

**CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS ESTABLISHED FOR**  
**OPEN DOOR BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**NEW BEDFORD, MA**

**ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1 - NAME**

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Open Door Baptist Church.

**SECTION 2 - PURPOSE**

- A.** This church shall not recognize any ecclesiastical authority of any other church, convention, fellowship, organization of churches or individuals in the conduct of its affairs, either financial or spiritual. This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for religious and church 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), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining and operation of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the church may be led of God to establish.
- B.** The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scriptures, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

**ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT**

**SECTION 1 - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

- A. The Holy Scriptures.** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The Authorized King James Version shall be the only English Bible used in the pulpit and all ministries of the church. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21)
- B. Dispensationalism.** We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life, which define man’s responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations the law, the church, and the kingdom – are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Gen. 1:28; I Cor. 9:17; II Cor. 3:9; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph.1:10;3:2-10; Col.1:24-25,27; Rev.3:20:2-6).
- C. The Godhead.** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the

same attributes and perfection's (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 29:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26).

#### **D. The Person and Work of Christ.**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became a man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; II Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; II Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; II Peter 1:3-5).
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

#### **E. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor 12:12-14; II Cor.3:6; Eph.1:13-14).
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; I John 2:20,27).
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom.12:3-8; ICor.12:4-11,28; Eph.4:7-12).
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gifts of healing were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues (a known, understandable national language, such as on the Day of Pentecost) was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the Resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (ICor.1:22;13:8;14:21-22).
5. We believe that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

**F. The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and,

that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom.3:22-23;5:12;6:23; Eph.2:1-3;4:17-19).

**G. Salvation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ forever (John 1:12; Eph.1:7;2:8-10; I Pet.1:18-19).

**H. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**

1. We believe that all the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor.1:4-8; I Pet.4-5).
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

**I. Of the fall of man.** We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state. Consequently, all of mankind is now in a state of sin, not by constraint, but by choice; and therefore under just condemnation, being separated from God and without defense or excuse. (Gen.3:1-6,24; Rom.5:12; Rom.5:19; Rom.3:10-19; Rom.1:28; Gal.3:22)

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

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

**L. Of Grace in the New Creation.** We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, nor character, not by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (John 3:3; II Cor.5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Pet.1:4; Rom.6:23; Eph.2:1; II Cor.5:19; Col.2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal.5:22; Eph.5:9)

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

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

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

**P. Of baptism and the Lord's supper.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's support; in which the members of the church, by the use of unleavened bread and the unfermented fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Acts 8:36-39; Matt.3:6; John 3:23; Rom.6:4-5; Matt.3:16; Matt.28:19; Rom.6:3-5; Col.2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt.28:19, 20; I Cor.11:23-28)

## **Q. The Church**

1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).
2. We believe that the establishment of continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27;20:17,28-32; I Tim.3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; I Cor.3:9,16; 5:4-7,13; I Peter 5:1-4).
4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age (Matt.28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42;18:18; I Cor.11:23-26).

**R. Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; II Tim. 3:1-5; I

John 2:15; II John 9-11).

**S. The Second Advent of Christ.** We believe in that “blessed hope,” the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; I Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev.3:10;19:11-16;20:1-6).

**T. The Eternal State.**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt.25:46; John 5:28,29;11:25-26; Rev.20:5-6;12-13).
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev.20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

**U. The Personality of Satan.** We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

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

**W. Civil Government.** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14).

**X. Human Sexuality.**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. Any employee of the church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5,13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8;

Heb. 13:4).

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
3. We believe that man and woman are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12).

**Y. Divorce and Remarriage.** We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one spouse dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

**Z. Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

**AA. Missions.** We believe that God has given to the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20).

**BB. Lawsuits between Believers.** We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

**CC. Giving.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made, with the exception of those offerings given to a designated, approved and established fund (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

## **SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. It shall be the basis and foundation for all decision making, planning and teaching. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the statement of faith. The Authorized King James Version shall be the only English Bible used in the pulpit and all ministries of the church.

## **SECTION 3 – COVENANT**

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be free from all oath bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the sale or use of any narcotic drugs, unless prescribed by a physician, or intoxicating drink as a beverage; and 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 each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure reconciliation 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.

## **ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Church membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and who regularly attend and financially support the church with tithes and offerings; and upon compliance with any of the following conditions:

- A.** By baptism: Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and accepting the Statement of Faith and the Covenant held by this church may, upon baptism, be received into its membership.
- B.** By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith.
- C.** By statement: Those who have been scripturally baptized and who accept the view of faith and practice

as adopted by this church, may be received by their Statement of Faith.

- D.** Excluded members may, by approval of the Pastor and Deacons, be restored to membership on confession of their error and by giving evidence of their repentance.

## **SECTION 2 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER**

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a life-style walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the Church.

## **SECTION 3 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A.** This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under shepherd. Membership in this church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the Pastor as requested by him. The membership of the church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, but rather the vote of the member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor.
- B.** Only members at least eighteen years of age shall be entitled to vote. Only those members who are physically present are entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee votes.

## **SECTION 4 - DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER**

- A.** There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and deacons (one deacon, if only one is serving). These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- B.** Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern one for another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- C.** If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- D.** If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsection (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representative's Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the

committee shall recommend to the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek the member's restoration.

- E. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church by order of the discipline committee.
- F. No matter may be heard by the discipline committee unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- G. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration and not fellowship (except family members).
- H. The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

## **SECTION 5 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 4, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

## **SECTION 6 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding three months, with the exception of seasonal absence. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination may be waved in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor.
- B. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.
- C. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.

## **ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 – CHURCH OFFICERS**

The Church officers are the Pastor (see Article 5, Section 1), Deacon (see Article 5, Section 3), Trustee, (see Article 5 Section 4), The Secretary of Records (see Article 5, Section 5), The Secretary of Finance (see Article 5, Section 6), The Secretary of Treasurer (see Article 5, Section 7), The Secretary of Membership (see Article 5, Section 8). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership. All officers shall:

- A. Be faithful to all public services of the church.

- B. Be loyal to the church approved programs.
- C. Be separated from worldliness
- D. An active member in good standing and a giver of the tithe as commanded in the Scriptures. To love, pray for, and support the pastor, and to be in total agreement with the Articles of Faith of this Church.

## **SECTION 2 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the Church, the Pastor shall serve as President of the Corporation. The Church Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the Corporation; the Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the Corporation; and a Deacon, appointed by the Pastor, shall serve as Vice-president of the Corporation.

## **SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE**

- A. All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith (as set in Article 2) annually in the presence of each other.
- B. All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- C. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

## **SECTION 4 - TERMS OF OFFICE**

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- A. The relationship between pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved by the option of either party by giving a 30-day notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, providing notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit two Sundays prior to said church administration meeting. A four-fifths majority of the active members present and voting shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the pastor can only be based upon the condition of known and proven sin as defined in the church bylaws or upon the changing of doctrinal beliefs from that which is defined in the church bylaws. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. The church is responsible for 30 days benefit for the pastor whether he is removed or if he resigns.
- B. The term of service for all officers and positions in the church, except the pastor, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed.
- C. A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.
- D. All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

- E. Members of the office of deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the pastor, and other deacons, upon a majority vote.

## **SECTION 5 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All vacant offices shall be filled by nomination of the pastor and a majority vote by the church. Once a member is elected to an office, they remain in that office until they resign or until the Pastor removes them from the office with a majority vote of the deacon board.

## **SECTION 6 - CALL OF A PASTOR**

Whenever it is necessary, by the death or resignation of the pastor, the church shall, without necessary delay, proceed to secure a new pastor in the following manner:

- A. In the case of death or resignation of the pastor, the deacons shall act as the pulpit committee. They shall call one man at a time so that the membership may hear him as a candidate for the position of pastor. A questionnaire will be sent to each candidate to determine their doctrinal position as well as key stands pertinent to the church. The pulpit committee will have already interviewed the man to candidate for the church and will not present a man for the church that has not been carefully screened according to his background, doctrine, and his vision for the church. They may also call men to preach until a pastor fills the pulpit or they may call an interim pastor if such a decision is warranted and approved by the congregation.
- B. It shall be announced in at least one regular public service previous to the taking of a ballot that the visiting minister is a candidate for the office of pastor of the church, and the time of voting announced.
- C. A 75% majority of active members present and voting shall be necessary for the calling of a pastor.

## **ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 – THE PASTOR**

- A. The word “Pastor” means a shepherd or spiritual overseer. The Scriptures refer to the office called pastor as elder or bishop. I Timothy 3:1-5, 5:17; I Peter 5:1-4; I Thessalonians 5:12 & 13; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:7,17 are examples that the pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the church. He shall not only have the general supervision of the Church, but shall have liberty in presenting any matter deemed necessary to the Church for its consideration and instruction.
- B. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the Church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- C. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than stated appointments shall be under the supervision of the pastor.

- D.** I Timothy 3:1-6 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of pastor. The life of the pastor and his family should be an example of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly or sinful practices which would tend to weaken the testimony of this Church (I Thessalonians 5:22). No one who is addicted to or uses intoxicating alcohol, drugs, or tobacco in any form; or who belongs to a secret society; or who brings disrepute upon his ministry through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for pastor or having fallen into such be retained as pastor.
- E.** Because of the office, the pastor shall be counted with respect (I Timothy 5:17), no accusation shall be accepted against him without at least two witnesses. (I Timothy 5:19)
- F.** No divorced man or who has been immoral shall be pastor of this Church. (Matthew 19:3-9)
- G.** No person shall be considered for the office nor serve as pastor of this church whose beliefs and teachings are not in accordance with the Articles of Faith, or who does not declare himself a Baptist.
- H.** No person shall be considered for the office nor serve as pastor whom maintains any connection with the National Council of Churches or any of its agencies.
- I.** No woman shall be considered for nor serve as Pastor of this Church.

## **SECTION 2 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF**

- A.** The pastor may hire associate and assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities. Assistant pastors shall be subject to approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties.
- B.** All church staff and officers, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor, who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same.

## **SECTION 3 - DUTIES OF DEACONS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- A.** The word “Deacon” means servant, attendant, and waiter. In Acts 6:1-4, the first servants were chosen by the Church and were appointed to their tasks by the overseers (Pastors) of the Church for the purpose of performing such tasks as would free those in charge of the services for prayer and the study of the Word. Therefore, because this Church accepts the Scriptures as final authority rather than tradition, the office of deacon shall not in any way be taken to mean authority over the church and the pastor, but to be of help to both.
- B.** The general duties of a deacon, aside from appointed tasks, shall be to assist the pastor in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for church meetings if the office of pastor is vacant. The deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administration needs of the church’s various ministries as requested by the pastor. Duties toward the pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually; to act as a host and friend on behalf of the church; to assure that his material and physical needs are taken care of, and to strive in every way to help him in the performance of Scriptural duties.

- C. I Timothy 3:8-13 gives the qualifications of deacon and his wife, and they shall by the help of God, try to live thereby. The life of a deacon and his family should be one of godliness and spirituality. They should not indulge in worldly and sinful practices, which would tend to weaken the testimony of this Church. No one who does not abstain from intoxicating alcohol, or is addicted to drugs, or tobacco in any form; or belongs to any secret society; or who brings disrepute upon the Church through sinful language, practice, or associations shall be considered for deacon, or having fallen into same practices and persisting in same, be retained. In keeping with Scriptures; gossiping, backbiting, undermining, holding grudges and violent, uncontrolled temper are unbecoming of the office of deacon and if indulged in by either a deacon or his wife, shall be grounds for dismissal.
- D. No person shall be elected to office of deacon who has not exhibited an example of the office for six months or referenced by a letter by his former pastor. (I Timothy 3:10)
- E. A deacon is to be faithful in all things, therefore, absenteeism from three business meetings or one month of church attendance without cause, shall disqualify said deacon and his office shall be declared vacant.
- F. The deacons and pastor shall present a Financial Management Estimate to the church each year for perusal (to read thoroughly). The deacons shall not be able to buy properties for the church and sell properties of the church, except with a 75% majority of the church.
- G. No one shall be considered for, nor serve as deacon, who is not in accordance with the Articles of Faith of this Church. The deacons shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The pastor may appoint trustees if the number of deacons is inadequate. The trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:
  1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
  2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges on behalf of the church.
  3. To assure that church properties, equipment, and grounds are properly maintained so that a good testimony of the Lord's work is given to the community.
  4. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.
  5. The pastor automatically acts as the head of the Trustee Board and assumes the power of veto on any matter as he deems necessary.

#### **SECTION 4 – TRUSTEE**

The trustees shall represent this Church in matters as set forth in Article 5, Section 3, paragraph I, sub-paragraph 1,2,3 & 4. The pastor may appoint the needed trustees in the event there is an insufficient number

of deacons. The pastor will act as the head of the Trustee Board and administrator of all meetings.

#### **SECTION 5 - THE SECRETARY OF RECORDS**

The Secretary of Records shall see that a record of Church proceedings; certificates of ordination, licenses, and commissions as directed by the Church is kept in the Church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. The Secretary shall see that an account is kept of any special events in the life of the Church, which are of historical interest. The Secretary of Records shall also serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.

#### **SECTION 6 - THE SECRETARY OF FINANCES (FINANCIAL SECRETARY)**

The Secretary of Finance will serve, as financial recorder and shall account for and record all funds contributed to the Church and prepare a quarterly statement of giving for all contributors of the church. The Secretary of Finance shall also prepare an annual statement of giving that will meet requirements for tax purposes. The Financial Secretary may also serve as Treasurer of the Corporation.

#### **SECTION 7 - THE SECRETARY OF TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall distribute the same as directed by the Annual Financial Estimate. The Treasurer shall prepare a monthly written report of itemized disbursements and income for church office filing. The Treasurer shall make a general report of the year for the Annual Church Administration Meeting. All expenditures of the Church, except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements shall be paid by Church check. The Treasurer may also serve as Financial Secretary of the Corporation. All spending outside of the budget must be approved by the pastor. Any spending outside of the budget that exceeds \$500.00 must be approved by the deacon board and the check must be signed by both pastor and treasurer.

#### **SECTION 8 – THE SECRETARY OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Secretary of membership shall see that a record of the membership roll, baptisms, dismissals, deaths and dedications as directed by the Church is kept in the Church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office

#### **SECTION 9 - SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

The Sunday School Superintendent shall supervise the Sunday School. In consultation with the pastor he shall recommend the appointment of the teachers of the Sunday School. He shall preside at the teachers' meetings, and report on the condition of the Sunday School at the annual church administration meeting. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the pastor.

#### **SECTION 10 - MINISTER OF HOSPITALITY**

The minister of hospitality, in cooperation with the pastor, shall appoint a sufficient number of assistants to care for the work of ushering and extending the official hospitality of the church to its members and visitors. The pastor shall appoint the Minister of Hospitality.

#### **SECTION 11 - DESIGNATED OFFICERS**

Designated officers of the Corporation shall be authorized to sign for, on behalf of the Church, the necessary

legal papers required to borrow money, buy or sell property, but shall not sign to borrow money, buy or sell property unless approved by a 75% majority vote of the Church body present.

## **SECTION 12 – DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS**

- A.** All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church administration meeting and shall surrender any records in their possession to the secretary of records at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- B.** Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the Bylaws or for a period of three months may be removed from his office at the discretion of the pastor and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the unexpired term.

## **ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP**

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer.

### **SECTION 2 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION**

- A.** Annual Administration Meeting: An Annual Administration Meeting shall be held during the first quarter of the year and announced at least two weeks in advance.
- B.** Special Administrative Meetings: A Special Administrative Meeting can be called at any time by the Pastor, or in the absence of a Pastor, the Deacons. Church matters may be transacted as long as there is no objection. If there is any objection, then the Special Meeting must be announced one week in advance.
- C.** Qualifications to vote is 1) Eighteen- (18) years or older and 2) a member of the Church as determined by Article 3.
- D.** The Pastor of the Church shall act as Moderator in all meetings for the transaction of Church Administration or, in the absence of a Pastor, a Deacon shall act as Moderator. The Moderator shall cause the meeting to be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- E.** The following order shall be observed at the regular church administration meetings:
  - 1.** Prayer
  - 2.** Reading of minutes.
  - 3.** Report of officers.
  - 4.** Unfinished matters.
  - 5.** Election of officers.
  - 6.** New matters
  - 7.** Motion to close.
  - 8.** Closing prayer.

### **SECTION 3 – SPECIAL MEETINGS**

- A.** The pastor (or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. The pulpit committee at any regular church meeting may call a meeting for election of a pastor at least two weeks in advance.
- B.** Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held, as the pastor deems beneficial.

### **SECTION 4 – FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the same year.

## **ARTICLE 7 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

### **SECTION 1 – PURPOSE**

The church believes that it is to provide the members' children with an education, which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teaching. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with this Constitution and Bylaws.

### **SECTION 2 – CHURCH PARTICIPATION**

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

### **SECTION 3 – STAFF MEMBERSHIP**

All instructors, teachers, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, other special meetings on a temporary basis, however, should the church have a Bible institute, pastors may be brought in to assist in teaching under the request and direction of the pastor.

### **SECTION 4 – STATEMENT OF ACCORD**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the church.

### **SECTION 5 – UNITY**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

## **SECTION 6 – TEACHING**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teachings of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief, which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth, is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth, which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

## **SECTION 7 – CHRISTIAN WALK**

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a life-style constant with the precepts, which they teach, whether in our out of the classroom.

## **SECTION 8 – UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES**

Any expenditures in excess of \$500 and not authorized in the regular annual budget must be authorized by the pastor (or the deacons if the office of pastor is vacant).

## **ARTICLE 8 – ORDINATION**

### **SECTION 1 – ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS**

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

### **SECTION 2 – ORDINATION PROCEDURE**

- A. Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- B. If the council finds the candidate worthy of the ordination, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- C. The pastor and the chairman of the deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

## **ARTICLE 9 – INDEMNIFICATION**

### **SECTION 1 – ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION**

The Church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the Church) by reason of that fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the Church, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in the settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and

in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or in a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

## **SECTION 2 – EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION**

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

## **SECTION 3 – LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION**

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the Church only as authorized in the specific case of a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to, or threatened with, the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable, or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the Church.

## **SECTION 4 – TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION**

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the Church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceedings, as authorized by the deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the Church.

## **SECTION 5 – EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION**

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the Church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

## **SECTION 6 – INSURANCE**

The Church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the Church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in

that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 10 – TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS**

### **SECTION 1 – PRIVATE INUREMENT**

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1, Section 2 hereof.

### **SECTION 2 – POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT**

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### **SECTION 3 – DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the church, the deacons and trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations, which agree with the church's statement of faith.

### **SECTION 4 – RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION**

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

### **SECTION 5 - LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the church shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in Article 1, Section 2.

## **ARTICLE 11 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

From time to time, the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and deacons. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article 1, Section 2.

## **ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS**

No constitutional amendments may occur unless the office of Pastor is filled with a duly elected man by the Church approval as set forth in Article 4, Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit one (1) week before the vote is taken.

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## ADOPTION

This Constitution and bylaws was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present and voting in a duly called meeting of the church.

This Constitution and Bylaws supersede any previous Constitution and Bylaws of Open Door Baptist Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Deacon Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Records

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness (Present during vote of adoption)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness (Present during vote of adoption)