# BEAVERTON
## Baptist Church

# CHURCH CONSTITUTION
# &
# BY-LAWS

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# OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view, we engage to strive together for both peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent, and money, in measure that God prospers each of each, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the worldwide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to abstain from the use and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage; and from every form of evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.
Romans 12:1, 2, 14, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer; and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord’s return.

We moreover, engage that when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**Beaverton Baptist Church**
**Beaverton, MI 48612**

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE I **Name & Organization**

The name of this organization shall be the Beaverton Baptist Church. The organization took place in Beaverton, Michigan on April 25, 1970. The organization was incorporated in the state of Michigan on June 1, 1970.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE II **Purpose**

The purpose of this Church shall be to carry out God's program.

1. The salvation of the lost, both at home and around the world.

2. The administration of the ordinances of the New Testament.

3. The maintenance of Christian worship, education, and fellowship.

4. The spiritual care and growth of members.

The purpose shall be accomplished through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and programs that are consistent with the Word of God.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE III **Affirmation of Faith**

Section 1 - <u>The Word of God</u>
We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration

of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21.

Section 2 - The Trinity
We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14.

Section 3 - God The Father
We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from the penalty of sin all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.
1 Chronicles 29: 11-12; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5.

Section 4 - Jesus Christ
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His Virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, person visible return to earth.
John 1:1, 2, 14; 1 Timothy 2:5.

Section 5 - The Holy Spirit
We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father, and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.
John 14:26; 15:26; 16: 7-15.

Section 6 - Regeneration
We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.
Genesis 1:26, 27, 2:17, 3:5; John 1:12, 3:3, 7; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; 1 Peter 1: 3-5.

Section 7 - The Church
We believe in the universal church; a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head, and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
Acts 2:38; 8:38; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 5: 25-27.

Section 8 - Christian Conduct
We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellowmen; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. Romans 12: 1, 2.

Section 9 - The Ordinances
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration if His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-39.

Section 10 - Religious Liberty
We believe that every human being has direct relationship to God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. Romans 14:12.

Section 11 - Church Cooperation
We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a fellowship of churches of like faith and practice when practical. Such an organization, whether a national or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in this conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with inter-denominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis. Such

cooperation may be engaged in if there is no doctrinal conflict between the church and the organization and would be of benefit to the church and the ministry.

Section 12 - The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts
We believe that God is Sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, and pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established.
1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4: 7-12.

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His will, for the sick and afflicted.
John 15:7; 1 John 5:14, 15.

Section 13 - Eternal Security of Believers
We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. John 6: 37-40; John 10: 27-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Corinthians 1: 4-8; 1 Peter 1:5.

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

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

Section 15 - The Last Things
We believe in that "blessed hope" the personal imminent, pre-tribulational and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

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

Section 16 – Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We, the members of Beaverton Baptist Church, believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We further believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

The members of Beaverton Baptist church also believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Beaverton Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Beaverton Baptist Church attendees, members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Beaverton Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Beaverton Baptist Church.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE IV **Membership**

Membership of the church shall consist of persons who:

1. Have been baptized by immersion upon profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Show evidence of regeneration.
3. Affirm the views of faith and practice of this church.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE V **Officers**

The officers of this church shall be:

1. Pastor
2. Clerk
3. Treasurer
4. Assistant Treasurer
5. Sunday School Superintendent
6. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
7. Sunday School Secretary
8. Assistant Sunday School Secretary
9. Deacons, consisting of not less than three elected members.
10. Deaconesses, consisting of not less than three elected members.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE VI **Meetings**

Public Meetings - The regular meetings of this church shall be Sunday School, Sunday Morning, and Evening Worship services, and a Midweek Prayer Service.

Business Meetings - Business meetings of the church shall be held at least once during each calendar quarter, one of which shall be the Annual Business Meeting.

## CONSTITUTION: ARTICLE VII **Disposition of Church Property**

Division or Dissolution - In case of organic division of the church membership, the disposition of church property shall be duly vested in a Board of Arbitration, which shall be comprised of three members of Beaverton Baptist Church one of whom is to be the Pastor if possible. If not, all three positions are to be filled by church members determined by a vote of the membership. The Board of Arbitration shall ensure that the following conditions are satisfied:

1. Any/All outstanding debt will be resolved with the proceeds of the asset liquidation
2. Any remaining balance of said proceeds after meeting condition one will be equally divided among all supported missionaries of BBC at the time of dissolution.

Consolidation - Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of same faith and practice be advisable, the terms of such a consolidation insofar as the church property is concerned shall be negotiated by the Deacons subject to the approval of the church.

## CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VIII **Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced at any regular Quarterly Business Meeting, but final action shall be deferred until the following regular Quarterly Business Meeting.

The proposed amendment shall be distributed to active members at least two weeks prior to the meeting in which action shall be taken and also be included in the notice of the meeting.

The meeting to act on the amendment shall meet the requirements as outlined by the By-laws Article V, Section C, page 21. No amendment may be adopted which would be contrary to the purpose of the church as stated in the Preface of the Constitution, Article II.

# BI-LAWS ARTICLE I **Membership**

Reception of Members

1. Any person may be received into the membership by a majority vote of the church membership, providing the candidate has met the following provisions:
   a. He shall profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
   b. He shall give satisfactory evidence of having been born again.
   c. He must adopt the same rules of faith and practice held by this church.
   d. He shall be encouraged to attend a membership class under the direction of the Pastor or an instructor appointed by the Deacon Board.
   e. He has been baptized by immersion.
   f. He has been interviewed by the Board of Deacons and recommended for church membership.

   (New members shall be officially extended the right hand of fellowship at the time of celebration of the Lord's Supper.

2. Letters of transfer from other Baptist churches shall serve as recommendation and indication of previous baptism. All requirements of No. 1 of this article shall be fulfilled.

3. Applicants by letter of dismissal from another church shall be received into membership by the same procedure as outlined in No.1 of this article.

4. Restoration - Excluded members may be restored to membership upon expression of repentance and renewal of covenant duties. (II Corinthians 2: 6, 7)

B. Dismissal of Members

1. Any person may be dismissed by a majority vote of the church membership for any of the following reasons:

   a. Letters of transfer to other Baptist Churches shall be granted by the church and shall be sent by the clerk to the church named in the letter.
   b. Letters of dismissal to churches of other denominations shall

be granted by the church and sent by the clerk to the church named in the letter.

c. Upon person written request a member may be released from membership.
(It is recommended that the Pastor and/or Deacons should visit anyone choosing to withdraw their membership).

d. As stated under the Discipline of Inactive Members. (See By-Laws Article I, Section C Page 10.

C. Discipline

1. Delinquents:

The Pastor and a committee of Deacons shall seek to interview any member who is seriously inconsistent with the church covenant or church doctrine and shall endeavor to restore them to a place of fellowship. They shall report the delinquent to the church for discipline if evidence of restoration is not satisfactory.

2 Grievances:
A member shall follow the rules as outlined in Matthew 18 to resolve a difference that occur with another member of the church. When complaints need to come before the church, the complaint shall be submitted in writing to the Pastor and a committee of Deacons who will consult with the members. If this does not resolve the problem, the Pastor and Deacons shall make a recommendation to the church membership. No accusation shall be brought against any member except upon the testimony of two or more witnesses.

3. Inactive Members

a. Any member absent from the regular worship services for a period of three (3) months shall be called upon officially by no less than the Pastor and one Deacon or by two Deacons.

b. Any member absent for a period of six (6) months shall receive a letter calling attention to his absence and advising him that voting privileges are withdrawn, until such time he becomes active again, for a period of three (3) months.

c. The names of all members who fail to express interest either

through attendance or letter, for a period of twelve (12) months, will be recommended by the Deacon Board to the church membership to be dropped from the rolls. This shall not apply to members physically prevented from active membership.

D. Active Members

Active members are those whose names appear on the membership roll.

E. Members in Good Standing

1. Responsibilities
   a. He shall be in total agreement with the church covenant. (See page 1 ).
   b. He shall be a faithful attendee at the regular church services.
   c. He shall be a systematic financial supporter of the local church.

2. Privileges
   a. Vote
   b. Hold church office
   c. Be on church committees
   d. Hold office in church organizations
   e. Serve as regular Sunday School Teacher
   f. Sponsors of children or Youth groups

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE II **Pastoral Relations**

A. Pastoral Call

When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the Deacons shall serve as the Pulpit Committee to search for prospective candidates to fill the vacancy. A candidate for the pastorate shall be carefully examined by the Deacons as to his salvation, doctrine, Christian conduct, and call to the ministry. He shall be required to state his acceptance of and adherence to the Articles of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of this church.
The call of the Pastor shall be done in a business meeting that meets the requirements as outlined in those Bi laws. The

voting shall be by closed ballot with a three-quarter (3/4) majority being necessary to extend the call. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time, and he shall have the recommendation of the Deacons. A written call shall be presented to the prospective Pastor, giving details of pastor-church relationship including salary, housing and car allowances, hospitalization, health and accident insurance, retirement benefits, vacation, and conference time.

B. Dissolution of Relationship

1. Upon presentation of resignation, the Pastor shall give the church at least thirty days (30) days' notice unless otherwise agreed by mutual consent.

2. When an irreconcilable grievance exists between the church and the Pastor, the church shall consider his dismissal upon the recommendation by the Deacons, based on a petition signed by at least 25% of members in good standing. The business meeting must be conducted in accordance with Bi-Laws Article V, page 20. The question of dissolution shall be voted upon by secret ballot requiring a majority vote to affect such dismissal.

3. If dismissal occurs, the church shall continue the Pastor's salary for thirty (30) days, except in the case of serious moral offense which shall require the testimony of two or more witnesses.

The church shall give the consideration to the financial needs of the Pastor's family, however.

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE III **Church Officers**

A. Qualifications

All church officers shall be members in good standing who are loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the spiritual and material welfare of this church. The home, family, and individual qualifications as laid down in I Timothy 3: 8-12 shall be considered. No person shall hold more than two

elected church offices.

B. Terms of Office

Term office shall be for one year for all offices except in the case of the Pastor which shall be for an indefinite period of time and a three-year term for the Deacons and Deaconesses. At least one-third (1/3) of the Deacons and Deaconesses shall be elected at each Annual Meeting.

The term of office for all elective officers begins the day following elections and shall continue until the resignation of the officer or until their successor qualify.

Deacons and Deaconesses shall not remain in office after the completion of one full term, but may be elected to the same office after the lapse of one year. An officer elected for the term of one year shall not serve for more than three consecutive years in the same capacity, but may be elected to the same office after the lapse of one year.

C. Election

The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Business Meeting from a slate of candidates selected by the committee on nominations, and by nominations from the floor. The permission of all persons shall have been granted prior to placing their names in nomination. When qualified candidates are available, two or more names shall be nominated for each office. All elections shall be by secret ballot by the members in good standing in attendance at the business meeting. A plurality vote shall be necessary to elect.

D. Vacancies

A vacancy in any office shall be filled by appointment by the Deacons, subject to confirm of the church. A person so appointed shall assume the duties of the office upon confirmation by the church.

E. Increase of Officers

The number of Deacons and Deaconesses may be increased as warranted by the growth of the church. The actual number shall be determined by the church.

F. Removal of Office

The church shall consider removal from office of any officer upon recommendation of the Deacons or petition by 25% of the active members. The voting to recall from office shall be by secret ballot by the members in good standing in attendance at the business meeting. A majority vote shall be required to affect such dismissal.

G. Duties of Officers

1. Pastor

The Pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the church, he shall preach the Gospel, teach the Word and have charge of the services of the church; he shall administer the ordinances and perform the usual duties of a Baptist minister. He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, committees, and organizations of this church.

2. Clerk

The clerk shall have charge of the official correspondence and shall keep record of all business meetings of the church. The clerk shall maintain the church membership records and other documents dealing with the history of the church. Upon the leaving of office, the clerk shall deliver to his successor, or the chairman of the Deacons, all records, files, and other papers belonging to the church with all contents complete to the date of surrender. The clerk shall also compile the Annual Report.

3. Treasurer

It shall be the Treasurer's duty to have custody of all monies of the church and to disburse the same as authorized by the church.

He shall keep a full, itemized and accurate account of the receipts and expenditures, and shall present a complete report of the same to the church at the Annual Business Meeting and at each quarterly business meeting.

4. Assistant Treasurer

It shall be the Assistant Treasurer's duty to receive all church monies and deposit the same in a bank authorized by the church. He shall keep an accurate account of receipts and shall sent a receipt to each contributor quarterly. He shall also submit a weekly report to the Pastor and Church Treasurer. He shall also acknowledge special gifts given by friends of the church.

5. Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School (SS) Superintendent shall direct all SS Programs under the supervision of church leadership. The Superintendent is responsible for the appointment of SS teachers and the supervision of the related aspects of SS. Additionally, the Superintendent will collaborate with teachers to address challenges and concerns, assisting and equipping teachers to have what they need to succeed. The Superintendent will also have purview over related children's educational programming and events.

6. Deacons

The Deacons shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. They shall elect their own chairman and secretary at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the church. The secretary shall keep minutes of their meetings in a permanent record. They shall submit regular reports to the church and a written report for the Annual Meeting of the church.

b. They shall assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; be his helpers and counselors; visit the sick and others in the church; assist baptismal candidates in the baptismal service; assist in the observance of the Lord's Supper and examine candidates for church

membership.

c. The chairman of the Deacon Board shall either moderate or appoint a moderator of all business meetings of the church.

d. They, with the Pastor, shall review the membership roll at least once a year in accordance with Bi-Laws Article I Section C – 3, page 10.

e. They shall arrange for temporary pulpit supply in the absence of the Pastor and shall serve as the Pulpit Committee when the church is without a Pastor.

f. They shall act as a planning committee, referring their recommendations to the church for consideration and action.

g. They shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the church, people to fill the vacancy of any elected office.

h. They shall appoint an instructor for church membership Classes when the Pastor is unable to conduct them.

i. They shall prepare a budget for the ensuing year for presentation to the church for its approval at the Annual Meeting. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the church at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

j. They shall employ the service of a Certified Public Accountant to audit all financial records of the church at least once a year.

k. They shall act as interpreters of the Constitution and By-Laws. Any active member aggrieved by such interpretation may appeal to the church for a decision.

l. They shall be in charge of the Church Benevolent Fund.

m. They shall acquire and disperse of church equipment, furnishings, and supplies provided expenditures do not exceed 1% of the annual church budget. Expenditures beyond this amount must have church approval.

n. They shall appoint an Ushering Committee (See By-Laws Article IV, Section A, page 18.)

o. They shall appoint a Music Committee (See By-Laws Article IV, Section B, page 19.)

10. Deaconesses

The Deaconesses shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. To assist the Pastor in visiting the sick and others of the church.

b. Make preparation for the observation of the Lord's Supper.

c. Assist female baptismal candidates.

d. Serve as a hospitality committee for visiting pastors, missionaries, and other guests of the church.

e. Arrange for decorations for the church sanctuary.

f. Select one of their members to serve as chairperson.

g. To send a remembrance on behalf of the church to those of the church that are in the hospital.

h. Arrange for a Nursery Attendant to be present in the Nursery during the Sunday Morning Worship Service if one is needed.

i. To make sure an adequate amount of cleaning supplies are available at the church.

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE IV **Standing Committees**

A. Ushering Committee

1. The Deacons shall appoint a Head Usher and an assistant, who will in turn shall appoint their own ushers.

2. The duties of the ushers are as follows:

a. To function as ushers at all public services.

b. To serve in taking the offering.

c. To be responsible for keeping order in and about the church building.

B. Music Committee

1. The Deacons shall appoint at least two members to serve as the Music Committee.

2. The duties of the Music committee shall be as follows:

a. To arrange for special music at the regular services of the church.

b. To encourage those who have musical talent to take part in the church services.

c. To appoint pianists and organists for all services of the church.

d. To encourage and supervise the organization of a church Choir or choirs.

C. Nominating Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two Deacons, one church officer or one Sunday School Teacher, and two members at large who shall be elected by the church at the Quarterly Business Meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting.

2. It shall announce its slate of nominees to be voted upon the Annual Meeting not later than two weeks before the election.

D. Christian Education Committee

1. The Christian Education Committee shall be composed of all the

Sunday School officers and teachers.

2. It shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

   a. It shall work closely with the Pastor to accomplish the Educational goals of the church.

   b. It shall elect its own chairman and secretary at the first meeting. The secretary shall keep minutes of their meetings in a Permanent record. The committee shall submit regular reports to the church and a written report for the Annual meeting of the church.

   c. It shall supervise and coordinate the general teaching programs of the church in the Sunday School, any Vacation Bible School, any youth and children's programs, any church library, and any other special training programs.

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE V **Meetings**

A. Public Meetings

The regular public meetings of the church shall be Sunday School, Sunday Morning and Evening Worship Services, and a Mid-Week Prayer Service. The time of these public meetings shall be determined by the church at any regular or special business meeting. The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly.

B. Business Meetings

1. Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held as close to January 1st as conveniently possible. The fiscal year of the church shall be from January 1 to December 31. The Pastor and Deacons shall set the actual date of the Annual Meeting.

2. Regular Quarterly Business Meetings

Regular Quarterly Business Meetings of the church shall be held during the months of April, July, and October. The Pastor and

Deacons shall set the actual dates.

3. Special Business Meetings

Special Business Meetings of the church shall be called by the Pastor, by Deacons, or by petition by 25% of the active membership. The purpose and the time shall be stated in the announcement of said meeting and no other business shall be transacted in the meeting.

4. Notice of all business meetings shall be given by announcements at all public meetings of the church on two Sundays immediately prior to the scheduled meeting. If the purpose of the meeting includes the call of dismissal of a Pastor, amendments to the Church Constitution and Bi-Laws, or the purchase or disposal of church real estate, the notice shall be by mail to all active members in addition to the notice by announcement already described.

5. Receiving members or granting letters or dismissal may be transacted at any public or business meeting of the church.

C. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 25% of the eligible voting members as stated in By-Laws Article I, Section E, page 11, for regular and special business meetings. In matters of the call of a Pastor, purchase and disposal of the church real estate, and amendments to the Church Constitution and By-Laws, a three-quarter (3/4) majority ballot is required to carry the motion. Should a quorum be impossible to attain at three successively called meetings, the Deacons may call another meeting of the church with the understanding that those members in good standing present would constitute a quorum.

D. Voting Age

All members in good standing of the church age 15 or older may vote on all business matters provided that a voting age of 18 or older be required for the call or dismissal of a Pastor, purchase or disposal of church real estate, and amendments to the Church Constitution and By-Laws.

E. Rules of Order of Business

In the conduct of its business meetings, the church shall be guided By Roberts Rules of Order in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and By-Laws.

## BY-LAWS: ARTICLE VI **Organizations and Committees**

A. Organizations

1. Such organizations shall be formed as can best carry out the state purposes of the church.

2. An organization shall not be formed or considered a part of the church activities before its sponsors have submitted plans to the Deacons and received approval.

3. The various organizations are requested to confer with the Pastor from time to time regarding their plans and activities, and all matters of importance shall require approval by the Deacons.

4. Members of all standing committees and the officers of any church- sponsored organization must meet the requirements as stated in By-Laws Article I, Section E, page 11.

5. All funds and expenditures of funds donated for missions to the societies and organizations of the church shall be monitored by the Church Treasurer.

6. All organizations shall be required to submit regular reports to the church and a written report for the Annual Meeting of the church compiled by the Church Clerk.

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE VII **Acquisition and Disposal of Property**

A. Acquisition and disposal of real properties shall be approved by the church as shall all major improvements or changes in existing properties.

B. See By-Laws Article III, Section G, Item 9-m, page 17, for the responsibilities of the Deacons for acquiring and disposing of church property.

## BI-LAWS: ARTICLE VIII **Amendments**

Amendments to these By-Laws may be introduced at any regular Quarterly Business Meeting, but final action shall be deferred until the following regular Quarterly Business Meeting.

The proposed amendment shall be distributed to active members at least two weeks prior to the meeting in which action shall be taken and also be included in the notice of the meeting.

The meeting to act on the By-Law amendments shall meet the requirements as outlined by the By-Laws Article V, Section B, page 20.

No amendments may be adopted which would be contrary to the purpose of the church as stated in the Constitution Article II, page 2.

# THE ADVANTAGES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. It forms a practical and visible organization or body which reveals to the world, by its existence, character and unity, the relationship between Christ and the church.

2. It identifies us with other believers and allows us to be recognized by them as being one in Christ.

3. It provides opportunity for us to support the doctrinal position and practical Christian living standards taught by the church in our community.

4. Through it we receive care, guidance, discipline and instruction from other Christians which makes us a more effective tool in the hands of the Lord.

5. It enables the church to maintain a means of exclusion and inclusion in a day when the clearness of the Christian and non-Christian dividing line has given way to a fuzzy professing Christianity.

6. It provides a way for the church to collectively preserve the truth of the Word of God.

7. It gives each of us an opportunity to learn how to submit to one another and work together for God's glory.

# TRUTH TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

A. The Source of Truth - THE BIBLE
The Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments are the true Word of God in every part, written by holy men inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are the supreme and final authority in faith and practice.

B. The Object of Truth - THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST
The Lord Jesus is true God and true man conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered a crucifixion death and experienced a bodily resurrection and is personally and visibly going to return to earth.

C. The Relationship to Truth - MAN
Man is a sinner by nature and by choice and, because of this, must repent of his sin and receive by faith the salvation of the Lord. When man experiences this salvation, he becomes a child of God and is the possessor of eternal life. Those who reject are lost and abide under the wrath of God.

D. The Opposition to Truth: THE WORLD, THE FLESH, THE DEVIL
Satan is a personality that exercises control over the present evil world.

E. The Responsibility to Truth - THE GREAT COMMISSION
The Lord has called the church to make, identify and train disciples throughout the world.

F. The Symbolism's of Truth - THE CHURCH ORDINANCES
Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes. Water baptism is an ordained testimony, portraying the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

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