

**PROPOSED NEW BYLAWS OF
GOLD COUNTRY BAPTIST CHURCH
SHINGLE SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**

****REVISAL DRAFT PRESENTED TO CONGREGATION ON 07/27/08****

ARTICLE I – NAME:

The name of this church is Gold Country Baptist Church, hereinafter referred to as “this church.”

ARTICLE II - FORM OF THIS CHURCH:

This church shall be a perpetual non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of California for exclusively religious purposes as defined by Scripture.

ARTICLE III - LOCATION:

The office for the transaction of business of this church shall be located at 3800 North Shingle Road, Shingle Springs, California.

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE:

This church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. (Ephesians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

ARTICLE V – GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

This church shall seek to glorify God by:

- a. The Worship of God (Psalm 34:1-3; John 4:22-24; Revelation 4:8-11)
- b. Pursuing, emphasizing, and maintaining a high view of God and His Word. (Deut. 6:5; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- c. God-centered prayer (Psalm 115:1, 25:11, 75:9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-16; Jeremiah 14:7, 21; Daniel 9:18-19; Matthew 6:9-13)
- d. Preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God.(2 Timothy 4:1-2; Acts 20:27; Romans 10:17)
- e. Loving God and obeying His commands. (John 14:15; 1 John 5:2-3)
- f. Equipping the body of Christ to do the work of ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28)
- g. Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through personal evangelism by making disciples in our community and in all the nations. (Matthew 5:16; 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 1:8)
- h. Mutual edification of the body of Christ through discipleship, godly fellowship, ministering to the needs of others, and exhorting one another to live according to Biblical instruction and holy living. (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

ARTICLE VI - GOVERNMENT:

SECTION 1: Governing Authority:

The governing authority and head of this church is Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:15-18). As head of the church, Jesus Christ in His Word has given Elders to be the spiritual leaders of the local church (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:7-8, 17; I Thessalonians 5:12; 1 Timothy 5:17). All the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, who are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the flock (1 Peter 5:1-4).

SECTION 2: Board of Elders:

A. Responsibilities:

The Board of Elders, as spiritual leaders, shall have the following responsibilities:

1. The Elders shall devote their time to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4) by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine and godly character, and shepherding God's flock (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1:9).
2. The Elders shall have oversight of church ministries, staff, policies, practices and programs (I Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 20:17, 28; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:17; Acts 15; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-16). The Elders shall conduct, manage, and govern the activities and affairs of the church by the principles of God's Word. The Elders may also delegate responsibilities to Deacons or other qualified servants as necessary to fulfill their priorities (Acts 6:2-4).
3. Because unity and harmony must be modeled by the spiritual leadership, the Elders by prayerful consideration with humility, are to be unanimous in all decisions (1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27, 2:2-5; Ephesians 4:3-6; Romans 15:5-6).
4. The Elders may select a chairman.
5. The Elders shall consider all applications for church membership.
6. The Elders shall consider all matters of church discipline according to Scriptural guidelines as stated in Article VII, Section 2 D - church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Galatians 6:1).
7. The Elders shall select and remove all the officers, agents, pastors, staff, and employees of this church, prescribing duties and fixing the terms of their offices and their compensation. The congregation shall participate in the nominations and affirmation of candidates for the offices of Elders or Deacons, as specified by Article VI, Section D; and Article X, Section 1. Every officer, staff, or employee shall affirm their agreement with this church's Statement of Faith (see Article XVIII) and these bylaws and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
8. The Elders shall have fiduciary responsibility for the finances and all properties of this church and shall manage and disburse funds as required to fulfill the purposes of this church as consistent with the Scriptures, with law, and with these bylaws, as they deem best. The congregation's vote of affirmation shall be involved for acquisition or sale of real property, for incurring indebtedness, as specified by Article IX, Section 2.5.

9. The Elders may receive financial remuneration or support from the church (1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; Galatians 6:6) or they may decline compensation (1 Corinthians 9:14-18; cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8; Acts 20:33-34). Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from this church shall not be in a position to determine the nature or amount of their compensation.

B. Qualification:

Elders shall be godly men who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, and show evidence of the divine qualifications listed in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

C. Number:

There shall be a plurality of Elders (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5).

D. Nomination And Selection Of Elders:

1. Recommendations to fill the office of Elder may be submitted by the congregation to the Elders for consideration.
2. The Elders shall consider prospective nominees and evaluate their qualifications and character by Scripture (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), examining with much care and prayer to discern whom God has set apart for service (cf. 1 Timothy 3:10; Acts 1:24, 13:2-3, 14:23).
3. A list of candidates unanimously approved by the Elders shall be posted at least two weeks prior to a congregational meeting to allow adequate evaluation of the candidates so as not to appoint any man inappropriately or hastily (1 Timothy 5:22).
4. New candidates shall be presented to the congregation for affirmation of the decision of the Elders (cf. Acts 15:6, 22).
5. Newly affirmed Elders shall be appointed publicly to office.
6. Each Elder shall serve until the next annual meeting and must be reaffirmed each year (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Timothy 5:17).

E. Removal and Resignation of Elders:

Any Elder may resign at any time upon giving written notice to the Board of Elders. He may by unanimous agreement of the other Elders be removed from office at any meeting of the Board of Elders if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), after a thorough investigation by the Elders (at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Timothy 5:19 and Galatians 6:1-2. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

ARTICLE VII - MEMBERSHIP:

SECTION 1. Membership

As an Elder-led church, there shall be no ‘corporate members’ as defined by Section 5056 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law. All rights which would otherwise vest in the corporate members shall vest in the Board of Elders.

For the purpose of this document, the term ‘church members’ shall refer to such persons who have been accepted into the fellowship as defined in Article VI, Section 2, even though such persons are not corporate members. Those admitted to church membership do not constitute a legislative body, can not pass resolutions binding upon the Corporation, nor shall they have any equity in the real property of the Corporation, or rights to vote on its disposal. Said property of the Corporation is dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation.

SECTION 2. Church Membership

A. Qualifications:

To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized in obedience to Christ (Matthew 28:19-20) following his or her repentance (Acts 2:38), and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Each member must agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in our Statement of Faith (see Article XVIII) and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Church Covenant. The Elders shall be responsible for determining each person’s qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person’s profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the Elders deem appropriate.

B. The Privilege and Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the members of this church are centered in the person of Jesus Christ. We have been called together to unite in submission to Christ and His teachings and to express His life. Each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of this church, consistent with God’s leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God, and shall endeavor, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

1. To walk together in Christian love and to maintain the unity of the believers.
2. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.
3. To contribute cheerfully and willingly to the support of its ministry.
4. To not forsake the assembling together with other believers.
5. To submit to the leadership of this congregation and be subject to its discipline.
6. To exercise spiritual gifts in Christian service.

Only church members have the privilege to:

- a. Serve as officers, teachers, members of committees and/or other positions of responsibility within this church. (Elders may make temporary exceptions to the church membership requirement).
- b. Vote on church matters as submitted by the Board of Elders in accordance to Article IX / Section 2.

C. Membership Records:

This church shall maintain membership records containing the name and address of each member, date received into membership and date of termination of membership. Active absent status may be maintained for missionaries, students, those serving in the military and those in special situations as determined by the Elders.

D. Church Discipline:

1. The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6, 9-12), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and to restore the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
2. Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18. Before such dismissal, however:
 - a. it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration (Matthew 18:12-15; Galatians 6:1). If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then;
 - b. the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent (Matthew 18:16). The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then;
 - c. it shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders (Matthew 18:17a). If the Board of Elders determines—after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19—that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall inform the church and the congregation

thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then;

- d. he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service (Matthew 18:17b). If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.
3. At the discretion of the Elders, any situation involving false doctrine or divisive or egregious behavior of a member or attendee which may compromise the physical or spiritual safety and well-being of the congregation (Romans 16:17; Titus 1:10-11, 3:10-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-12), the Elders reserve the right to notify any persons not to be present on church premises and/or church functions until such a period of time that is deemed necessary by the Elders, and /or proceed directly to the third or fourth stage of church discipline as defined by the previous two paragraphs.
4. The members of this church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members who are under discipline by the church as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church.

Section 7 – Termination of Membership

Church membership shall be terminated when:

1. Any member unites with another church unless dual membership is approved by the Elders.
2. Any member is voluntarily absent from services or fellowship for one (1) year, unless active absent status has been granted per Article VII, Section 2.C.
3. Any member in good standing may voluntarily request withdrawal from the membership roll, unless undergoing church discipline.
4. A member dies.
5. Disciplinary action taken does not result in restoration.

ARTICLE VIII – ORDINANCES:

This church shall regularly observe the ordinances of Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ for believers (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS:

Section 1 – Worship:

Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the week as the Elders determine.

Section 2 – Members Meetings:

1. In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall entitle the member to vote at a meeting of the members on those matters that the Board of Elders chooses to submit to the church membership for affirmation. In such cases, voting privileges are restricted to members present who are in good standing, who are not under any disciplinary action, and who have passed their eighteenth (18) birthday.
3. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present. All votes shall be tallied based on the number of votes cast by members present.
4. An Elder designated by the Elders shall preside as moderator at all members' meetings of the church. The Elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.
5. A regular annual meeting of the church members shall be held at the church in the last quarter of each year. At the regular annual meeting, the members shall consider reports of the affairs of the church, and transact other business as the Elders determine. Business shall include a vote of affirmation for the appointments made by the Elders of those who shall serve for the following year as Elders, Deacons, and other officers as determined by the Elders. Acquisition or sale of real property or incurring of indebtedness relating to church properties shall also require a vote of affirmation at regular or special members' meetings.
6. Notification and pertinent information shall be made available at least two weeks prior to meetings.
7. At any regular or special members' meeting, officers may be elected, positions filled, or business conducted so long as all relevant constitutional requirements have been met.
8. Those affirmed shall immediately take office.
9. Special business meetings may be called as required by the Elders.

10. These Bylaws may be amended and new or additional Bylaws may be made at any time by unanimous approval by the Board of Elders. All changes shall be presented to the members for a vote of affirmation per Article IX, Section 2.5-2.7 (Acts 15:6, 22).

ARTICLE X - DEACONS:

The Deacons are recognized servants who shall aid the Elders so that the Elders may be devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13; Philippians 1:1). These officers shall aid in the physical and spiritual care of the church, and perform other duties under the direction of the Board of Elders. Deacons and Elders shall work together in a collaborative fashion to effectively meet the needs of the congregation.

Section 1 – Nomination and Selection of Deacons

1. Recommendations to fill the office of Deacon may be submitted by the congregation to the Elders for consideration (cf. Acts 6:3, 5-6).
2. The Elders shall consider prospective nominees and evaluate their qualifications and character by Scripture (1 Timothy 3), examining with much care and prayer to discern whom God has set apart for service (1 Timothy 3:10; cf. Acts 1:24, 13:2-3, 14:23).
3. A list of candidates unanimously approved by the Elders shall be posted at least two weeks prior to a congregational meeting to allow adequate evaluation of the candidates (1 Timothy 3:10) so as not to appoint any man inappropriately or hastily (1 Timothy 5:22).
4. New candidates shall be presented to the congregation for affirmation of the decision of the Elders (cf. Acts 15:6, 22).
5. Newly affirmed Deacons shall be appointed publicly to office.
6. Each Deacon shall serve until the next annual meeting and must be reaffirmed each year (1 Timothy 3:13, cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13).

Section 2 – Qualifications: They shall be godly men who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, and show evidence of the divine qualifications listed in Scripture (I Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13; cf. Acts 6:3). They must be church members and have demonstrated concern for the Lord's people and the Lord's work.

Section 3 – Removal and Resignation: Any Deacon may resign at any time upon giving written notice to the Board of Elders. He may be removed from office at any meeting of the Board of Elders if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13; cf. Acts 6:3), after a thorough investigation by the Elders (at the sole discretion of the Elders), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1-2.

Section 3 – Deacons Meetings: The Deacons may elect a chairman, and meet as needed in order to coordinate their service responsibilities. They shall maintain communication with the congregation and with the Board of Elders as to the needs of the church.

Section 4 - Number: There shall be a plurality of Deacons (cf. Acts 6:3; Philippians 1:1).

ARTICLE XI – CORPORATE OFFICERS:

SECTION 1. Officers

The corporation shall have a minimum of four directors, which may be changed at the discretion of the Board of Elders. The officers of the corporation shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Board of Elders may appoint other officers as the business of the Corporation may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as are provided in the Bylaws or as the Board of Elders may determine.

SECTION 2. Election

The officers of the Corporation shall be chosen annually by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the Board of Elders. Each officer shall be qualified (cf. 1 Timothy 3:8-13) and shall hold his office until he resigns, is removed or becomes otherwise disqualified to serve as determined by the Elders, or until his successor shall be qualified and appointed by the Elders. A vacancy in any office for any reason shall be filled as needed by the Board of Elders.

SECTION 3. Removal and Resignation

Any officer may be removed by the Board of Elders upon disqualification or inability to perform the duties of his office. Any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party, by giving written notice to the Board of Elders. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

SECTION 4. Inability to Act

In the case of absence or inability to act of any officer of the Corporation and of any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Board of Elders may from time to time delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or other person whom the Board may select.

SECTION 5. The Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the corporation which are to be conducted according to scriptural principles such

as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8. He shall be an ex officio member of all the standing corporate committees, if any, and shall have powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

SECTION 6. Vice-Chairman

In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall have other powers and perform other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

SECTION 7. Secretary

The Corporate Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principle office of the Corporation, a book of minutes of all meetings of church members, and any other meetings where recording of business transactions are appropriate. The book of minutes shall be made available to any member of the congregation upon request.

The Corporate Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all the congregational meetings and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, shall keep the seal of the Corporation in safe custody, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as prescribed by the Elders.

The Corporate Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principle office of the Corporation, a church membership register, or a duplicated membership register, showing the names of the members and their addresses.

SECTION 8. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall assist the Elders to ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation, “taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration... for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men” (2 Corinthians 8:20-21; cf. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with these Bylaws as well as the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law.

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder as provided in the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law. A summary of monthly income and expenses shall be made available to any member.

The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the

transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have other powers and perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders.

The financial records shall be available at all times for verification or review as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders. The person conducting such work shall prepare and sign a statement of its findings and present it to the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XII – BIBLICAL FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

This church shall follow the principles of Scripture in all areas of financial stewardship. The ministry of this church is the Lord's work, and shall be supported by the Lord's people who appropriate His resources through faith (Hebrews 11; Philippians 4:19) and prayer (Luke 11:9-10; James 4:3) and give to the ministry of this church. Full expression of the church's financial needs shall be made to the congregation. As God has established this work, we shall look to Him to maintain it. In our giving, "Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). The New Testament principles of stewardship (Luke 16:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 7) shall be used as the principles of our giving (2 Corinthians 8 & 9; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38).

ARTICLE XIII - CHURCH STAFF (SALARIED PERSONNEL):

Section 1. Staff Pastors:

The Pastors shall be Elders and shall perform the duties of an Elder described in Article VI, Section 2 and other duties as directed by the Board of Elders (1 Timothy 5:17-18). The Pastors shall arrange for and/or conduct all regular and special services of the church. In the absence of the Pastors, the Board of Elders shall be responsible to arrange for all regular and special services of the church.

Section 2. Pastor-Teacher:

The Pastor-Teacher shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the ministry of preaching and teaching. The primary responsibility of the pastor-teacher as undershepherd is to use his gifts and abilities to prepare God's people for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 4:1-2). He shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and auxiliary organizations of the church, and shall have general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.

Section 3. Selection and Call:

The Board of Elders shall select a candidate. Upon approval by the Board of Elders he shall be presented to the congregation for affirmation.

Section 4. Term of Service:

He shall remain in office for an indefinite term and shall not be subject to the annual re-affirmation requirement.

Section 5. Resignation:

When a pastor resigns, thirty days notice shall be given in writing to the Board of Elders, unless waived.

Section 6. Termination:

If the other Elders unanimously discern that the services of a pastor should be terminated (following the biblical principles in Article VI, Section 2.E), they shall give him thirty days written notice before dismissal.

ARTICLE XIV - ORDINATION, LICENSING, AND COMMISSIONING:

Section 1. Ordination

Ordination refers to the public appointing of a man to the ministry based on unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of his call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as he continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Section 2. Licensing

A license may be issued by the Board of Elders and given in recognition of a man's call to pastoral ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses may be granted for a specified period of time and may be reissued or revoked at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Commissioning

Where appropriate, a member may be commissioned by the Board of Elders for ministry. This authorization continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as he or she maintains the qualifications for ministry.

ARTICLE XV - DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

The Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with others both inside and outside the church, therefore the church shall require its members to resolve conflict according to biblically based principles (Romans 12:17-21, Matthew 5:23-25; Mark 11:25; Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). In any dispute arising among church members, pastors, or staff pertaining to any matter of the church's teaching, practices, finances or property, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders. After prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Philippians 2:3-11; Ephesians 4:1-3), a decision shall be reached by the Elders.

ARTICLE XVI - DISSOLUTION:

This Corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain to the members thereof, and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. Therefore, if this Corporation is dissolved, all assets shall be given to an organization of similar purpose which has a tax exempt status at such time.

ARTICLE XVII – STATEMENT OF FAITH:

THE SCRIPTURE

We believe the Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and has supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21, 3:15-16; Hebrews 4:12; Revelation 22:19; Jude 3).

THE GODHEAD

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that these are equal and infinitely perfect and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 90; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; John 4:24, 10:30).

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; that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 104; Mark 12:29-30; John 5:23,26).

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; that He lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the scriptures, was buried, and arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where, at the right hand of God the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate interceding for His people. We believe He could return at any moment to take believers to Heaven, and someday will come to earth to reign for 1000 years as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35; John 20:1-9, 14:1-6; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:18-23; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 2:21-23, 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and that during this age He convicts men of sin, regenerates and seals believers, indwells, guides, instructs, empowers and enables them to live Godly lives and to serve God faithfully. (John 16:7-11, 13-14; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 3:16, 6:11-20; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:18).

MAN

We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and under condemnation, and that only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained. (Genesis 1:26-28, 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-21, 8:1-11, 14).

SALVATION

We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and that only those who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. (John 3:16; Romans 3:21-24; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 5:13).

SATAN

We believe that Satan is a real supernatural being who rebelled against God, led man into sin, and is today resisting God's program on earth. Christ judged Satan on the cross, and now believers are to claim Christ's victory over him by resisting him in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ezekiel 28:12-19; John 8:44, 16:11; Ephesians 6:11-18; Revelation 12:9-11).

THE CHURCH

A. We believe that the true church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head, and is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22, 3:10, 5:23-20; Colossians 1:18).

B. We believe in the local, visible church of which only those who are a part of the true church are eligible for membership. Under the headship of Jesus Christ, the church is to decide and govern its own affairs so as to fulfill the Lord's great commission. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:9-17; Ephesians 4:7-16).

ORDINANCES

We believe the Scripture encourages two ordinances for the local church; Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian Baptism by immersion in the Name of the triune God is the acceptable way for the believer to show his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. In this way he gives illustrative testimony of death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as a memorial service setting forth in a sacred and symbolic manner the purpose of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered by believers until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, but are not necessary for salvation. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 41; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

MARRIAGE

We believe marriage is an institution established by God and defined by God's Word as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such "one flesh" union is to be a lifelong commitment (Genesis 2:18-24; Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:1-6; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-17; Ephesians 5:22-33). This church will uphold the honorable sanctity and blessedness of marriage in the Bible (Hebrews 13:4), and we believe any deviations or departures from God's design for marriage in Scripture (including but not limited to; adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, and any sexual relations before or outside of marriage as biblically defined above) are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and this church.

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God, conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, and for the well being of his fellow men. We believe that God has called the Christian to be holy, and therefore his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he is not to be conformed to the world; that he is to demonstrate good works, and abstain from acts and activities which could cause a fellow believer to stumble; that he should be a faithful steward of his gifts, talents, time and possessions; that he should seek for himself and others maturity in Christ. (John 14:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 3:1-2; James 1:21-27; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:1-2, 12, 3:15; 2 Peter 3:11-12, 18; 1 John 2:3-6).

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

We believe that every Christian is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith and conduct; that he is to be sensitive to the effect his life and actions have on other believers, but that he is not to be judged by others, or himself judge others in matters that are not clearly condemned in scripture; that his life is to be motivated by love for other members of the body of Christ as well as those who are outside of the family of God. (1 Corinthians 8:8-13, 13:4-7).

LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe there will be a final, eternal judgment of God on the unbeliever in Jesus Christ, and on Satan and his angels, and that there will be eternal blessedness for the believer. (Matthew 24:13, 31, 46; Revelation 1:7, 20:6, 11-15, 21:8, 22:3-50).

THE LORD'S DAY

We believe the Lord's Day is the day of Christ's Resurrection, the first day of the week, Sunday. We accept it as our day of assembling ourselves together in worship of our Risen Savior. (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

CHURCH LIBERTY

We believe that the local church is autonomous and independent, with full freedom of deliberation, decision and deportment under God, and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority, yet understanding that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15, 5:1-4).

ARTICLE XVIII: ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted on the 22nd day of October, 1980.

This Constitution was amended on the 15th day of October, 1995.

This Constitution was originally adopted on the 22nd day of October, 1980 and this revision was approved on the _____, 2008.