

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SEYMOUR BAPTIST TABERNACLE SEYMOUR, TENNESSEE

ARTICLE I

The Name of this Church organization shall be called **THE SEYMOUR BAPTIST TABERNACLE**

ARTICLE II

Section 1. The authority of this Church shall be the Word of God and the following declaration of faith expresses the doctrinal position held by the church.

Division A. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture or error for it's matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God. The King James Version originally published in 1611, translated from the original Hebrew and Greek texts.

By "Inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by Holy Men of Old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired. References: II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Psa. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:2-3; Rev. 22:19; John 5:45-47; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa. 19:7-11; John 12:48; and John 5:39.

Division B. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. References: Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; and II Cor 13:14.

Division C. **OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature, that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One Until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgement and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. References: John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thes. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thes. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; and Rom. 8:26-27.

Division D. **OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN:** We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's greatest tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the

present apostasy the Lord of the anti-christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness--destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the Judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels. References: Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thes. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; Zech. 1:3; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:25; Matt. 37:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thes. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16, 20; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; and Matt. 25:41.

- Division E. **OF THE CREATION:** We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their own kind". References: Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; and Gen. 1:24.
- Division F. **OF THE FALL OF MAN:** We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. References: Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; and Gal. 3:22.
- Division G. **OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH:** We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. References: Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psa. 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; and I Cor. 15:47.
- Division H. **OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN:** We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and all sufficient Savior. References: Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; and I John 2:2.
- Division I. **OF THE GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION:** We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process, that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that it's proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. References: John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; Acts 16:30-33; II Pet. 1-4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:11; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8; John 1:13; Gal. 5:22; and Eph. 5:9.

- Division J. **OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION:** We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. References I Thes. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; and John 3:18, 3: 36.
- Division K. **OF JUSTIFICATION:** We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us. References: Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1; Tit. 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Heb. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; and Heb. 10:38.
- Division L. **OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH:** We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing of him as our only and all-sufficient Savior. References: Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 13:13; Rom. 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.
- Division M. **OF THE CHURCH:** We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that it's officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of it's co-operation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. References: Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8:11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-12; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; and I Cor. 5:11-13.
- Division N. **OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER:** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with it's effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination. References: Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2: 41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; and I Cor. 11:23-28.

- Division O. **OF THE PRESERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS:** We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. References: John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:23; Matt. 6:30; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28; John 10:29; John 16:8; Rom. 8:35-39.
- Division P. **OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED:** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; and that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffer of the lost. References: Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:7-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet 4:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 103:4-35; I John 2:39; I John 3:7; Rom 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34; Matt. 25:41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; and Matt. 7:13-14.
- Division Q. **OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT:** We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. References: Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 23:10; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 10:6; Phil. 2:10-11; and Psa. 72:11.
- Division R. **OF THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS:** We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ arose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God"; "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven"--bodily, personally and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; that "the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet." References: Matt. 23:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2, 4-6; Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:16; Matt. 24:27; Matt. 25:13; Jas. 5:8; Matt. 24:42 Heb. 9:28; I thes. 4:16; I Cor. 15:42-44; I Cor. 15:52; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thes. 4:17; Phil. 3:20-21; Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6-7; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1 Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; and Rev. 20:6.
- Division S. **OF MISSIONS:** The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches. Matt. 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Mark 16:15, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." John 20:21, "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." Acts 1:8, "But; ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Rom. 10:13,14,15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a

preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.”

Division T. **OF THE GRACE OF GIVING:** Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith. II Cor. 8:7; “therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.” We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasure of the church) upon the first day of the week. I Cor. 16:2, “Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come.” Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithes--Abraham GAVE a tenth part of all “--” Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils” -- Hebrews 7:2,4 -- and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, “these ye ought to have done”--Matt.23:23. We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church. Lev. 27:30, “The tithe is the Lord’s.” Mal. 3:10; “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith,, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church. Acts 4:34, 35,37, “And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles’ feet....Having land, sold it and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles; feet.”

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

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

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our department to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid one another in 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 rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God’s Word.

Section 2. This organization shall be, until the Lord returns, an independent-fundamental-evangelistic Baptist Church.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. Anyone professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, giving evidence of a change of heart, and declaring himself (or herself) in accord with the principles, practices and doctrine of this church may become a candidate for church membership.

Section 2. Candidates may become members of the church in any one of four ways, subject to Section 3.

Paragraph A. Any person may be received by baptism on professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paragraph B. Any person may be received by letter recommendation of sister Baptist churches.

Paragraph C. Any person may be received by statement of Christian experience, provided they have been baptized according to the doctrines of this church.

Paragraph D. Any person may be received by restoration.

Section 3. After a person has presented himself to the church for membership and the church has accepted him as a candidate for membership, the Membership Committee shall approve the right or qualification of the person to become a member of this church and their action becomes the recorded action of the church. It shall be the duty of this committee to properly inform incoming members of the statement of faith and constitution of this church.

Paragraph A. The membership committee affirms the action of the church on all candidates for church membership before this date and hereafter (April 7, 1991).

If there should arise in the future an objection on someone or someones becoming a member, the membership committee must take action within ten days or no action can be taken.

Section 4. Membership may be dissolved by death, letter of dismissal to a church of like faith and practice, by dropping from the church roll, by exclusion because of refusal to walk with the church, by ones own request and action.

Paragraph A. Letter of dismissal may be granted any member in good and regular standing. Such letters must be addressed to some particular church of like faith. Such letter shall be valid only for six months from date of active standing in this church, unless located where there is no church with which he can unite and shall have kept the church informed as to his spiritual condition.

Paragraph B. Members not in good and regular standing or those desiring to unite with a church not of our faith and order, cannot receive a letter from this church.

Section 5. All whose names appear upon the church roll are considered members. Any resident of the church who neglects to attend the services of the church for six months shall be considered inactive members. Inactive members have no right of franchise (not eligible to vote) and may not be granted a letter in good and regular standing.

Paragraph A. Inactive members shall be urged by the Membership Committee to return to duty. If they fail to do so, their name shall be removed from the church membership. The action of the Membership Committee on this matter becomes the recorded action of the church.

Paragraph B. Once a member becomes an inactive member it takes the approval of the Membership Committee to be reinstated to active status.

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. The Government of this church shall be vested in the membership.

Section 2. The Pastor of the church shall moderate all business meetings of the church. He may appoint another to take his place in his absence.

Paragraph A. When the pulpit has been vacated by death, resignation or dismissal, the Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons shall preside.

Section 3. Roberts Rules of Order shall prevail as the authority in parliamentary procedure.

Section 4. The annual business meeting for the election of church officers and giving of reports shall be held the last Wednesday in the month of January. The newly elected officers shall begin their term of office February first.

Section 5. The church may, by vote, set time for regular business meetings or called business meetings may be held at any regular service upon the call of the Pastor.

Section 6. Special business meetings may be called at any time and public announcement thereof made at written request of one-fourth of the active membership sixteen years of age and over. Such a call shall state reasons for the meeting and after proper written notice of such a call, the meeting shall be announced two weeks at all services proceeding the date.

Section 7. A business meeting for the purpose of buying, selling, disposing, or mortgaging church property or for the dismissal of the Pastor cannot be held until announcement date and purpose of meetings has been made for two weeks at all services proceeding the date of meeting.

Section 8. When the moderator has called any business and/or special business meeting to order, any member may request a quorum of the church membership present. If a quorum is lacking, the meeting will be postponed until the next regular service. When a meeting has been postponed for lack of a quorum it cannot be postponed or challenged the second time.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The officers of this church shall be a Pastor, Trustee-Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

Section 2. The Pastor must receive a two-thirds majority vote of the active membership present sixteen years of age and over and his call shall be for an indefinite period of time.

Paragraph A. By majority vote of the Discipline Committee the Pastor may be put up for dismissal. A two-thirds vote of the active membership sixteen years of age and over shall be necessary for the dismissal of the Pastor (vote held in accordance with Article IV, Section 7).

Paragraph B. A vote of dismissal of the Pastor cannot be held more than once in any twelve month period.

Section 3. The Trustee-Deacons, Clerk, Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year and may be re-elected so long as they live Godly and take care of their office satisfactorily to the church.

Paragraph A. No officer mentioned in Section 3 may hold the same office more than two years; however, he may be elected to a different office. After Serving one office two years he must rest from that office at least one year before he is eligible again (Unless otherwise approved by the Pastor).

- Section 4. **PAID EMPLOYEES.** Once the church has voted to create a paid position other than that of the Pastor, the Pastor will have sole responsibility as to the hiring and dismissing of personnel in that position. The only exception to this responsibility will be the amount of salary paid. This will be decided by the Finance Committee (subject to the approval of the church), at the time the position is created. The position may be done away with at any time by a direct vote of the church in a regular business meeting.
- Section 5. Any officers other than Pastor may be suspended by the majority vote of the Discipline Committee and office declared vacant by the majority of the church at any regular business meeting. In no other way may their office be suspended, dismissed or vacated by church action.

ARTICLE VI (DUTIES OF OFFICERS)

- Section 1. Pastor shall have charge of the building up of the church numerically, financially and spiritually. He shall be an ex-officio member of groups, committees and boards. He only shall have the authority to call the Trustee-Deacons and committees for business sessions (with the exception of the Discipline Committee).
- Section 2. Trustee-Deacons are presented by the church to cooperate with and assist the Pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church. It is their duty to visit the sick, and prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's supper. Any other qualifications for a Deacon are set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13. The Trustee-Deacons shall have the care of the church property but shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any such property without the specific vote of the church authorizing such action. They shall be responsible for the upkeep of the church property and the work of the janitor. They must have minutes of all their meetings.
- Section 3. Church Clerk shall keep the minutes of all business meetings of the church. He shall keep accurate register of the membership. He shall perform such other duties as may be reasonably required of the office.
- Section 4. Treasurer shall receive all the money of the church. He shall keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements under the direction of the Financial Committee. Designated funds shall be kept in special bank accounts.
- Section 5. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all gifts, tithes, offerings given individually to the church when requested in some way by the individual. The church grants the Financial Secretary permission to keep this record away from the church property, but this record may be requested at any time by the Finance Committee.
- Section 6. All officers shall be members in good standing of this church.
- Section 7. Any other officers as is necessary and needful shall be elected by the church.
- Section 8. Whenever any office has been made vacant by declaration or otherwise, such office may be filled at any regular business meeting.
- Section 9. All church records shall be kept in the church office unless permission has been given by the church otherwise.

ARTICLE VII

- Section 1. The Membership Committee is made up of the Pastor and Trustee-Deacons their duties being specified in Article III.

- Section 2. The Finance Committee which is composed of the Pastor, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons, shall handle financial problems for the church. They shall meet when necessary to approve disbursements. No disbursements can be made without approval of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee may grant permission to disburse weekly salaries, monthly loan payments and utilities, but all others must be passed on singularly by the Finance Committee. All Disbursements shall be signed by the Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Pastor.
- Section 3. The Nomination Committee shall consist of the Trustee-Deacons and Pastor.
- Section 4. The Discipline Committee shall consist of all the officers of the church. This committee may be called into session by the Pastor, and/or signed request for business meeting by a majority of the officers. In addition to ARTICLE V, Section 2, Paragraphs A and B and ARTICLE V, Section 5, this committee shall hear all other problems of discipline. No charges shall be heard or investigated by this committee unless said charges are in writing and signed by the complainent. If this committee recommends exclusion of membership after a charge has been heard or investigated, the church shall by majority vote of the membership present 16 years of age and over at any regular business of the church declare membership dissolved.
- Section 5. The Advisory Committee shall consider questions pertaining to the conditions of the church and it's welfare which requires the united effort and advise of the various activities of the church. They shall have no executive power. All the officers make up the Advisory committee.
- Section 6. In the case of a Pastor being removed from his office and/or his death, the Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons becomes moderator of the church business meeting for the purpose of selecting 3 competent persons to comprise a Pulpit Committee of which the Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons would be moderator.
- Section 7. In the case of a Pastor resigning to go to another field of service, he would, before his leaving, select 3 persons to comprise a pulpit committee.
- Section 8. The church may, if it deems necessary, establish spending limits at the yearly business meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII SECTION 6 & 7 TO READ:

In case of a Pastor resigning or his dismissal from office the Chairman of Trustees shall moderate a business meeting for the purpose of selecting three (3) competent, active, church members to comprise a pulpit committee of which the four men will determine the committee's moderator. An active church member is one who has been a member for at least one year and is faithful in his attendance, a tither, and practices good Christian character within the church and is of good report without.

INSTEAD OF READING: Sect. 6 - In the case of a Pastor being removed from his office and/or his death, the Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons becomes moderator of the church business meeting for the purpose of selecting three (3) competent persons to comprise a Pulpit Committee of which the Chairman of the Trustee-Deacons would be moderator. Sect. 7 - In the case of a Pastor resigning to go to another field of service, he would, before his leaving, select 3 persons to comprise a Pulpit Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE VII SECTION 8 TO READ:

The Church Shall operate it's spending procedure by a yearly budget prepared by the Finance Committee as specified in Article VII, Section 2. This budget shall be approved and in force no later than October of each year. Salaries and benefits of church staff shall not exceed 50% of budgeted items of General Fund.

INSTEAD OF READING: Sect. 8 - The Church may, if it deems necessary, establish spending limits at the regular business meeting.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III, PARAGRAPH B:

Any person who willingly engages in any form of sexually immoral behavior or any known wicked act, cannot enter into the membership of the church. Only after surrendering themselves to the Lord, repenting of their sins and turning from their wicked acts can they be accepted as members of the church.

Furthermore, any current member who willfully engages in any form of sexually immoral behavior or wicked act contrary to the commandments of God can be dismissed as members of the church at the discretion of the discipline committee as stated in Article VII Section 4.

Addition was submitted to prevent homosexuals from infiltrating the church membership and government.