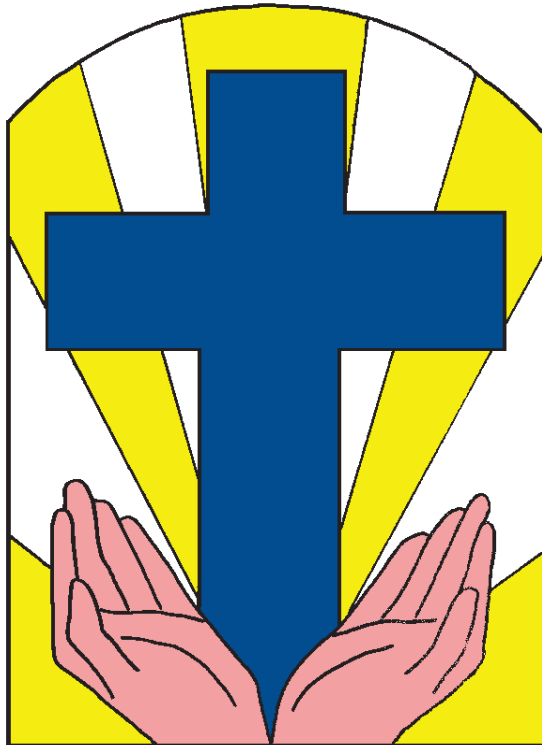


GREAT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH



CONSTITUTION

Constitution of the Great Hope Baptist Church

Article One

Name

The name of this church organization shall be called Great Hope Baptist Church.

Article Two

The purpose and mission of this church:

1. Evangelize the unsaved.
2. Strengthen and build up Christians in the most holy faith.
3. Actively engage in the enterprise of missions both at home and abroad with prayers and financial support.
4. To promote a sound, fundamental testimony and true-to-the Bible witness for the glory of God.

Article Three

Articles of Faith

A. A Baptist is one who believes in a supernatural Bible, which tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth. This Christ spoke supernatural words, and performed supernatural miracles. He lived a supernatural life, and died a supernatural death, then rose in supernatural splendor. He now intercedes as a supernatural priest, and will one day return in supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on the earth.

1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired and that it has truth without any error for its matter. Therefore it is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man. This Holy Bible is the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.

2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. They were written in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error. They were consistent with their individual and stylistic personalities as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:8 ; Acts 28:15; Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; 1 Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph 6:17; Rom 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa 19:7-11; John 5:45; John 5:39, 1 Cor. 2:10-13

2. Of the true God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God. He is an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth. This true God is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. We believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. These three are equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen 17:1; 1 Cor 8:8; Eph 4:6; Jon 4:24; Psa 147:5; Psa 83:18; Psa 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex 15:11; Rev. 4:11; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rom 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph 2:18; 2 Cor 13:14

3. Of Jesus the Christ

We believe Jesus to be: the Word, the second Person of The Godhead, the one through whom all things were made, and as such left His Heavenly habitation in order to come, as a man, in the flesh, to the earth, and become the only begotten of The Father. Jesus of Nazareth who was and is true God, having a divine nature and all the attributes of Deity, was at the same time, true man having a natural human body and exhibiting those attributes which are common to humanity. Jesus was born without sin, and remained sinless, though, as a man experienced and resisted temptation, thus identifying with us, in our humanity. Jesus voluntarily gave Himself, firstly unto human life, and second unto human death, thirdly unto spiritual death, so that He would be the perfect, spotless, substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. It was Jesus' sinless humanity combined with His faultless Divinity that makes Him the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, and at the same time qualifies Him to be the perfect High Priest, representing us before The Father in heaven.

John 1:1,14,18; 12:45; 17:1-5; Col 1:15-20; 1 John 1:1-3; Phil 2:6,7; Rom 1:3; 8:3; Heb 1:2-14; Gal 4:4,5; Acts 13:33; Luke 2:21-27, 40-52; 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:14-16; 7:23-28; 1 Pet 1:19; 2:22; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; Matt 26:28; Rom 5:18, 19; Mark 10:45; 1 Tim 2:5, 6; 1 Pet 2:24; Tit 2:14; Mark 15:34; Matt 27:46; Heb 5:7-10.

4. Of the Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature. 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. This Holy Spirit bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony and He is the agent in the New Birth. We believe that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; 2 Thess 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom 8:14,16; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom 8:26-27

5 Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels. Satan is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be men's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ. He is the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness-destined. However, he is subject to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; 1 Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 John 3:8; Matt. 13:25; 37-39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7; 1 John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11,16,20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3

6. Of Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively. We believe that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness. Man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms. All animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they would bring forth only "after their kind"

Gen. 1:1; Ex 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24

7. 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. In consequence of this transgression all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6;24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1,3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom 1:28; Gal. 3:22

8. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost, in a miraculous manner. He was 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; 1 John 5:20; 1 Cor. 15:47

9. 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. Jesus, by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience. 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, bore our sins in His own body on the tree; "In whom we have redemption through his blood," (Eph. 1:7). We believe 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 Savior.

Lev 17:11; Rom5:9-11, Eph 1:7, Col 1:14Eph. 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; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:2.

10. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the one who is dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man. It is 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; 2 Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; 1 John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; 2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9

11. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's saving grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and an obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of Christ and His gospel..1 Thess 1:4; Col 3:12; 1 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; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36

12. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe is His Justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness. 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; Rom 5:1; Tit. 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

13. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, 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 by 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 Savior.

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. 10:9-11, Acts 17:30

14. Of The Church

We believe that a Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel. The church is being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the divine and Eternal Grace. It is observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission : First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third ,to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. We believe that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel. Every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline and of benevolence. On all matters of membership, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42, I Cor. 11:2; Eph 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor:12:8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13, Matt. 28:19-20
Col. 1:18; Eph 5:23-24, 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3:4; 2 Cor 8:23-24.
1 Cor 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 6:1-3; 1 Cor. 5:11-13

15. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that proper Biblical 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. It is to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, being a symbolic representation of our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe the Lord's Supper is a beautiful and sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine to commemorate together the dying love of Christ. It is preceded always by solemn self-examination as we remember His death until He comes.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 26:19;
Rom 6:3-5; Col 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:1,9-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-28

16. Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily “The third day according to the Scriptures;” “That this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven” —bodily, personally and visible; that the “dead in Christ shall rise first, “ that the living saints’ shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;” “That the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David; “ and that “ Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet. “

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:19; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2,4-6
Acts 1:9,11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:8
1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:18;
Matt. 24:27; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:18
Matt. 24:27; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28; 1 Cor; 15:42-44,51-53; 1 Thess. 4:17; Phil. 4:20-21; Luke 1:32; 1 Cor. 15:25; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4 Rev. 20:6

17. Of Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Matt. 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. “

Mark 16:15, “ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. “

John 20:21, “ then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my father hath sent me, even so send I you. “

Rom. 10:13-15, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him in whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

18. Of the Grace of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith. 2 Cor. 8:7, “Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”

We believe that we should bring our offerings when we meet together at the first day of the week. (Sunday)

1 Cor. 16:2, “Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe - - Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils” - - Hebrews 7:2,4 - - and this was four hundred years before the tithe,

We believe that offerings and gifts for God’s work should be done primarily through the Local Assembly. Acts 4:34,35,37, “ And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles’ feet.

We Believe that through our offerings missionaries can be supported to plant churches on our behalf as we carry out the command of the Great Commission. Phil 4:14-18

Article 4

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 Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most 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. We endeavour to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine. We engage to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to faithfully educate our children in the Word; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world. We will endeavour to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our behavior. We desire to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and ungodly anger; 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. We look to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule 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.

Article 5

Government

This church shall be an independent body of baptized believers. The government of this church shall be vested in its assembled membership through its duly elected officers. It shall never be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body and no denominational or associational representative shall ever sit in judgment over its affairs. The church may voluntarily fellowship and co-operate with other churches for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Article 6

Membership

Section 1. RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

All candidates for membership will have read the constitution and agreed publicly that they will abide by its articles.

Membership in this church may be acquired in one of the following manners:

- A. Baptism- - Any person who demonstrates a change of attitude toward

God, and by faith in Jesus as the Son of God who died and shed His blood on the cross to atone for his sins, and accepts Him as his own Savior, and with all his heart is willing to obey Him and His Word, may by vote of the church and baptism, be received into membership.

B. Letter—Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by immersion has been administered by authority of a church of like faith and practice may by satisfactory statement of faith and letter of recommendation be received into membership upon the vote of the church.

C. Experience—Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism by immersion has been administered by authority of the church of like faith and practice, and satisfactory statement of faith in Christ, may be received into membership upon the vote of the church.

D. Restoration—Any person whose membership has been terminated through church discipline, may upon public confession of his sins or errors, and majority vote of the members present, be received into full fellowship and church membership privileges.

E. Members may be received at any regular or special scheduled services by majority vote of those present.

SECTION 2. INACTIVE MEMBERS

A. Any member of the church who has been absent from the regular worship services of the church for a period of two months or more without being considered by the church as providentially hindered shall be placed on an inactive, non-voting roll.

B. Restitution to active church roll may be made by agreement of deacons and pastor.

SECTION 3. REMOVING OF MEMBERS

A. Letter of recommendation to sister churches of like faith and practice.

B. A member who is guilty of habitual, long-continued and unjustifiable absence from the services for six months automatically by such action dismisses himself or herself from inactive membership roll.

C. The Pastor and or Deacons shall check the membership roll at the end of every three months period, with the first period beginning on the first of each church year to see if there are those names which should be removed or placed on the inactive and non-voting church roll. Restitution to active membership may be by agreement of the Deacons and Pastor when and if, they become active again.

SECTION 4. DISCIPLINE

A. In case of offense requiring discipline, the offender shall be asked to meet with the Pastor and deacons and shall be dealt with according to Scripture: (1 Cor. 5:9-13; Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 6:1). If after full inquiry, prayer, and counsel, the offender does not repent and do works meet for repentance, the church may suspend him (or her) from the privileges of membership by majority vote of members present.

Article 7

Officers

Only members in good standing are eligible to election or appointment as officers or leaders in any organization of this church. They shall abstain from all uses of tobacco, alcohol as a beverage, addictive drugs, and live in accordance with the provisions set forth for Christians in the Bible.

The officers of this church shall consist of the following: a Pastor, a treasurer, Deacons, and Trustees. Such other officers as the church may decide. Election of church officers will take place in a regular called business meeting.

SECTION 1. PASTOR—DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

A. The word “pastor” means (Webster) a shepherd or spiritual overseer. The Scriptures refer to the office commonly called “Pastor” as “elder” or “bishop.” 1 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Thes. 5:12-13; Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:7,17, are examples of such and also show clearly that the Pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the church. He shall have unrestricted liberty in presenting any matter he deems necessary to the church for its consideration and instruction.

B. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach regularly at the church, to administer the ordinances of the Gospel (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper) , and to perform the various duties incumbent on his office.

C. He shall also select the officers and teachers of the Sunday School organization, the musical program of the church, office workers, and/or paid employees of the church as the need arises. He shall be free to select men of his own choosing as associates.

D. He shall be the moderator of the church and preside at all its business meetings, ex-officio member of all the committees and organizations, which includes the privilege of voting, in charge of the pulpit and responsible for supply speakers. In legal matters, he shall act as president.

E. 1 Tim. 3:1-6 and Titus 1:7-9 give the qualifications of the 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 the Lord and this church (1 Thes. 5:22). No one who indulges in the use of intoxicating liquors, drugs or tobacco in any form, or who brings disrepute upon his ministry through sinful language, practices, or associations shall be considered for pastor, or having fallen into such be retained as pastor, if such a course is persisted in.*

F. In accordance to 1 Tim 5:17, the pastor shall be counted worthy of double honor. No accusation shall be accepted against him without two or three witnesses. 1 Tim. 5:19

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 as set forth in this document.

H. No woman or homosexual man shall be considered for, nor serve as pastor of this church.

I. The length of term of office shall be as follows:

The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be an indefinite one until dissolved by the option of either by giving one month's notice. This severance of the relationship between Pastor and the church may be considered at any regular business meeting of the church, provided notice to that shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two weeks prior to said meeting. A majority of the members present voting shall be sufficient to decide the matter.

SECTION 2. CALL OF A PASTOR

A. When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the Deacons shall act as a pulpit committee.

B. When a minister is contacted, he shall be given the Articles of Faith, and Constitution which he must be in full agreement with and state so to the Pulpit Committee prior to candidating for the pastorate of this church. No one will be invited to preach in the church as a candidate until the Pulpit Committee has heard and evaluated him.

C. It shall be announced in at least one regular public service prior to the visiting minister's speaking that he is a candidate for pastor.

D. It shall be announced at the regular service in which the candidate speaks that a vote by ballot shall be taken the following Wednesday night as to whether to call candidate as Pastor. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

E. The minister shall be called to the pastorate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the qualified voting members present.

SECTION 3. DEACONS-- DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS.

A. The qualifications of Deacons are given in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-4. The life of a Deacon and their family shall be one of Godliness and spirituality.

B. No one shall be considered for, nor serve as Deacon, who is not in accordance with the Articles of Faith of this Church.

C. Duties: The meaning given for the Greek word translated "Deacon" in 1 Tim. 3:8-12 is given to mean ; "to run errands, an attendant, a waiter (at tables or in other duties), specifically to a Christian teacher and pastor. The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in building up the church numerically, financially, and spiritually. They shall also visit the sick, the sorrowing, the needy; to personally strive to win the lost to Christ. Duties toward the pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually; to act as host and friend in behalf of the church; to see that his material and physical needs are taken care of; to strive in every way to help him in the performance of Scriptural duties.

They shall assist in making proper provisions for the observance of the ordinances of the church.

D. The Church shall elect Deacons annually: They shall be elected to 3 year terms with 1/3 retiring each year. They shall not succeed themselves except when there are no other qualified men available.

The Deacons and Pastor shall serve as a nominating committee. This committee shall submit a list of candidates for the various offices at the annual business meeting. All such nominations for church offices must meet the qualifications set forth in this constitution. Nominations may be made from the floor, but the one making the

nomination should exercise extreme care that the one being nominated meets the Constitution and Scriptural qualifications. The Pastor will be responsible to make the church aware of the qualifications of the one nominated.

SECTION 4. TRUSTEES

The trustees shall consist of three (3) members with a term of office of (3) years. Their terms of office will be concurrent. Duties shall be to sign legal papers for the church and aid the pastor by suggesting care and repair of properties. Trustees are wholly subject to the will of the church regarding the purchases of real estate and procuring loans for the erection of buildings.

SECTION 5. TREASURER

The treasurer shall receive weekly bank deposit slips from the finance Committee of all funds contributed and shall dispense same as ordered by the church. He shall present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular business meetings showing the actual financial condition of the church. If there is a full time book-keeper or secretary employed by the church, these records will be kept at the church in cooperation with the treasurer.

The financial Records will be audited each year, and the findings will be announced to the church.

SECTION 6. FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance committee shall be composed of three or more members appointed by the pastor. This committee shall count all offerings, and deposit same. A record shall be made in triplicate of the amount received. The first copy shall be left in book for permanent record. The second copy shall be given to Treasurer. The third copy shall be kept by the Finance Committee.

SECTION 7. CHURCH CLERK

The clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the church, of all baptism, issue letters and certificates of Christian character as directed by the church, conduct all official correspondence, and preserve all documents, papers and deliver the same with all records kept by him or her to the successor. He or she will keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and value. The full time church secretary can fill this position.

Article 8

Committees

1. A Finance Committee composed of three or more shall be responsible for counting and depositing all offerings of the church.
2. All committees shall be appointed by the Pastor unless otherwise provided for in the constitution. The Pastor by virtue of his office shall be a member of all committees and boards and organizations of the church.
3. Missions Committee of 3 members will be appointed by the pastor. Their term will be for one year. They will assist the pastor in formulating suggestions to the church for Mission Business. The Church shall not support Non-Denominational or interdenominational Missionaries or Boards.

4. Special committees shall be appointed by the Pastor to carry out specific tasks and dissolved once that task has been completed.

5. "Committee members jointly or individually are indemnified from any liability financially or otherwise in respect to recommendations placed before the church membership or in respect to decisions made by the committee in fulfilling their role as empowered by the church in their appointment to that committee."

Article 9

Finances

SECTION 1.

Scriptural means of supporting the local church is the tithes and freewill offerings of its people as they express their love for Christ in giving.

SECTION 2.

The Faith Promise plan will be used in the support of Missions along with the moneys marked for missions from the general budget.

SECTION 3.

The church will operate with an annual budget, prepared by the pastor and deacons, and approved by the church in the yearly business meeting. The purpose of this budget is to regulate and to minimize the indebtedness of the church. Any expenditure over the budgeted items shall be presented to the church for permission to spend such funds.

SECTION 4

"The raising of funds through loans is permitted subject to recommendations placed by a committee or individuals duly appointed in accordance with Article 8 of this Constitution and such recommendations being accepted in accordance with Article 10 of this Constitution.

Section 5

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the church there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, and property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members of the church but shall be given or transferred to some other organization or organizations approved by the Commissioner of Taxation as an Income Tax Exempt Charity having objects similar to the objects of the church and whose memorandum of association or constitution shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income or property amongst its or their members to any extent at least as great as is imposed on the church under this constitution such institution or institutions to be determined by the members the church at or before the time of dissolution. If the church conducts a gift fund and if the gift fund is wound up or if the endorsement of the church as a deductible gift recipient is revoked, any surplus assets of the gift fund remaining after the payment of liabilities attributable to it shall be transferred to a fund, authority or institution to which income tax deductible gifts can be made.

Article 10

Meetings

SECTION 1. REGULAR SERVICES

The church shall maintain Sunday Morning, Sunday evening, and midweek Bible study and prayer services. The pastor may schedule any other services which he feels would be for the benefit of the church members.

SECTION 2. BUSINESS MEETINGS

A quarterly business meeting of the church shall be held after the regular Wednesday prayer meeting on the first Wednesday after the first Sunday in the months of February, May, August,, and November. At this time the regular business of the church shall be transacted.

A quorum will consist of 20% of the voting membership 16 years or older. On routine business a majority vote of the qualified voting members present shall decide the issue. On major business such as buying of real estate, negotiating of loans, mortgaging of church property, selling of church property, or amending of constitution, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of qualified voting members present shall be required.

The financial year will be July 1 through June 30.

SECTION 3 SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

A special business meeting may be called at any time by the Pastor when such meetings fall on regular time of services, provided meeting does not include major business such as selling of church property, amending constitution or mortgaging of property. When the church is without a pastor either by dismissal or resignation, the Deacons may call a business meeting to transact routine business.

SECTION 4 UNAUTHORIZED BUSINESS MEETINGS

No secret or unauthorized business meetings are valid. No business beyond that of routine weekly affairs shall be carried on in the absence of the Pastor.

SECTION 5 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall prevail in parliamentary procedures. If there should be found a conflict between Robert's Rules or Order (Revised) and Biblical procedure, The Bible shall take precedence.

Article 11

Amendments

This constitution may be amended with the exceptions of article 11 and article 4 by a **two-thirds (2/3)** vote of the **qualified members present**, provided the proposed amendment has been **submitted in writing** and **announced** from the pulpit **two (2) weeks before** the vote is taken. Article four can only be amended if there is a unanimous decision and article eleven can not be amended at all.

