

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

of

WEYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH
MEDINA, OHIO

As members of Weymouth Community Church in Medina, Ohio, as a Christian church, we accept and adopt the following articles to be the Constitution and By-Laws of this church. It is our desire through this Constitution and By-Laws to define what we believe and how we intend to function in light of those beliefs.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this church shall be WEYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH of Medina, Ohio.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE OF WEYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

The purpose of this church is to glorify God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit; and to accomplish His will according to the Holy Scriptures. Making disciples, also known as the 'Great Commission,' as found in Matthew 28:18-20, is the foundation of everything we do. We are glorifying God by pursuing what Jesus commanded us to do until He returns.

ARTICLE III

CHARTER

Section 1: The Authority

- A) The authority by which this church exists as an ecclesiastical body is received from the Holy Scriptures, sixty-six books of the Old Testament and New Testament.
- B) Weymouth Community Church is incorporated as a church under Ohio Revised Code 1702.

Section 2: Government

All governmental authority under the headship of Christ is invested in the Church's Elder Team as affirmed by the membership and executed through the Lead Pastor, Church Staff, Ministry Team Leaders, and Ministry Teams.

ARTICLE IV

ORDINANCES

In obedience to Christ's commands, the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and Communion will be regularly observed as visible symbols of our salvation in Christ.

A) Baptism by immersion will be observed on a regular basis after someone repents and believes in Christ or is now requesting baptism as the next step in their faith following salvation. Alternative modes of baptism will be observed in exceptional circumstances as approved by the Elder Team. (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 8:12)

B) Communion will be observed on a regular basis as a church body, remembering the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The elements used will be symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. Any believer in Jesus will be invited to participate. (I Corinthians 11:23-26)

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church will consist of those who are 18 years of age or older, who have given clear evidence of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who have a desire to follow and live for Jesus Christ according to God's Word. They have accepted and are willing to abide by the Articles of Faith, Constitution and By-Laws of Weymouth Community Church and the Weymouth Community Church Membership Covenant.

Section 1: Qualifications and Membership Covenant

The following are the requirements for anyone to become a Member of Weymouth Community Church:

- A) Give a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- B) To identify publicly with Jesus Christ, following salvation, with a Believer's Baptism
- C) Complete the requirements of the membership process.
- D) Fill out a church membership application and sign the Weymouth Community Church Membership Covenant
- E) Interview with a designated Elder to discuss their application after A) – D), membership will be reviewed for approval by the Elder Team.

WEYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having turned from my sins to follow Jesus Christ and having been baptized as a public declaration of my faith in Him alone, I wish to enter into a covenant relationship with the people of Weymouth Community Church:

A) I commit to pursue unity in Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1, Ephesians 4, 5:1, John 17, Hebrew 13:7, 17)

- By treating others in love as Christ loves us
- By encouraging others and being tenderhearted toward others
- By following the example of biblical church leadership as they follow Christ

B) I commit to sharing in the life of the body (Hebrews 10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

- By attending faithfully
- By warmly welcoming visitors
- By giving regularly as God leads

C) I commit to serving in the ministry (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12)

- By discovering and using my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve as God enables
- By developing a servant's heart

D) I commit to the church's disciple-making goals (2 Corinthians 5, Matthew 28:19-20)

- By living a Christ-centered life
- By sharing my faith
- By praying and encouraging others toward spiritual growth

By the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, I will pursue these commitments with God and my fellow Members. I commit myself to the Weymouth Community Church community and seek mutual encouragement, accountability, and assistance in my walk with God. In turn, I intend to help others on their journey of faith, asking God to use me in making a difference at Weymouth and beyond.

Section 2: Privileges

A) All church Members are eligible to vote when a vote is required by this Constitution and By-Laws. Voting will be conducted pursuant to Article VII Section 2.

B) The following are made available to Members as a regular part of our ministry or by request:

- Worship services, prayer meetings, Bible studies and life groups
- Fellowship with other believers
- Preaching and teaching based on the Word of God (the Bible)
- Ministry discipleship opportunities
- Guidance from God's word
- Marriages, child dedications and funerals

C) Any Member or group of members who feel a strong dissatisfaction with the general procedure of any church ministry, or specific action of any individual within that ministry, will first make their case known to the individual responsible.

If the issue is not resolved, then the member(s) will:

- 1) Present their case to the appropriate Ministry Team Leader. If the issue cannot be resolved with the Ministry Team Leader, then the member(s) will;
- 2) Present their case to an Elder or Pastor. If the issue remains unresolved, then the member(s) will;
- 3) Present their case to the Elder Team which will make the final decision regarding the complaint.

Section 3: Standard of Conduct

Ministry functions and services are private meetings held on private property according to the policies and procedures followed by the ministry and should not be considered open to the general public under any circumstances. Any of the leadership (defined as Elders, Lead Pastor, Pastoral Staff, and Ministry Team Leaders per Article VI, Section 1, B) – E)) reserves the right to remove any participant for any reason at the leadership's sole discretion.

A member/participant may be dismissed/removed from any ministry function, whether on or off property, and/or asked not to return if they demonstrate by conduct or spirit that they are out of harmony with our Articles of Faith, or the spirit or policies of the ministry as determined in the sole discretion of the leadership (as defined above). Readmission considerations following dismissal/removal will be determined on a case-by-case basis by leadership (as defined above).

Section 4: Withdrawal of Membership

Membership can be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- A) By transfer – having received a letter of membership transfer by another church.

The only instance whereby a transfer may not be automatically accepted would be in circumstances where the discipline process (see section 5 below) has already begun with the member and has been unresolved.

- B) By request – when a member submits their request for withdrawal in writing.

- C) By death.

- D) By absence –If a member has not participated in activities found in Article V, Section 2, B) for approximately a year, and no special circumstances (e.g., long term illness, military duty, temporary out of the area employment, schooling, or special consideration by the Elder Team.) are known, their membership will automatically terminate.

- E) By discipline (Article V Section 5)

Section 5: Discipline

Church discipline is based on the need for God's discipline of His children and the foundation for church discipline is based on God's response to us in our sin. (Hebrews 12:5-15). The hope of church discipline is that repentance will bring rejoicing (II Corinthians 7:9,10), forgiveness, comfort, and the opportunity to reaffirm the member (II Corinthians 2:5-8,11). The spirit of church discipline is reflected in love, humility, gentleness, and the bearing of one another's burdens (Matthew 7:3-5; John 13:35; 15:12; Galatians 6:1,2)

- A) Reasons for church discipline include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Sexual immorality (I Corinthians 5:1-5)
- 2) False doctrine (Romans 16:17,18; I Timothy 1:19, 20)
- 3) Disobedience to God's Word (II Thessalonians 3:6,14)
- 4) Causing division (Titus 3:10,11)

A Member whose conduct or belief has become a reproach to the church and to the name of Christ shall be disciplined with oversight of the Elder Team according to the Word of God in Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1-2 and may be excluded from the privileges of membership of the

church at a special meeting called for that purpose (Article VII, Section 2) until the member openly repents and forsakes their sin.

ARTICLE VI

MINISTRY STRUCTURE

Section 1: Leadership Teams – Definition, Biblical qualifications, and Accountability

- A) The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Weymouth Community Church as described by Colossians 1:15-18.
- B) The Elder Team (Board of Elders) – The Elder Team consists of a minimum of 3 male members and the Lead Pastor affirmed by Members of Weymouth Community Church per Article VII, Section 2, A). The elders are described by 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The Elder Team is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures. All Elders and the Lead Pastor have voting privileges except in matters of conflict of interest.
- C) Lead Pastor – The Lead Pastor is nominated by the Elder Team and affirmed by the Members of Weymouth Community Church per Article VII, Section 2, A). In relationship to their position, they are described by 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and/or Titus 1:6-9. The Lead Pastor is accountable to the Elder Team and the Holy Scriptures.
- D) The Pastoral Staff – The Pastoral Staff consists of men nominated by the Elder Team and affirmed by the Members of Weymouth Community Church per Article VII, Section 2, A). In relationship to their position, they are described by 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-13 and/or Titus 1:6-9. The Pastoral Staff is accountable to the Elder Team, Lead Pastor, and the Holy Scriptures.
- E) The Ministry Team Leaders – The Ministry Team Leaders consist of men or women members, whether paid or unpaid and affirmed by the Elder Team. The Ministry Team Leaders are described by 1 Timothy 3:8-13 (Article VI, Section 2, D). The Ministry Team Leaders are accountable to either a member of the Elder Team or a Pastoral Staff member as determined by the Elder Team.
- F) The Ministry Team(s) Participants – The Ministry Team(s) consist of members and non-members of Weymouth Community Church. Any teaching will be conducted by a member or as approved by the Elder Team. The Ministry Team(s) Participants are described by Romans 12:4-13 and Ephesians 4:14-15. The Ministry Team(s) Participants are accountable to their Ministry Team Leader.

Section 2: Ministry Leaders – Affirmation, Duties, Recall and Resignation

A) Elder

1) Nominating Process

- a) The Elder Team will decide the total number of Elders for the needs of the Members and whether to start the Elder Nomination Process.
- b) If determined to proceed with the Elder Nomination Process, the Members will be asked for qualified interested and willing to serve (1 Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9) elder nominations.
- c) Nominations can be made by any Weymouth Community Church Member to the Elder Team Leader.
- d) A Nominating Committee shall be formed and will consist of the Lead Pastor (or designee), the Elder Team Leader, and two other members of Weymouth Community Church appointed by the Elders.
- e) The Nominating Committee will interview the nominees and make a recommendation to the Elder Team on whether the man is qualified to be an Elder.
- f) The Elder Team will review the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. A vote will be taken among the Elders to determine the approved nominee(s) to be affirmed by the Members. A unanimous vote is needed by the Elders to approve a nominee(s).
- g) If there is a death, resignation, or any other reason to vote in additional Elders during the ministry year, the Elders may ask the Weymouth Community Church Members to vote on additional Elders per 2) and 3) below.

2) Elder Affirmation

At the annual or a special meeting, the members may be asked to affirm, by vote, men whom the Elder Team have approved for nominee(s).

- a) Elders must meet the qualifications found in 1 Tim. 3:1-12 and Tit. 1:6-9.
- b) Elders shall be members of Weymouth Community Church.
- c) An Elder shall be affirmed for a term of four years.
- d) Any time after elder nominees have been announced, and before an affirmative vote, any member or attendee of Weymouth Community Church is welcome to bring any concerns to the Elders. If it is a sin issue, that person should follow the process of church discipline per Article V Section 5. However, if it is not a sin issue, the person is welcome to come to the Elders, and inform them of their concerns about an Elder's nomination. The Elders will decide if anything needs to be done before an affirmative vote.

3) Method and Time of Affirmation

- a) The Elder team will set the time of the affirmative vote.
- b) Nominees will be affirmed per Article VII Section 2.
- c) The Elder Team Leader shall appoint members during the Annual or Special meeting where voting shall take place to distribute, collect, and tally ballots for an election.
- d) A ballot shall contain the names of all eligible nominees.
- e) A ballot shall instruct the members on the maximum number of nominees that may be elected. If a member selects more than the maximum number of nominees their ballot is disqualified. If there is a tie between nominees a second vote will immediately be taken to determine the outcome between the two nominees.
- f) The members appointed to distribute, collect, and tally the ballots shall provide the results to the Elder Team Leader for presentation to the members present.

4) Elder Team Position Elections and Duties

Elder Team Leader

The Elder Team Leader will be elected annually from the non-Pastoral Elders by a majority vote of the Elders. If the Elder Team Leader cannot, at any point, fulfill his duties, the Elders by

a majority vote of the Elders will appoint a temporary replacement until the Elder Team Leader returns or until the next election period.

The Elder Team Leader shall act as moderator at all Annual, Special, and Elder Team meetings. The Elder Team Leader with assistance from the Elders is responsible to hold at least an annual review of the Lead Pastor.

Elder Scribe

The Elder Team Leader will appoint the Elder Scribe. The Elder Scribe will take the needed notes and minutes for Elder, Annual or Special Meetings.

The Elder Scribe shall have oversight of the official records of the church. The Elder Scribe shall ensure a written report regarding the previous Annual or Special meeting.

Financial Officer

The Elder Team Leader will appoint the Financial Officer from the Elders.

- a) The Financial Officer shall have oversight of all receipts and disbursements of the church;
- b) The Financial Officer is responsible to assemble the team that will do the proper accounting of our church finances;
- c) The Financial Officer may appoint and have oversight of a Financial Team Leader from the membership;
- d) The Financial Officer or Financial Team Leader will submit a report to the Elders as requested;
- e) The Financial Team Leader or an Elder will give a report to membership regarding the revenue and expenses of the church at the Annual Meeting and Special Meetings as requested.

5) Recall of Elder

The privilege of recall of any Elder holding his position under the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws is as follows:

a) If accused of a sinful offense per Article V Section 5) A) at least 2 or 3 witnesses are needed in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19. If the accusation turns out to be untrue, the Elder Team needs to resolve the issue with those who make the accusation. If true, the discipline process (Article V, Section 5) will be followed.

b) If it is not a sinful issue, but related to something else or a rising opposition, the Elder Team is responsible to meet with the Elder and bring a recommendation of a plan for reconciliation. If the Elder cannot be restored per the reconciliation plan in a timely manner, the Elder Team by unanimous vote of the remaining Elders will bring the issue to the members for a recall vote.

6) Recall method

The Elder Team will call a special meeting per Article VII Section 2.

7) Elder Replacement or Resignation

If an Elder is no longer able to perform his duties established by the Elder Team or elects to resign, the Elder Team will decide whether to start the Elder nomination process per Article VI, Section II, A), 1).

B) Lead Pastor

1) Selection Process, Affirmation and Duties

One candidate at a time shall be considered and recommended to the membership after a unanimous vote by the Elder Team. The Lead Pastor must be affirmed per Article VII Section 2 B), C) and D).

a) As soon as the Lead Pastor has accepted the call after an affirmative vote, he (and his wife, if married) will become a member of the church with the signing of the Membership Covenant.

b) The Lead Pastor as an under Shepherd of Christ shall care for the congregation by watching over their spiritual welfare.

The duties and responsibilities of the Lead Pastor will be specified in writing and approved by the Elder Team. An update of these expectations may be requested by the Lead Pastor or Elder Team at any time.

2) Recall of Lead Pastor

The privilege of recall of the Lead Pastor holding his position under the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws is as follows:

a) If accused of a sinful offense per Article V Section 5) A) at least 2 or 3 witnesses are needed in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19. If the accusation turns out to be untrue, the Elder Team needs to resolve the issue with those who make the accusation. If true, the discipline process (Article V, Section 5) will be followed during which time corrective action could be taken. The processes could result in other corrective actions including termination by a recall vote (Article VII, Section 2).

b) If it is not a sinful issue, but related to something else or a rising opposition, the Elder Team is responsible to meet with the Lead Pastor and implement a plan for reconciliation. If the Lead Pastor cannot be restored in a timely manner per the reconciliation plan, the Elder Team by unanimous vote will bring the issue to the members for a recall vote.

3) Recall method

The Elder Team will call a special meeting to vote per Article VII Section 2 B), C) and D)

4) Resignation

If a Lead Pastor elects to resign, a minimum of 30 days' notice will be given to the Elder Team.

C) Pastoral Staff

1) Selection Process, Affirmation and Duties

The Lead Pastor can recommend any associate pastors (full or part-time) to the Elder Team for consideration. After a unanimous vote of the Elders, each candidate may be presented one at a time to the membership for approval. The Pastoral Staff must be affirmed per Article VII Section 2.

a) Upon election the Pastoral Staff (and their spouse if married) will become a member of the church with the signing of the Membership Covenant.

b) The Pastoral Staff shall assist the Lead Pastor in the responsibilities related to the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

- i) They shall perform such duties delegated by the Lead Pastor and defined in their written job description of duties and responsibilities for their specified role.
- ii) They provide teaching, care, encouragement, and training for the purpose of ministry.
- iii) The Associate Pastoral Staff are adjunct non-voting members of the Elder Team.

2) Recall of Pastoral Staff

The privilege of recall of any Pastoral Staff under the provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws is as follows:

- a) If it is a sinful offense issue per Article V Section 5) A) at least 2 or 3 witnesses are needed in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19. If the accusation turns out to be untrue, the Elders Team needs to resolve the issue with those who make the accusation. If true, the discipline process (Article V, Section 5) will be followed during which time corrective action could be taken and finally the process could result in other corrective actions including termination by a recall vote (Article VII, Section 2).
- b) If it is not a sinful issue, but related to something else or a rising opposition, the Lead Pastor is responsible to meet with the Pastoral Staff member and implement a restorative plan after they inform the Elder Team at a special or regular meeting. The Lead Pastor and at least one Elder will meet the Pastoral Staff member to discuss the plan. If it cannot be resolved in a timely manner, the Elder Team, by unanimous vote, can bring the issue to the members for a recall vote.

3) Recall method

The Elder Team will call a special meeting to vote per Article VII Section 2.

4) Resignation

If a Pastoral Staff member elects to resign, a minimum of 30 days' notice will be given to the Elder Team.

D) Ministry Team Leader

1) Approval

The Ministry Team Leader is not elected but approved by the Elder Team. A newly hired paid Ministry Team Leader will meet the membership requirements prior to starting as a Ministry Team Leader.

2) Duties

The Ministry Team Leader duties will vary in accordance with the purpose of Weymouth Community Church per Article II and description of responsibilities.

3) Complaint resolution process

Any Member or group of members who feel a strong dissatisfaction with any church Ministry Team Leader will follow Article V, Section II C).

4) Resignation

If a Ministry Team Leader is no longer able to perform their duties or elects to resign, the Pastoral Staff member or Elder with oversight will review and decide on the replacement process.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings And Voting

Section 1: For Worship

Church services shall be conducted on Sundays or at such other times as may be designated by the Elder Team when conditions require a change of time.

Section 2: Annual and Special Meetings and Voting

- A) The annual meeting shall be held on a date specified by the Elder Team, at which time the annual reports shall be presented, and such other transactions as may properly come before the meeting allowing members to vote as required by C) and D) below.
- B) The Elder Team can call an annual or special meeting by announcement during a Worship Service and included in the church bulletin for two successive Sundays.
- C) Quorum: The presence of twenty percent of members shall be necessary to vote. Members must be present to vote; no proxy or absentee ballots will be accepted.

- D) Voting: 75% of a quorum is needed for passage where specified in this constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH

Section 1: Title to Property of the Church

The title to the property of the church shall be vested in the church.

Section 2: Consent of Elders

Nothing may be installed or removed from the Church without the consent of the Elders or Pastoral Staff or their designee.

Section 3: Membership Authorizations

The Members of Weymouth Community Church must authorize per Article VII Section 2 the acquisition of long-term debts, the purchase and/or selling of real estate, the annual budget proposed by the Elder Team, and any unbudgeted expenditure higher than 5% of the total authorized budget.

Section 4: Dissolution and Liquidation

Upon the liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of the organization Weymouth Community Church, the assets of this organization will be distributed to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for the propagation of the truth of the Gospel as found in the Holy Scriptures.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at either an annual or special meeting called for that purpose per Article VII, Section 2, provided that any proposed amendment is first reviewed and approved by a majority vote of the Elders. The Amendment will be included in or with the church bulletin for two consecutive Sundays prior to voting per Article VII, Section 2.

ARTICLE X

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The authority of the Statement of Faith:

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible, sixty-six books of the Old Testament and New Testament, itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the following Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

Section 1: Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. 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. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical contextual meaning. (Mark 12:26, 36; 13:11; Acts 1:16; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21)

Section 2: Godhead - God the Father

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience due them. (Mt. 28:19; Mark 12:29; Jn. 1:1-4; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:1-6)

We believe that GOD THE FATHER—the first Person of the Trinity—orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. As the absolute and highest ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. His Fatherhood denotes a spiritual relationship with mankind, creatively in relation to all men, but spiritually only in relation to believers. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass and directs and governs all creatures and events. This He does so as in no way to be the author and approver of sin, nor to abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures. (1 Chron. 29:11; Job 1:6; Ps. 8, 9, 103:19; Jn. 8:38-44; Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Pet. 1:17)

Section 3: God the Son

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the eternal Word of God, who became man without ceasing to be God, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; His perfect deity and Humanity; His death upon the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins; His resurrection from the dead in the body in which He was crucified; His

ascension into heaven in that body glorified, where He is now interceding for His Own. We believe in His visible, imminent return to take His Body (the True Church) to be with Him; His judgment of Believers; His glorious and literal reign as king over all the nations for one thousand years; His Great White Throne Judgment of the wicked, and His eternal reign with the Father in the New Heaven and the New Earth. (Mt. 1:18-25, 25:31-46; Lk. 24; Jn. 1:1,14; Acts 1:3-11; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 1:15; 1 Thess. 4:16-18; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Pet. 2:24,25; Rev. 11:15-17, 20:4-6,11-15)

Section 4: God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit and in His Deity and Personality (not as a mere influence), and that He is the source and power of all acceptable worship and service. He is our ever-present, indwelling Comforter and Helper. It is He Who convicts the world of sin, causes the life of God to be born within the believer, baptizes believers into the Body of Christ, and produces within the believer the nature of God, as revealed through His Son. (Jn. 7:38,39, 14:16, 15:26, 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 2:2-10; Phil. 3:3)

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who enables 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. (Jn. 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:11-13; Eph. 1:17-18, 5:18; 1 Jn. 2:20,27)

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer, and that the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is given to each Member of the Body of Christ for the common good and the building up of the Body according to the will of God. We also believe that Jesus Christ gave gifted people to the Church for the equipping of the saints to do the work of the ministry. (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:15-16, 12:4-11,28; Eph. 4:11-12, 5:18; Jas. 3:13-18; 1 Pet. 5:1-3)

Section 5: Man

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from his high and holy estate through sin, manifested by the breaking of the command to not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. As the consequence of his disobedience the penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that his moral nature was not only grievously injured by the Fall, but he also totally lost all spiritual life and remnant of divine nature, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil. (Gen. 1:26, 2:17; Jer. 17:9; Jn. 5:40, 6:53; Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:21,22,45-47; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Tim. 5:6; 1 Jn. 3:8)

We believe that this spiritual death was not predetermined by divine decree but was foreseen and provided against by divine grace. This spiritual death or total spiritual bankruptcy of human nature has been transmitted to the entire race of man, every child of Adam, except for the God-man Christ Jesus. Hence, the corruption of sin extends to all men and all parts of men so that there is nothing within natural man that can give him merit in the sight of a Holy God. (Gen. 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Jn. 3:6; Rom. 1:21,24,28, 5:12-19, 8:6,7; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:18)

We believe that, owing to this universal depravity and death in sin, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless born again. That no degree of reformation, however great; no attainment in morality, however high; no culture, however attractive; no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes and societies, however useful; no baptism or other ordinance, however administered; can help the sinner gain eternal life. A new nature imparted from above, a new life implanted by the Holy Spirit through the Word is absolutely essential to salvation. (Isa. 64:6; Jn. 3:5,18; Gal. 6:15; Phil. 3:4-9; Tit. 3:5; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22-24)

Section 6: Salvation

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished by the substitutionary death of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and became a curse for us, dying in our place; and that no repentance, no feeling, no faith, no good resolutions, no sincere efforts, no submission to the rules and regulations of any Church can add in the very least to the value of His precious blood shed on the Cross, or to the merits of that finished work, wrought for us by Jesus, who united in His person true and proper deity with perfect and sinless humanity. (Lev. 17:11; Mt. 26:28; Rom. 5:6-9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18,19)

We believe that Christ is received by faith alone, and that the moment we trust Him as our Savior we pass out of death into everlasting life being justified, sanctified, and accepted before the Father according to the measure of Christ's acceptance, loved as He is loved, and one with Him forever. (Jn. 1:12, 5:24; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:4-13; 1 Jn. 4:17, 5:11,12)

We believe that it is the privilege of all who are born again by the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ, to be assured of their salvation from the very day they take Him to be their Savior; and that this assurance is not founded upon any self-worthiness, but wholly upon the character of God and the testimony of God in His Written Word. Subsequent life in God is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit, manifested in a changed life and behavior, which demonstrates a desire to do the will of God. (Lk. 10:20,

12:32; Jn. 6:47; Rom. 8:38,39; 2 Cor. 5:1,6-8; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Tim. 1:12; Tit. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-10; 1 Jn.)

Section 7: The Church

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit with the Risen and Ascended Son of God; that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one Body, of whom Christ is the Head; and that thus, being Members one of another, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian prejudices and loving one another with a pure heart fervently. (Mt. 16:16-18; Acts 2:32-47; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:2-27; Eph. 1:20-23, 4:3-12; Col. 1:18, 3:12-17)

We believe that the Universal Church is manifested in the local Church, where the bestowal of gifts is utilized for edification and evangelism. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Eph. 2:21,22, 4:11-12; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9,16, 5:4-7,13, 12:12,13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

Section 8: Separation

We believe that we are called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and so to live in the Spirit that we should not fulfill the lusts of the flesh; but the flesh (the old nature), being still in us to the end of our earthly pilgrimage, needs to be kept constantly in subjection to Christ, or it will surely manifest its presence to the dishonor of His Name. (Rom. 8:12-14, 13:14; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-10; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 Jn. 3:5-9)

Section 9: Satan

We believe that Satan is a created spirit being, the father of lies, the tempter and deceiver. He is the open and declared enemy of God and continually wages spiritual warfare against the saints and blinds the eyes of the unbeliever. He shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:14-19; Mt. 4:1-11, 25:41; Jn. 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4, 11:3; Eph. 6:12; 1 Thess. 3:5; Rev. 20:10)

Section 10: Eternal Destiny

We believe in the eternal conscious punishment of the lost in a literal hell of torment. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for all the saved, that their souls go to be with Him at death; that the bodies of the dead will be resurrected, and the living transformed at the Rapture at which time they will be rewarded according to their works. (Mt. 13:19,39, 25:20-23; Lk. 19:12,13,15-19; Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 5:3; Rom. 2:5,6,8,9; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eph. 6:11,12; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:8,9; Rev. 21:8).

Section 11: Authority

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority including these 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 governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and 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 biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

Section 12: Human Sexuality

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman, but that sexual abstinence should be practiced. We believe that all sinful perversions of God's gift of sex, such as homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, etc., are contrary to the Word of God. We believe that God disapproves of any attempt to alter one's [biological] gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 1:27, 2:24, 19:5,13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Deut. 22:5; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

Section 13: Divorce & Remarriage

We believe that God's design for marriage is for one man and one woman to enter into a permanent relationship broken only by the death of one of the spouses. God hates divorce, therefore, significant effort to encourage restoration and reconciliation of that marriage will be made. However, due to the hardness of man's heart, God has permitted divorce when there is sexual sin and unwillingness to repent or desertion by an unbelieving partner. Remarriage is permissible only when divorce has occurred because of the other spouse's sexual sin and unwillingness to repent, when a believer has been divorced or deserted by an unbeliever, or when reconciliation is actually impossible because the divorced spouse is either deceased or remarried. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may be greatly used of God for Christian service. (Mal. 2:14-17; Deut. 24:1-4; Mt. 7:28, 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:15)

Section 14: Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. Any teaching supporting abortions is unacceptable. (Ex. 21:22-25; Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Lk. 1:44)

Section 15: Financial Support

We believe, concerning the financial support of our Church and its ministries, that tithes and offerings are God's primary solution for Church expense. Any additional means to procure funds or initiate creative giving opportunities will be at the discretion of the Elder Team or its Designee.

Members will be encouraged to give joyfully, regularly, proportionately, generously, and even sacrificially as they purpose in their own hearts in prayerful dependence upon the Holy Spirit. (Mal. 3:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 8:7, 9:6-8; Phil. 4:14-19)

Section 16: Evangelism and Missions

We believe that this local Church, in obedience to our Savior's Great Commission, should aggressively support a program of spreading the Gospel through home and foreign mission by prayer and through training, sending and financial support. (Mt. 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8)