. All general officers shall resign to the Chairman of the Deacons.
12. The report of the committee shall be suggested to the Church, and any member of the Church will have the privilege of nominating from the floor.

C. Finance and Budget.

The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of four members elected annually by the Church in accordance with rotational plan. Members will be elected for a term of two years with one-half (1/2) of those elected rotating off each year. The treasurer will serve as ex-officio member to this committee. Meetings shall be called by the chairman as deemed necessary or by request from Church or Board of Deacons. The committee shall prepare annually a proposed budget, including local expenses, education, missions, and benevolences, having conferred with the heads of each organization of the Church before completion of the budget, and shall submit the proposed budget and the regular business session in October. A copy of the proposed budget will be made available to each Church family prior to its presentation to the Church in October. After the presentation

and discussion, this matter will be tabled for 30 days to be recommended and adopted at the regular business session in November. It would also be the duty of this committee to scrutinize the budget and to advise the Church of any item or items in which expenditures are anticipated to exceed the budget amount.

D. Financial Recording Secretary.

It will be His/Her responsibility to record all gifts or contributions given through the Church. The Church treasurer or Church treasurers will accumulate weekly all offering envelopes that come through the Church and turn them over to the Financial Recording Secretary. He/She will record these credits to the individuals account. Any contribution not coming into the treasure through the envelope system but can be properly identified will be credited to person making the offering.

It will be His/Her responsibility to mail or hand deliver a statement of contributions made by individuals to the Church, annually. This is to be done at the close of each calendar year.

It will be His/Her responsibility to record and keep on file a copy of contributions for a period of seven years.

It will be His/Her responsibility to order Church offering envelopes and have them ready for distribution by the last Sunday in December of each year.

E. Building and Grounds.

Section 1. The building and grounds committee shall be composed of at least five members and more if deemed necessary. It shall be the duty of this committee to give attention to and study the condition of and state of repair and appearance of the Church property and make such repairs and improvements within the limits of the Church budget. Their authority shall not exceed \$250.00 without approval of Church in conference. In the event of extreme emergency as so declared by the Chairman of the Deacons, Finance and Budget, Building and Grounds and Pastor; Building and Grounds are authorized to act as deemed necessary in a reasonable and prudent manner. These inspections shall be made at least once monthly with a report given at each conference. The work of the janitor as it has to do with the building shall be the responsibility of this committee.

Section 2. The janitors or janitor shall be recommended to the Church by this committee for employment by Church action. It shall be the duty of the janitor to so care for the physical plant of the Church as to contribute helpfully to the comfort and well-being of the members of all services. He or she shall see to the cleanliness, ventilation, and upkeep of the building.

The responsibilities of the janitor include:

1. All carpet must be vacuumed each week.
2. All tile and linoleum floors are to be swept and moped with disinfectant every week.
3. All pews are to be dusted and vacuumed every two weeks. Pick up loose trash weekly.
4. Piano, organ, pulpit, and alter area to be dusted every week.
5. Empty every trash can every week.
6. Straighten chairs and tables as needed in Sunday School rooms and fellowship halls.
7. Clean kitchen including sinks, counter tops, stove, and refrigerator weekly.
8. Clean all bathrooms, commodes, sinks, and urinals with disinfectant.
9. Sweep sidewalks and porches weekly and pick up the trash in front

- of the Church.
10. Clean window seals and spider webs out from the corners.
 11. Cleaning needs to be done on Saturdays.

F. House Committee.

This committee shall consist of five members, one of which is to be a deacon; and the committee shall be elected annually by the Church. The duties of this committee shall be to decide when and by whom the Church building, or any part there-of, shall be used when request is made from other organizations of the Church. A majority consent of the committee will be required.

G. Other Committees. These committees shall be elected annually.

1. Baptismal Committee.

The Baptismal Committee shall consist of four members, two women and two men, elected annually, who shall make preparation for the baptismal service and render assistance to the Pastor and candidates as necessary.

2. Lord's Supper Committee.

This committee shall consist of a deacon and his wife elected annually by Deacon Board. They will be responsible for the preparation of the Lord's Supper observance. They shall be responsible for serving unleavened bread and pure fruit of the vine.

3. Floral Committee.

This committee shall consist of two members elected annually, who shall be authorized to purchase a floral arrangement, in the name of the Church for all deceased members of the Church and immediate members of the family; father, mother, husband, wife, and child.

4. Kitchen Committee.

This committee shall consist of at least three members, elected annually, whose duties are:

- (1) to supply, purchase, care, and protect all dining and kitchen equipment;
- (2) to be responsible for the selection and design of any such equipment to be used;
- (3) to keep an up-to-date, posted inventory of all kitchen and dining equipment at all times;
- (4) to ensure the purchase all supplies for the kitchen, with approval of Church in conference.

5. Nursery Committee.

This committee will consist of a minimum of two people elected annually. It shall be their duty to make a list of active members in good standing who are willing to serve in the nursery, caring for children ages birth to 3 years of age during worship hours and all other functions where services are needed. Nursery volunteers must be active members in good standing with the church. All volunteers must be at least 18 years old or serve with an adult. There will always be two volunteers serving in the nursery when possible.

6. Welcoming Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Welcoming Committee to greet the people each service. They shall take special care to see that each visitor is greeted and welcomed to our Church. Special attention should be given visitors at the close of each service to make them know they are welcome and answer any questions they may have.

7. Ushers (Deacons)

The Ushers shall see to the comfort of all attending services, welcoming late visitors, or members, and seeing that they have a place to sit. They shall receive the offerings when such is requested.

8. The Benevolent Committee.

This committee shall consist of Pastor and Chairman of the Board of Deacons for the purpose of caring for the needy.

9. Social Committee.

The social committee shall be comprised of at least 5 members. The purpose of this committee is to advance fellowship among church members, the community, and other churches.

ARTICLE V. AIR CONDITION AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE

This committee shall consist of two men whose duties will be to ensure proper comfort for all services. This shall include lighting of the building and turning off after service.

ARTICLE VI. TEMPORARY COMMITTEES

Temporary Committees shall be elected for specific obligations as desired by the Church. These committees shall be elected by the Church upon the recommendations of the nominating committee unless the Church directs their appointment in a different manner.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and it is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and, therefore, is and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried.

Scripture references: Luke 16: 29-31; Ephesians 2: 19- 22; Matthew 22: 29-32; John I: 45; II Timothy 3: 14-17; Hebrews 1: 1;11 Peter 1: 19-21;Psalm 19: 7-11;Psalm 119: 1-9,165.

II. GOD

There is one and only one, living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfections, to whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

Genesis 1: 1; Exodus 3: 14; Deut. 5: 6-7; Deut. 6: 4-5; Isa. 48: 12-13; Jer. 10: 18; Matt. 28: 19; John 1: 14-18; John 5: 26; Gal. 4: 4-6; 1 Tim. 1-17; Cor. 8: 4-6; Hebrews 11: 6.

III. THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis. (Genesis 1: 27 and Genesis 2: 7). He was created in a state of holiness under the law of His Maker, but, through the temptation of Satan, he fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and in bondage to sin, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

Romans 3: 21; Gen. 1: 27; Gen. 2: 7; Gen. 3: 4-7; Gen. 3: 22-24; Psalm 51: 5; John 1: 23; Rom. 5: 12-14; Rom. 7: 23-25; Col. 1: 21.

IV. THE WAY OF SALVATION

The salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who by the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by His death. Being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

Matt. 1: 21-25; Luke 1: 35; Rom. 1: 1-6; Rom. 3: 25; I Cor. 13: 3-4; Gal. 2: 19-20; Gal. 3: 13; Eph.1: 7-14; Eph. 1: 20-23; Eph. 2: 1-3, Col 1: 21-23.

V. JUSTIFICATION

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of righteousness of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redemption that is in and through Jesus Christ. It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other needed blessing.

Rom. 3: 21-26; John 3: 14-18; Rom. 5: 1-11; I Cor. 1:21

VI. FREENESS OF SALVATION

The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as teacher, Savior, and Lord.

Mark 16: 16; John 3: 14-18; Rom. 5: 1-11; I Cor. 1: 30-31; Eph.1: 5; 2: 4-10; Rev. 22: 17.

VII. REGENERATION

Regeneration of the new birth is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit, whereby we become partakers of the divine nature, and a holy disposition is given, leading to the love and practice of righteousness. It is the work of God's free grace conditioned upon faith in Christ and made manifest by the fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

John 1: 12-13; John 3: 1-8; Rom. 8: 1-3; II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15 ;Eph. 2: 1-10; 4: 30; Col. 3: 1-11; Titus 3: 3-7.

VIII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable grace, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God and unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Act 26: 18; Rom. 8: 29-30; 11: 7-16; Eph. 1: 9-10; Eph.1: 15-23; Eph. 2: 4-7; II Tim. 1: 8-10

IX. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners. It is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

Acts 26: 18; Rom. 8: 29-30; 11: 7-16; Eph. 1: 9-10; Eph. 1: 15-23; Eph. 2: 4-7; II Tim. 1: 8-10

X. SANTIFICATION

Sanctification is the process by which the regenerates attempt to attain moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the early life, and is accomplished by the use of all the ordinary means of grace, and particularly by the Word of God.

John 17: 15-17; Acts 20: 32; Rom. 6: 3-7; Rom. 8:17-28; II Cor. 3: 18; Gal. 5: 16-26; Eph. 3: 14-21; Hebrews 12:14

XI. PERSEVERANCE

All real believers endure to the end. Their continuance in well-doing is the mark which distinguishes them from mere professors. A special Providence cares for them, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Matt. 26: 70-75; John 10: 27-31; Rom. 5: 8-10; Rom. 8: 28-39; 9: 16; I Cor. 11:32; II Cor. 1: 21-22; Eph. 1: 13-14; 4: 30; II Tim. 2: 19; I John 2: 19-20.

XII. A GOSPEL CHURCH

A church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the end of the earth. Its Scriptural officers are Pastors and Deacons. Matt. 16: 18; Matt. 18: 15-18; Acts 2: 41-47; Acts 14: 21-24; I Cor. 1:2; I Cor. 9: 6-9; 14; Phil. 1: 1; I Tim.3: 1-13.

XIII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The act is a symbol of our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Matt. 3: 13-17; Matt. 28: 19-20; Mark 1: 9-11; Matt. 26: 26-27; Luke 22: 19-30; John 3: 22-23; Acts 8: 38-39; Rom.6: 3-5; I Cor.10:16-17; I Cor.11: 23-26.

XIV. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from amusements, and resting from secular employments, works of necessity and mercy only accepted.

Matt. 28: 1-6; John 20: 1; Acts 20: 7; 1 Cor. 16: 1-2; Rev. 1: 9-11.

XV. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked. Those only who are justified through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in His sight. Those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under condemnation. This distinction between the righteous and the wicked hold in and after death, and will be made manifest at the judgment when final and everlasting awards are made to all men.

Matt. 25: 31-46; Mark 9: 48; Luke 23: 43; John 3: 36; Rom. 9: 22-24; I Cor. 15: 45-53; II Cor.5: 1-10; Phil.3: 20-21; I Thess.4: 16-17; Rev. 20: 10-15.

XVI. THE RESURRECTION

The Scriptures clearly teach that Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared to the disciples after His resurrection in many convincing manifestations. He now exists in His glorified body at God's right hand. There will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. The bodies of the righteous will conform to the glorious spiritual body of Jesus.

Matt. 28: 6; John 5: 28-29; John 14: 1-3; John 20: 1-29; Acts 24: 14-15; I cor. 15: 1-58; II Cor. 5: 1-10; Phil. 3: 20-21; I Thess.4: 13-17; Rev. 20: 12-15.

XVII. THE RETURN OF THE LORD

The New Testament teaches in many places the visible and personal return of Jesus to this earth. The time of His coming is not revealed. It is the duty of all believers to live in readiness for His coming, and by diligence in good works to make manifest to all men the reality and power of their hope in Christ.

Matt. 24: 29-44; Mark 13: 24-37; Luke 21: 25-28; Acts 1: 9-11.

XVIII. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes the church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government, being ordained by God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto to all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work.

The Gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Matt. 22: 17-21; Mark 12: 13-17; Romans 13: 1-7; I Tim. 2: 1-4; Peter 2: 17.

XIX. PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ, they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the pure gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of ID's teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Christian people through tout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace and oppose everything likely to provoke war.

Matt. 5: 3-12; Matt. 5: 38-48; Rom. 14: 17-19; Rom. 12: 17-21; Heb. 12: 14; James 4: 1-3.

XX. EDUCATION

Christianity is the religion of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of schools is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. The cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolences, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches.

Deut. 4: 1-14; Deut. 6: 1-10; Psalm 19: 7-11; Provo 4: 1- 13; Neh. 8: 1-9; Matt. 28: 19-20; Col. 2: 2-7; II Tim. 2: 14-15.

XXI. SOCIAL SERVICE

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ regnant in his own life and in human society; to oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; to provide for the orphaned, the aged, the helpless, and the sick; to seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. To promote these ends, Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. All means and methods used in social service for the amelioration of society and the establishment of righteousness among men must finally depend on the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Christ Jesus.

Ex. 20: 16; Ex. 22: 9-15; Lev. 6: 1-5; Deut. 4: 41-42; Deut. 15: 1-2; Deut. 27: 17; Ezek. 18: 5-9; Zach. 8: 16-17; Luke 6: 27-36; 10: 25-37; Rom. 12: 14-21; Col. 3: 12-17; James 2: 8.

XXII. CO-OPERATION

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over each other or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Individual members of the New Testament churches should cooperate with each other, and the churches themselves should cooperate with each other in benevolent program for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Ezra. 1: 3-4; 2: 68-69; 5: 14-15; Neh. 4: 4-6; 8: 1-4; Mal. 3: 10;
Matt. 10: 5-15; 20: 1-16; 22: 1-10; Acts 1: 13-14; 1: 21-26; 2: 1, 41-47;
I Cor. 1: 10; 3: 1-15; I Cor. 11: 12; I Cor. 16: 2; II Cor. 9; Eph. 4: 1-16; III John 1: 5-8.

XXIII. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty of every Christian man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ to seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rest thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal efforts and by all other methods sanctioned by the gospel of Christ.

Matt. 10: 5-15; 13: 1-23; 22: 8-10; 28: 19-20; Mark 16: 15-16; 16: 19-20;
Luke 24: 46-53; Act 1: 4-8; 2: 1-4; 8: 1-40; 10: 42-48; 13: 30-33; 21-39; II Cor. 5: 19-21; I Thess. 1: 1-8.

XXIV. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are, we owe to Him. We have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions. We are, therefore, under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause on earth.

**Lev. 27: 30; Mal. 3: 8-10; Matt. 23: 23; Matt. 25: 14-30;
Luke 12: 41-48; Acts 2: 44-47; I Cor. 16: 2; II Cor. 8: 1-15.**

XXV. THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is the reign of God in the heart and life of the individual in every human relationship, and in every form and institution of organized human society. The chief means for promoting the Kingdom of God on earth are preaching the gospel of Christ, and teaching the principles of righteousness contained therein. The Kingdom of God will be complete when every thought and will of man shall be brought into captivity to the will of Christ. It is the duty of all Christ's people to pray and labor continually that His Kingdom may come and His will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven.

**Dan. 2: 37-44; 7: 18; Matt. 4: 23; Matt. 6-10; Matt. 8:12; Matt. 13: 25;
Mark 11:10; Luke 12: 32; Luke 22: 29; Luke 23: 42; John 3: 3; John 18: 36;
I Cor. 15: 24; Col. 1: 13; Heb. 12: 28.**

ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

**David Devane, Chairman
Bruce Richards
Carl Hardison
Derby Westbrook, Pastor**

Constitution Revision voted on and approved - May 17, 2015;

Amended on 11-9-15

