

# The Doctrine and Constitution of

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## Maranatha Baptist Church

10/12/2014



3400 Dewitt Avenue – Mattoon, Illinois 61938

## ARTICLE 1-PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

### SECTION 1.01-PREAMBLE

We formulate and establish this constitution to state the principles of our faith and to govern this body in an orderly manner as an independent Baptist church. This constitution will preserve the legal rights of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body with respect to relations to other churches.

### SECTION 1.02-NAME

The name of this organization shall be Maranatha Baptist Church of Mattoon, IL. This congregation is an Independent, Fundamental, Evangelistic, Pretribulation, and Premillennial Baptist Church.

### SECTION 1.03-MISSION STATEMENT-OBJECTIVES

1. To be a spiritual organization empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ wherever opportunity presents itself, in our church, community and throughout the world.  
(Matt.28:19-20)
2. To religiously educate our members and others in Christian doctrine.
3. To fellowship with other believers of like faith and practice praise.
4. To worship our Creator and Redeemer.
5. To be Christ-like in character by a total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### SECTION 1.04-PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986( or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in the manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scriptures in Sunday School; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

## SECTION 1.05-ASSOCIATIONS

- A. This church shall be an independent fundamental, pre-millennial, autonomous church, subject only to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. It has the right to co-operate and associate with other Biblical groups on a volunteer basis.
- B. This organization is organized exclusively for charitable purpose within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry out any other activities not permitted to be carried on by any organization exempt from Federal income tax as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code.

## SECTION 1.06-DISSOLVING THE CORPORATION/ORGANIZATION

This corporation/organization can be dissolved by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting, following the notification by written letter and public announcement at three Sunday services preceding the business meeting to dissolve the corporation/organization. The assets must be given to some non-profit organization. Upon the dissolution and winding up of this organization the use of the existing assets shall be decided by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called church business meeting.

## ARTICLE 2-COVENANT AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

### SECTION 2.01-COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body of 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 and holiness; to produce its growth and spirituality; to sustain worship, ordinance, discipline and doctrine; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and 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 further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, and to secure reconciliation without delay.

Moreover, we 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.

## SECTION 2.02-STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprises the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members:

- A. The Holy Scriptures. We believe that the King James Version of The Holy Bible is the preserved Word of God (written by men) divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of Heavenly instruction. The King James Version of The Holy Bible shall be only version used at Maranatha Baptist Church for preaching and teaching. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (II Tim 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21. Proverbs 30:5-6).
- B. THE GODHEAD. We believe in one Triune God, eternally, existing in three persons-Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit- each co-eternal in being, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:10,26)
- C. THE PERSON and WORK of CHRIST.
  1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, and was born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8)
  2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His shed blood and death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.(Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5)
  3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministries of Representatives, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:24; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2)

D. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person Who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 1:17-18, 5:18; I John 2:20, 27)
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, through God frequently chooses to answer prayers of the believers for physical healing. (Acts 28:28; I Corinthians 1:22, 13:8, 14:21-22)

E. The Fallen Nature of Man. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that all men are sinners by birth and by choice, and of themselves, utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 4:17-19)

F. Salvation. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins and that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process. (Matthew 12:31-32; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; I Peter 1:18-19; I John 1:9)

#### G. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

1. 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, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

#### H. The Church.

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

I. Separation. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner that does not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. (Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 6:14-17; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11)

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

#### K. The Eternal State.

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men- the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12, 13)

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when the spirit, soul, and the body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6)

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, with the soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Revelation 20:11-15)

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

M. Creation. We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24- hour periods. We reject evolution and any so called science that is contradictory to scripture. (Genesis 1, 2; Exodus 20:11; I Timothy 6:20)

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

## O. Family Relationships.

1. We believe that men and women are equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. According, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15, 3:4-5, 12; I Corinthians 14:34)

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the leadership of Christ. Children are a heritage of the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; I Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Colossians 3:1-21; Hebrews 13:4; I Peter 3:1-7)

P. Marriage. We believe marriage is between one man and one woman. We shall not support or agree with anything otherwise. Sexual relationship is for, and only for, one man and one woman who are married. God created male and female, therefore any transgender, homosexual, bisexual, bestiality, fornications, adulteries, or the like act and/or relationships shall not be recognized by the church as legitimate and /or Biblical relationships. Any of these are sinful perversions of God's intent. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate physical activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography is a sinful perversion of God's original intent for a physical relationship between a husband and a wife. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:21-25, 19:5, 13, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:17-32; Ephesians 5:21, 6:1-4; I Corinthians 5:6-9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

Q. Divorce and Remarriage. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and remarried, except in the case of physical and spiritual fornication. He intends for marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. One who is divorced and remarried, except for Biblical reasons, is not qualified to be Pastor or Deacon in this church. (Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6; I Corinthians 7)

R. Abortion. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject that abortion of pregnancy due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth control or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother is acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

S. Embryonic Stem Cell Research. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Therefore, we hold the procedure of Embryonic Stem Cell Research unbiblical and we do not support this procedure because we believe life begins at conception or "fertilization". (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

T. Euthanasia. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that the act or omission which, of its or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportioned to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Exodus 20:13, 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28)

U. Love. We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers, those who oppose us and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-10, 17:21, 13:8-10; Philippians 2:2-4, II Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; I John 3:17-18)

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

W. Giving. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe as a member of this church we are to give sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the gospel. Gifts may be specially designated only as a suggestion. The church is not bound by obligation to use the gift as it has been designated.

## SECTION 2.03- AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

## ARTICLE 3 – CHURCH PROPERTY

### SECTION 3.01-THE USE OF ALL CHURCH PROPERTY

The use of the buildings and the property belonging to the church may be used for other activities besides what is stated under Article 9, monthly activities, and monthly dinners by the permission of the Pastor and/or a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting. The desired use shall comply with the standards and beliefs given in the church constitution.

### SECTION 3.02 SELLING OF PROPERTY

For any property and/or assets to be sold and/or dissolved no one shall have the authority to do so until there has been a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church at a duly called business meeting.

## ARTICLE 4 – MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 4.01 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any person may offer himself/herself as a candidate for membership in this church. Only members eighteen years of age or older shall have the rights to vote, hold office, or take part in the business concerns of this church. Upon request, one may be qualified to be voted upon to become a member of this church by a 2/3 majority vote of the members at any regular business meeting or at any regular church service by voice vote of the members of this church present, if obtaining the following:

- A. By profession of faith and baptism according to the policies of this church or;
- B. By statement of prior conversation experience and baptism in a Baptist church or;
- C. By restoration, if having been removed from membership, by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting, after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor and the church members.
- D. Dual membership will be on a case by case basis. It will be determined by a 2/3 majority vote.

#### SECTION 4.02 – RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

All members have the following rights:

- A. All members of this church, eighteen years of age or older, are entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church during its meetings, provided the member is present. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.
- B. Every member of this church, eighteen years of age and older, is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices, if he/she meet the Biblical requirements for that office.
- C. This congregation, functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under-shepherd. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The Pastor shall oversee all aspects of this church.
- D. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor has the authority to suspend or revoke the rights of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property if authority is granted by 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the direction of the pastor, be treated as a trespasser.
- E. A member may inspect or copy the minutes of the proceedings of the church meetings and of board meetings, provided upon request, up to and including the previous 5 months.
  - 1. A member may NOT, under any circumstances, copy any record related to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

- F. It is vital to the testimony of this church and the glory of the Lord that the purity of the church be preserved and its peace protected. It is recognized that while the minority has the right of private opinion in all questions and the right of appeal in any constitutional and proper manner, it shall not have the right to engage in secret or open propaganda, or of deliberately disturbing the peace and interrupting the work of the church. It is further recognized that when the church, by regular order and proper vote, has determined upon a course of action, that course becomes the duty of every member of the church. If any member cannot conscientiously follow the decision of the church, he is to quietly and peacefully withdraw from membership.
- G. Every member of this church may participate in the ordinance of this church as administered by this church.
- H. Only members shall be entitled to vote or hold office.

#### SECTION 4.03-TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be immediately terminated in the following ways:

- A. By death of the member.
- B. By granting of a letter to another Baptist church.
- C. By expulsion for disorderly walk.
- D. Unfaithful attendance of being absent for 6 consecutive months (180 days) from the services under Section 9.01 without reasonable cause, of which reasonable causes would be: Hospitalization or sickness.
- E. The membership of any individual member shall be terminated if the member states that he/she is actively involved in any behavior contrary to Section 2.02.
- F. By resignation.

#### SECTION 4.04-CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- A. Should a problem arise between a member/attendee and the church or another individual attending the church which would affect the general welfare of the church, the individual will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20.

- B. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he/she is to go to alone to the offended/offending party and seek to restore his/her brother/sister. Before he/she goes, he/she should first examine himself/herself and see if he/she has done anything wrong. When he/she goes, he/she should go with a spirit of humility and have a goal of restoration.
- C. If reconciliation is not reached, a second and/or third member is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- D. If the matter is still unresolved it is to be brought before the church in a duly called business meeting.
- E. If the matter is still unresolved after steps C and D under Section 4.04 are taken, the one refusing restoration shall have his/her membership brought before the church in a business meeting and have that individual's membership terminated.
- F. Steps C, D and E are the steps considered in Matthew 18:15-20.
- G. All such proceeding shall be done in a spirit of patience and kindness.
- H. The church may restore membership to any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person, and by 2/3 vote of the members of this church at a duly called business meeting, based upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

## ARTICLE 5-CHURCH FINANCE

### SECTION 5.01-SUPPORT

This church shall be supported mainly by tithes and offerings.

### SECTION 5.02-BUDGET

This church should operate on a budget prepared by the treasurer, which shall be reviewed by the Pastor, then approved by vote of the church. It should be understood that the budget shall only serve as a guide. It may become necessary to insert or delete some items in the budget depending on the circumstances, and any changes will be viewed by the Pastor and voted on by the church membership.

### SECTION 5.03-TITHES AND OFFERINGS

It is understood that membership in this church involves finance in order to support its work. Each member should feel an obligation to support the church and its work through the giving of tithes and offerings. Offering envelopes shall be provided by the church and members are welcome to use them. The funds are to be recorded on the books of the church and each individual using the envelopes for their giving shall be given a record of their giving at the end of the year for tax deduction purposes upon request.

## ARTICLE 6- LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

### SECTION 6.01- CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are Pastor and Deacon. Others who serve in positions of leadership are only placed there temporarily, based on the vote of the congregation. This is to carry out the duties given and they are in no way given authority other than to fulfill those duties.

### SECTION 6.02- DESIGNATION OF LEADERS (CORPORATE OFFICERS)

Other church leaders will be Church Secretary/Treasurer. One person may hold two or more positions of leadership. As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the President of the Corporation and the 3 Directors/Trustees of the Corporation shall be voted upon by a 2/3 majority of the members of this church present at the Annual Business Meeting in October.

### SECTION 6.03- ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE/LEADERSHIP

A. The church shall not install or retain a person who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. All church leaders shall be members of the church.

B. All officers shall be spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual and material welfare of the church. They shall also be faithful in attendance and participation, both in regular services and business meetings of the church. Their moral conduct shall be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences, such as the use of tobacco in all forms, the use of intoxicating beverages, narcotic drugs, and other worldly practices. In light of 1 Timothy 3, the home and family relationship must be considered, as well as individual qualifications.

#### SECTION 6.04-TERMS OF SERVICE FOR LEADERSHIP

- A. The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except for the Pastor and Assistant Pastor, shall be one year. At the expiration of which the officers may be re-elected or re-appointed.
- B. A vacancy occurring in any office or position, except in the case of the Pastor may be filled at any regular church business meeting.
- C. All elected and appointed officers/leaders shall serve in their respective positions until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- D. Anyone in a leadership position may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present in a duly called business meeting.

#### SECTION 6.05- ELECTION OF OFFICERS/LEADERSHIP

The annual election of officers/leaders by the church membership shall occur during the month of October at the annual church business meeting and the elections shall be finalized by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church at the annual business meeting in October.

#### SECTION 6.06- PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

- A. Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor may call associates and assistants to assist him in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- B. All church staff whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the oversight of the Pastor and can be dismissed by 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present in a duly called business meeting. No employee or volunteer shall be called, appointed, or retained who fail to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

## Article 7- Policy And Relationship

### SECTION 7.01- POLICY

The government of the church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable to the church. This church is not subject to any control of any other ecclesiastical body.

### SECTION 7.02- THE PASTOR

- A. The Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The Pastor will lead the congregation, the officers, and the auxiliaries in the performance of their tasks.
- B. The Pastor and his relationship to the church.
  - 1. The Pastor is scripturally to be the under-shepherd of the flock. His primary task is to feed the flock and provide spiritual, social, moral, psychological, and personal nourishment for its growth. He is also to guide the congregation according to the Holy Bible in the paths of the righteousness and to take charge of the welfare of the church membership and their families.
  - 2. He shall serve as the official representative of the church; preside at all worship services and church meetings, be ex-officio member of all the organizations and committees listed as the president of the organization. He shall have access to and/or copies of all non-personal records, minutes, financial reports, church roll histories, legal instruments, and documents relative to the church.
  - 3. He shall administer the ordinances of the church. He shall finalize all invitations for speakers, preachers, musicians, teachers, and for any persons participating in any part of the ministry of this church after presenting it to the church. He shall perform the various tasks and other duties incumbent to this office as the need shall arise.
  - 4. The Pastor may not be a woman according to the directives of the scriptures. 1 Tim 2:11-14; 1 Cor. 14:34-36.

- C. The Pastor shall be supported by the church with a salary comparable to his training, ability, and experience. It shall be sufficient for his personal and family needs, according to the ability of the church. Starting salary shall be agreed upon by the Pastor and the church.
- D. A home at 2600 Shelby Avenue, Mattoon, IL. 61938 will be provided to our Pastor and his family as the church's parsonage.
- E. In the event that our Pastor becomes incapable of fulfilling his pastoral duties for a period of three consecutive months, the church may revoke him and his family's rights and privileges to reside at the church parsonage. They will be given 3 weeks (21 days) to vacate the church's parsonage in this situation. A severance package will be voted on by the church on a case by case basis should the circumstances arise.
- F. Duties of the Pastor:
  - 1. The Pastor shall preach the Gospel and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall, upon the vote of his call, become a member of this church. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
  - 2. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belongings to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be dealt with under Article 3.
- G. Call of the Pastor:
  - 1. A Pastor shall be called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a meeting called for this purpose with at least 2 week's notice given. 1 Tim 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 shall serve as a guide in calling a Pastor.
  - 2. When the church pulpit becomes vacant, a chairman shall be elected to lead the church in the care of its business during this period and to oversee all of the activities in calling a new Pastor. This special authority of leadership will exist only through the election of the new Pastor and shall be terminated thereafter.

3. The time and date as well as the purpose of the meeting to call a Pastor shall be clearly stated. The chairman shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. The recommendation shall constitute a nomination. The election shall be by written secret ballot. An affirmative vote of those present shall be necessary to authorize investigations of the candidate to be given consideration for the position of Pastor. No one member shall act as an individual, without the instruction of the church.

4. The vote shall be accepted by 2/3 majority vote of members of the church present at a duly called business meeting.

5. The chairman is to secure and supply ministers for each Sunday Worship Service and as needed. The chairman will seek out letters and resumes in order to submit information to the church on candidates. The chairman shall be authorized to make necessary investigations of the candidates to be given consideration for the position of Pastor. No one shall act as an individual, without the instruction of the church. The chairman may delegate these responsibilities as needed to a member in the church.

#### H. Tenure of Service

The Pastor shall serve this office until such time as any of the following occur:

1. God calls him to another place of service.
2. He resigns or retires.
3. His death.
4. His consistent unscriptural, incompetent, and/or unethical leadership is detrimental to the church.
  - a. He shall be voted out of office by 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting. The termination of his position shall be immediate.
  - b. Condition of compensation for the Pastor shall be decided by the church.
5. The Pastor and his family upon resignation or removal, not including conditions under Section 7.02(E), shall be given 3 weeks (21 days) time to leave the parsonage, unless the church membership decides on a longer period.

### SECTION 7.03-DEACONS

- A. The number of active deacons which shall serve this church shall be determined by the needs of the congregation and at the request of the Pastor. The office of deacon is one of service, not position. Only men qualified according to Scripture shall be elected to this service.
- B. The church has no obligation to recognize as an assigned deacon, one who has been a deacon in another church. A deacon is only a deacon at the church where he has been appointed.
- C. It is the Pastor's responsibility through his teaching ministry to make the congregation aware of the qualifications of a deacon.
- D. Election of a candidate for the office of deacon shall be made by 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting. He then becomes the Pastor's helper in carrying out the ministry of the church. Deacons are to be servants in the church. They have a threefold responsibility in caring for the church's people, the church's property, and the church's Pastor. Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 shall serve as guides in the election of deacons and the deacon's qualifications. There shall be no election of deaconesses.
- E. Duties as Deacons:
  - 1. Serve as spiritual assistants to the Pastor in the work of the church.
  - 2. Assist the Pastor in the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
  - 3. Work with the Assistant Pastor in the absence of the Pastor.
  - 4. See that the benevolence is being distributed properly.
  - 5. Serve as trustees of the non-profit organization.

### SECTION 7.04-TRUSTEES

The trustees will hold in trust the church property. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signature to legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchases, or rental of property or other legal documents where the signatures of the trustees are required. When there is a need for repairs, renovations, purchase or sale of any church property, the trustees shall be the legally constituted body to transact such business upon authorization of the church, which shall, at all times, be the members. All voting done shall be passed only by 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting.

#### SECTION 7.05- CHURCH SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Church Secretary/Treasurer shall work under the supervision of the Pastor. This person is responsible for keeping a suitable record of all official action of the church and all official financial transactions of the church as follows:

1. Preserving on file all communications and written reports.
2. Keeping accurate record of all business meetings.
3. Performing other duties as assigned.
4. Oversight for all funds intended for church support, missions, and MBC ministries.
5. Responsible for ensuring an accurate accounting of all receipts and disbursements.
6. Preparation of monthly and annual reports for the membership during business meetings.

#### SECTION 7.06-ASSISTANT PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the Pastor, the Assistant Pastor of the church shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church. The Assistant Pastor shall be accepted and approved by 2/3 majority vote by the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting.

#### SECTION 7.07- OFFICERS, TEACHERS, AND POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

1. Be faithful in all public services.
2. Be loyal to the church approved programs.
3. Live separated lives from all worldliness.

### ARTICLE 8- ORDINANCES

The church shall observe only 2 ordinances.

#### SECTION 8.01- BAPTISM

A person who receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by personal faith, who professes this publicly before the church or the Pastor recites their given testimony before the church, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as a disciple, shall be received for Baptism. Baptism shall be an act of worship during any worship service. Baptism is a symbolic act, symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and therefore shall be performed by total immersion in water.

SECTION 8.02- THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper shall be observed as the Pastor is led by the Lord to administer. The Pastor and designees shall administer the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act whereby the church commemorates the suffering and death of Christ, as well as the anticipation of His second coming. 1 Cor 11:20-34.

ARTICLE 9- MEETINGS

SECTION 9.01- WORSHIP SERVICES

The church shall meet for worship each Sunday and Wednesday:

Sunday School	9:30am
Morning Worship	10:30am
Sunday Evening	6:00pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00pm

The Pastor shall direct the service for the entire church membership and for all others who may choose to attend.

SECTION 9.02- SPECIAL SERVICES

Revivals, workshops, and other services of inspiration and information may be planned for the advancement of the church's objectives by the approval of the Pastor.

SECTION 9.03- FISCAL YEAR AND RUNNING OF THE CHURCH

The fiscal year and running of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31<sup>th</sup>.

SECTION 9.04- MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

#### SECTION 9.05- MEETING FOR CHURCH BUSINESS

- A. The church shall hold an annual business meeting on the second Sunday evening in October of each calendar year for the election of officers of the church/incorporation and any other business pertaining to the New Year.
- B. The church shall hold special meetings as necessary. The agenda for special meeting shall be read at the time the notice of the meeting is given and only that business transacted. Notice of all business meetings of the church shall be given at least one week (7 days) in advance of the meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer or designee shall reside at all meetings of the congregation. The Pastor/Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the congregation. In the absence of the Pastor, a designated moderator will be elected by the church. Voting on any questions or in any election will be by voice vote unless the presiding officer shall order or any member of the church shall request that the vote be taken by secret ballot.
- C. The quorum shall consist of those members who attend the business meetings, provided the meeting is a scheduled meeting or one that has been properly called.
- D. Our minutes shall serve as documentation of the decisions made at our business meetings and our guidelines that we follow when carrying out daily activities and business of the concerning what has been discussed and voted upon in a church business meeting.

#### ARTICLE 10- COMMITTEES

All committees shall be designated and voted upon by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting. All committees and their authority shall be completely dissolved after 180 days after their election. If their purpose has not been accomplished by the six months (180 days) they shall be re-elected by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting.

## ARTICLE 11- ORDINATION

### SECTION 11.01- ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

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

### SECTION 11.02- ORDINATION PROCEDURE

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

## ARTICLE 12- INSURANCE PROCEDURE

- A. The two person rule shall be implemented to any work done with children in any ministry which takes place after hours or off-site. No one shall perform a designated ministry of the church after hours or off-site unless there are two workers present. All workers must be members of this church.
- B. A period of 6 months (180 days) of attendance to this church shall be followed before a volunteer can work with the children. The volunteer must be a member of this church and in good standing with this church complying with the church constitution. A screening interview of this church's policy must be performed by the Pastor and the screening interview document must be signed by the applicant.
- C. A volunteer may be considered by the Pastor as eligible to work with children in Vacation Bible School if the individual has attended the church less than 6 months (180 days). All other criteria under Article 12 must be followed by the volunteer to work in Vacation Bible School.
- D. Children are considered those who are newborn to 18 years of age.
- E. An exception to the 6 month rule may be considered based on recommendation from previous ministries.

## ARTICLE 13- MISSIONARIES

- A. For this church to take a missionary on for support the missionary or the missionary's information must be brought before the church and the missionary must comply with SECTION 2.02 (V. Missions).
- B. The missionary will be supported for the agreed amount of funds and agreed timeline by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting.
- C. The missionary will no longer be supported by this church if they no longer comply with this constitution upon a 2/3 majority vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting.

## ARTICLE 14- AMENDMENTS

This constitution and bylaws may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a 2/3 vote of the members of this church present at a duly called business meeting voting on the amendment. Copies of the proposed amendment will have been made available to the congregations, and its contents read at a regular Sunday service at least one week (7 days) before the vote is taken.