



HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
CONSTITUTION

Presented to the Church Family

January 26, 2020



PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1—NAME:

This congregation of believers shall be known as Harvest Baptist Church (herein referred to as the “Church”).

SECTION 2—PURPOSE:

(A) 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 the 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, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, cemeteries, book stores, podcasts, websites or other media platforms, and any other ministries that the Church may be led of God to establish.

(B) The Church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the Church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 1—STATEMENT OF FAITH:

(A) THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. (The words recorded by the writers were God-breathed, extending to every part of the Scriptures.) The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. We believe the Scriptures to be divinely preserved. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 12:6)

(B) THE GODHEAD

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, one in essence, power, and glory, and each possessing all the attributes and perfections of deity. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:10, 26; 1 John 5:7)

(C) THE PERSON AND WORK OF GOD THE FATHER

We believe that the person of God the Father (also referred to in the epistles as God or God our Father) is revealed in the New Testament to be the initiator of man's redemption, to whom Christ, the Son, has willingly submitted in obedience. The Father provides all things needed for and by his creatures, justifies sinners, and rewards faithfulness on the part of his saints. The Father has sovereignly committed all judgment to the Son. (Matthew 6:26; John 3:16-17, 5:22; Romans 5:8, 8:34, 15:6; 1 Corinthians 1:3, 8:6; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 1:3-5, 11, 3:9; Hebrews 5:8; 1 Peter 1:2)

(D) 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, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and 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; 2 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 sacrificial, substitutionary suffering and death on the cross, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 4:23-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3)

(3) We believe that the risen Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1)

(E) THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(1) We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and Who is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, indwelling and sealing believers unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

(2) We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides 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. (John 16:13; Ephesians 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)

(3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses 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; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:7-12)

(4) We believe that certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Corinthians 13:8; 14:21-22)

(5) We believe that the Holy Spirit confesses, glorifies, and testifies of Jesus Christ, who is to receive the preeminence in teaching and worship. (John 15:26; 16:13-14; 1 John 4:1-3; Colossians 1:18)

(F) ORIGINAL SIN

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 man is, of himself, unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1- 3; 4:17-19)

(G) SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and is received not by works but by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for our redemption and the forgiveness of sins. (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 2:2)

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

(1) We believe that all the redeemed 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; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

(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, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Peter 2:16)

(I) THE CHURCH

(1) We believe that the Church represents the body and espoused bride of Christ in its connection and union with him, and is solely comprised of born-again persons. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Acts 2:41-42, 47; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

(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; Titus 1:5-11)

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control apart from Christ as the Head of the Church. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; 1 Corinthians 5:12)

(4) We believe that there are two Church offices, those of pastor and deacon. The office of pastor is also referred to in the New Testament variously as elder, bishop, or overseer. (Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5, 7)

(J) ORDINANCES

We recognize water baptism by immersion and Communion as the two scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age. (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 22:17-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

(K) SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as to honor and glorify God and not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy and all sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God. (Matthew 5:14-16; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Philippians 2:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)

(L) DISPENSATIONALISM

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose.

Three of these dispensations – the age of law, the age of the Church, and the age of the kingdom – are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2-10; Colossians 1:24-25, 27; Revelation 20:2-6)

(M) THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST

We believe in that “blessed hope,” the personal, imminent return of Christ to gather his own to himself, execute judgment on the ungodly, and usher in his everlasting Kingdom in righteousness. (Daniel 7:13-14; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7)

(N) 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 condemnation. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-14)

(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 spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 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 they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)

(O) SATAN

We believe in the personal existence of Satan, a fallen angel who is the 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)

(P) CREATION

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour days. We reject evolution along with the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as flawed, unscriptural, and unnecessary attempts to reconcile the biblical record with secular theories of origins. (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11)

(Q) CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that God has ordained three basic institutions: 1) the family; 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 governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific and distinct biblical responsibilities. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14)

(R) HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that the term marriage has only one legitimate meaning, and that marriage is sanctioned by God, joining one man and one woman in a single, covenantal union as delineated by Scripture. We believe that God has forbidden in His Word intimate sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any other forms of sexual activity, as well as transsexual or transgender behavior, are unnatural and sinful perversions of God’s gift of sexuality. Whenever there is a conflict between this position of the Church

and any new legal standard for marriage, the Church's Statement of Faith and biblical positions will govern. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Deuteronomy 22:5; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-32; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 6, 7)

(S) DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We believe that, as revealed in His Word, God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced or divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

(T) ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. As such, abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused killing of a human being. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are 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)

(U) RACISM

Believing that man was created in the image of God, we hold that God makes no distinctions between persons on the basis of race. (Genesis 9:6; Romans 2:11; James 2:9; Revelation 5:9)

(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. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 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 support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

SECTION 2—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH:

(A) The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. (The King James Version shall be the official and only translation used by Harvest Baptist Church, including but not limited to public preaching and teaching, because we believe it to be the most accurate English language translation.) The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith; we do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately reflects the teaching of the Bible and therefore is binding upon all members.

(B) Regarding literature promoted or distributed in the Church for personal spiritual growth, we strive to provide materials that are in keeping with this Statement of Faith. However, while we may not endorse all positions

contained in all such material, we feel that certain materials that are not deemed inappropriate or harmful by the Lead Pastor, can be used to advantage by the discerning reader and therefore should not be prohibited.

(C) All activities permitted or conducted in any facilities owned, rented, or leased by the Church or engaged in by any member of the Church staff (volunteer or paid), as well as all decisions regarding the administration of the Church, shall be consistent with pertinent tenets of the Statement of Faith.

(D) In all conflicts regarding interpretation of the Statement of Faith, the Board of Trustees (see Article VII), on behalf of the Church, has the final authority.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1—QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the Church shall be extended to those who: 1) have testified to having put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; 2) have been baptized by immersion as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; and 3) upon examination and approval by the Lead Pastor, his designee, or if the office of Lead Pastor is vacant, the chairman of the board of deacons or his designee. It shall be the duty of each prospective member to attend a class designated for the purpose of receiving instruction regarding the beliefs and doctrines of the Church per the Statement of Faith, and the significance and responsibilities of Church membership. Specific exemptions for attending this class may be granted at the discretion of a pastor.

SECTION 2—DUTIES OF A MEMBER:

It shall be the duty of each member to support the Church by 1) protecting the unity of the Church (acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, following the leadership); 2) serving the ministry of the Church (utilizing talents and gifts for the benefit and edification of the Church); 3) sharing in the responsibility of the Church (praying, inviting the unchurched, welcoming visitors); and 4) supporting the testimony of the Church (faithful attendance, leading a godly lifestyle, giving regularly). (Romans 14:19; 15:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25; 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:10)

SECTION 3—PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP:

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 pastors as the undershepherds with the counsel of the Board of Deacons. Members of the Church age eighteen or over have the privilege of voting to confirm or reject any proposals put before the church by the pastors and Board of Deacons but may not vote to initiate any Church action. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own rules and procedures.

SECTION 4—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER:

The pastors and Board of Deacons shall constitute a Discipline Committee when and if cases of biblical misconduct or doctrinal deviation by members require discipline. (If a pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the Discipline Committee.) This committee shall have the

sole responsibility and authority to determine what corrective actions, if any, are appropriate, including the prescriptions in Matthew 18, up to and including termination of membership (see also Section 5, below). A majority vote of the Discipline Committee will determine implementation of corrective actions up to and including termination of membership.

SECTION 5—TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

(A) The membership of any individual shall be terminated without a requirement of notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the Church in the preceding six months. This provision for termination may be waived upon showing good cause to the Lead Pastor or his designee and upon his recommendation to, and approval by the Board of Trustees (see Article VII).

(B) No member of this Church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person's membership in this Church is terminated without notice.

(C) Membership in the Church may be terminated on disciplinary grounds (see Section 4, above).

SECTION 6—RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

If having been removed from membership for disciplinary reasons (Section 5), membership may be restored upon a majority vote of the pastors and deacons after satisfactorily evidencing repentance.

ARTICLE IV—ASSISTANT PASTORS

SECTION 1—ELIGIBILITY

Any person serving as an assistant pastor shall meet the biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 (and Titus 1:6-9), shall affirm agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II), and must be or become a member of the Church upon assuming his duties.

SECTION 2—APPOINTMENT OR DISMISSAL

Subject to consent by the Board of Trustees (see Article VII) the Lead Pastor may appoint or dismiss assistant pastors to aid him in carrying out his responsibilities.

SECTION 3—TERM OF SERVICE

Assistant pastors shall serve indefinitely unless and until they may resign or be dismissed per Section 2 above.

SECTION 4—DUTIES

Assistant pastors shall aid the Lead Pastor in carrying out the ministries of the Church under his direction and guidance. Such duties may include but are not limited to: visitation, caring for the spiritual needs of God's people, preaching, performing weddings and funerals, and administering the ordinances of baptism and Communion.

ARTICLE V—LEAD PASTOR

SECTION 1—ELIGIBILITY

Any person serving as Lead Pastor shall meet the biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:2–7 (and Titus 1:6–9), shall affirm agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II), and must be or become a member of the Church upon assuming his duties.

SECTION 2—APPOINTMENT OR DISMISSAL

(A) Appointment of an individual as Lead Pastor shall be upon recommendation to the Church by the Board of Trustees (see Article VII) acting as a pulpit committee and subject to a three-fourths affirmative vote by eligible church members present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose and publicized from the pulpit at least two Sundays in advance [ref. Art. IX, Section 3(B)].

(B) The Lead Pastor shall serve indefinitely unless he resigns or is removed for cause.

(1) Any severance of the relationship between the Lead Pastor and the Church for cause must be considered at a special meeting called for that purpose by the Board of Trustees (see Article VII), with notice of said meeting being given from the pulpit to the Church at least two Sundays in advance. A three-fourths vote by eligible church members present and voting at such meeting shall be required to dismiss the Lead Pastor, which automatically terminates his membership.

(2) If the Lead Pastor is being recommended for dismissal or is the subject of a disciplinary action (Article III, Section 4) for violations deemed grievous, the Board of Trustees (see Article VII) may suspend his duties and privileges. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal shall be subject to the requirements of Article III, Section 6.

SECTION 3—TERM OF SERVICE

The Lead Pastor shall serve until such time as his position may be terminated per Section 2 (B) above.

SECTION 4—DUTIES

(A) The Lead Pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He or his designee 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. He shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

(B) The Lead Pastor shall serve as the president of the corporation.

(C) The Lead Pastor may hire or dismiss church staff as needed to perform work related to any business or activities of the church without the need for consent from the Board of Trustees (see Article VII) other than in the case of assistant pastors, but on the condition that they be or become members of the Church upon assuming their duties and agree to the Statement of Faith.

(D) All pastoral staff, Church staff and volunteers shall be under the ultimate supervision of the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE VI—DEACONS

SECTION 1—ELIGIBILITY

Any person serving as a deacon shall meet the biblical requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:8-12, shall be a Church member, and shall affirm agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II).

SECTION 2—APPOINTMENT OR DISMISSAL

(A) The election of deacons by the Church membership shall occur at the annual State of the Church meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Candidates for the office shall be recommended to the Church by consensus of the Board of Trustees (see Article VII) and must be elected by a three-fourths affirmative vote by eligible Church members present and voting at said meeting.

(B) Newly elected deacons shall be formally installed at a public Church service following their election.

(C) Deacons shall serve unless they resign prior to the end of their term or are removed as part of a disciplinary action per Article III, Section 4.

SECTION 3—TERM OF SERVICE

The term of service for the office of deacon shall be five years, at the expiration of which he can be replaced or re-elected. A vacancy occurring on the Board of Deacons may be filled at any regular Church business meeting.

SECTION 4—DUTIES

(A) The Board of Deacons shall assist the Lead Pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing any other work of the Church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the Church. They shall, if requested by the Lead Pastor, consider and advise him on any application for Church membership. They shall assist in visitation and evangelistic efforts of the Church and in caring for the administrative needs of the Church's various ministries.

(B) The Board of Deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman, who shall be vice president of the corporation.

ARTICLE VII—BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(A) As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the Church, the Board of Deacons, with the addition of the pastors, shall constitute the Board of Trustees of the corporation. The Board of Trustees shall exercise the following powers:

- (1) to purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the Church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the Church;
- (2) to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage,

pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the Church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the Church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the Church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.

(3) to exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the Church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the Church membership.

(B) The Board of Trustees shall constitute a pulpit committee when and if it becomes necessary to seek and recommend a replacement for the Lead Pastor.

(C) The Board of Trustees shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for Church meetings if the office of Lead Pastor is vacant.

ARTICLE VIII—CORPORATE OFFICERS

(A) The Lead Pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the chairman of the Board of Deacons shall serve as vice president of the corporation; the secretary of the corporation and the treasurer of the corporation shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees from among the Church membership.

(B) The term of service for corporate treasurer and secretary shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be reappointed.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1—MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Lead Pastor, the Church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study or other instruction. The ordinance of Communion shall be observed on a regular basis.

SECTION 2—STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING

A Church business meeting shall be held annually to hear reports of the church finances and to consider other matters deemed appropriate by the Board of Trustees. At that meeting, the Church shall also elect deacons to replace any whose terms have expired or who have otherwise left the board. A quorum shall consist of those Church members present.

SECTION 3—SPECIAL MEETINGS

(A) The Lead Pastor (or Board of Trustees if the office of Lead Pastor is vacant or he is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting of the Church by giving notice to the church, from the pulpit, of such a meeting and its purpose at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting.

(B) A meeting for election of a Lead Pastor may be called by the pulpit committee [ref. Art. V, Section 2(A)].

(C) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the Lead Pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 4—RECORDS

All records, including but not limited to those pertaining to meetings, finances, personnel, tangible property, and counseling are the property of the Church and shall be maintained in the church offices.

ARTICLE X EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

SECTION 1—PURPOSE

The Church believes that the home and Church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education for children. To this end, the Church shall engage in ministries of education in keeping with the following dictates:

SECTION 2—CHURCH PARTICIPATION

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the Church shall be for the benefit of the members of the Church; however, the Lead Pastor or his designee may permit non-Church members to participate in Church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the Church.

SECTION 3—STAFF MEMBERSHIP

Pursuant to Article V, Section 4(C), all instructors, teachers, and administrators involved in education shall be members of the Church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis. Exceptions to this staff membership provision may be granted upon the approval of the Lead Pastor or his designee.

SECTION 4—FOUNDATION AND AUTHORITY FOR INSTRUCTION

No educational programs or courses of instruction may conflict with the Statement of Faith of the Church or with the teachings of the inerrant Word of God. No teacher or instructor shall impugn the Bible's veracity or authority.

SECTION 5—UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the Church.

SECTION 6—CHRISTIAN WALK

All administrators, instructors, and teachers (paid or volunteer) shall continue or adopt a life-style, whether in or out of the classroom, consistent with the teachings of the Church.

ARTICLE XI FINANCES

SECTION 1—FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Under oversight of the treasurer, the financial administrator shall account for all funds contributed to the Church and shall disburse the same as ordered by the Church. They shall prepare a report of the church finances for the year for presentation at the State of the Church meeting and at other times as directed by the Lead Pastor or Board of Trustees. All expenditures of the Church except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements shall be paid by check or electronic means that provide a permanent record of the transaction.

SECTION 2—UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

Any expenditure exceeding three percent of the annual Church budget and not reasonably falling under an existing budget category shall require a majority vote of members present and voting at a meeting in accordance with Article IX.

SECTION 3—FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin August 1st and end July 31st.

SECTION 4—DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may designate uses for their contributions but all designations shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Board of Trustees. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

ARTICLE XII ORDINATION

SECTION 1—ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any man who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 2—ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) Upon a conference with the Lead Pastor, and after he has approved the candidate for ordination, the Lead Pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith, as well as selected deacons of the church as the occasion may warrant, who are invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

(B) If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the Church at a public service.

ARTICLE XIII TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1—PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article I, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2—POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence specific legislation. The Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 3—DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as the Trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the Church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4—RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The Church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting, at any Church meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.