

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME AND PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1 -NAME**

This congregation of believers shall be known as the **Westphal Baptist Church , Inc.**

**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, and cemeteries, 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; for the defense of the faith once delivered to the saints"; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and Weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United Satiates 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 the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error; 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.

(2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

1. By the "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.

2. 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 supernatural and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

3. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church in its official ministries.

### **(B) The One True God**

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; coeternal in being, coidentical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2Cor 13:14; Jn 14:10,26)

### **(C) The Person and Work of Jesus 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 (Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:1,2; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4,5; Phil. 2:5-8)

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a propitiation for our sin, willingly taking our place of judgment. Also, after three days of concealment in a tomb He literally, physically rose from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1,2)

### **(D) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them forever. (Jn. 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13,14)

2 We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Sprit. (Eph. 1:17,18; 5:18; 1 Jn. 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. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11,28; Eph. 4:7-12)

4. We believe that the spiritual gifts of the New Testament were of two types. Temporary sign gifts and edification gifts, and that the sign gifts do not have the need that was present during the apostolic age. Furthermore 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 the believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21,22)

### **(E) The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, and inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:22,23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3)

### **(F) Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18,19)

### **(G) 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. (Jn. 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38,39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4,5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13,14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

### **(H) The Church**

1. We believe that the Body of Christ is solely made up of born-again persons and is espoused to be His bride. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22,23; 5:25-27)
2. We believe that out of the Body of Christ, the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; Rom. 1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9,16; 5:4-7,13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience of the church in this age. The mode of baptism shall be immersion. (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

### **(I) Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

### **(J) The Second Advent of Christ**

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

### **(K) The Eternal State**

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

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 25:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).

3. We believe that the souls to unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

### **(L) The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, originally created as Lucifer, but through pride became 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; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

### **(M) Origins**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1,2; Ex. 20:11)

### **(N) Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and 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, church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. Furthermore, our responsibility is to pray for our authorities and obey 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 (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14; Matt. 23:10).

### **(O) Human Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:15; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

### **(P) 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. 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; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

### **(Q) Missions**

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gods-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 evangelize the world (Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

### **(R) Lawsuits Between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church posses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

### **(S) 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 to 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 (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9,10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6,7; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

## **Section 2 - Authority of Statement of Faith**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 - Qualifications for Membership**

Upon a majority vote of the members present at any regular church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the

Lord; who fully submit to the statement of faith contained herein; who enter into the church covenant contained herein; complete a new members orientation class; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith, having already been baptized by immersion; or
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor and deacons.

## **Section 2 - Duties of a member**

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant in Article II, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a life-style walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the church.

## **Section 3 - Discipline of a Member (Matt. 18:15-29; 1 Cor. 5)**

- (A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the board of deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the statement of faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor or a deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- (B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. As he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- (D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have

been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, having made every effort to personally go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

(F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee of the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a criminal offense.

(G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

#### **Section 4 - Transfer of Membership**

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 4, may request a letter of recommendation be sent to another church.

#### **Section 6 - Termination of Membership**

(A) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding twelve months. Upon good cause being shown the pastor and deacons, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

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

(C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

## **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**



## **Section 1 - Church Officers**

The church officers are the **pastor** (see Article V, Section 1), **deacon** (see Article V, Section 2,) **minister of records** (see Article V, Section 3), **minister of finance** (see Article V, section 4), **minister of education** (see Article V, Section 5), and **minister of hospitality** (see Article V, Section 6). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor and deacons, from time to time as they deem appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership.

## **Section 2 - Designation of Corporate Officers**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the minister of records shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the minister of finances shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the board of deacons shall serve an vice president of the corporation.

## **Section 3 - Eligibility for Continuance in Office**

- (A) All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith ( as set forth in Article II) annually in the presence of each other.
- (B) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

## **Section 4 - Terms of Office**

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the members present and voting shall be required to decided the matter. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to requirements of Article II, Section 1(D).
- (B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the pastor, shall be

one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected or re-appointed.

(C) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at a regular church administration meeting.

(D) All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

### **Section 5 - Election of Officers**

The annual election of officers by the church membership shall occur during the month of January at the annual church administration meeting.

### **Section - 6 Pastoral Oversight of Officers and Staff**

(A) Subject to the approval of the church membership and with the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same with the approval of church membership.

## **ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 - The Pastor**

(A) The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord shall lead him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters (unless otherwise by majority vote of present membership), supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

(B) He shall serve as president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertains to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

## **Section 2 - The Board of Deacons**

(A) The board of deacons shall assist the pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conduction of religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide pulpit supply and act as leaders for the church meetings if the office of pastor is vacant. The board of deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor.

(B) Immediately following the annual church administration meeting, the board of deacons shall assemble and elect, from their own number, a chairman who shall be vice president of the corporation, a vice chairman, and a secretary.

(C) The board of deacons shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers, with finale approval needed by voting church membership:

- (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, or other evidences 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.

## **Section 3 - The Minister of Records**

The minister of records shall keep a record of church proceedings, of the membership roll, of all baptisms, of certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions as directed by the church, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into his hands during his term of office. All records are to be kept in the church office, and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. He shall keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and shall give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year. The minister of records shall also serve as the secretary of the corporation.

#### **Section 4 - The Minister of Finance**

The minister of finance shall account for all funds contributed to the church and shall disburse the same as ordered by the church. He shall present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular semi-annual church administration meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting. All expenditures of the church except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements shall be paid by check. The minister of finance shall also serve as treasurer of the corporation.

#### **Section 5 - The Minister of Hospitality**

The minister of hospitality, in cooperation with the pastor, shall appoint a sufficient number of assistants to care for the work of ushering and extending the official hospitality of the church to its members and guests.

#### **Section 7 - Associate Pastors**

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastors of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

#### **Section 8 - Duties of all Officers**

(A) All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church administration meeting and shall surrender any records in their possession to the minister of records at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.

(B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the constitution for a period of three months may be removed from his office at the discretion of the pastor and deacons, and another may be appointed to serve the remainder of the term.

#### **Section 9 - Instillation of Officers**

A public instillation service in which all newly elected officers of the church are to be dedicated to their respective offices and the ordination of newly elected deacons shall be held at a public service following their election at the annual church administration meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 - Meetings for Worship**

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed when deemed spiritually beneficial for this local congregation.

### **Section 2 - Meetings for the Church Administration**

An annual church administration meeting shall be held on a Sunday evening during the month of January. A semi-annual church administration meeting shall be held on a Sunday evening during the month of July. A quorum shall consist of the voting members present.

### **Section 3 - Special Meetings**

(A) The pastor (or deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least two Sundays and not less than two weeks prior to said meeting. A meeting for election of a pastor may be called by the pulpit committed at any regular church meeting at least two weeks in advance.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

### **Section 4 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

## **ARTICLE VII ORDINATION**

### **Section 1 - Ordination Qualifications**

Any member of this church, 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 conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

(B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.

(C) The pastor and the chairman of the deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

## **ARTICLE X 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 legislation. The church shall not participate on, 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 deacons shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed 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 (or the corresponding provision of any further United States Internal Revenue Law), as the deacons 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 X 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 suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds 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 pastor and board of deacons. 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 XI AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be revised or amended by a three quarter majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen days before vote is taken.

### **Article XII CHURCH COVENANT**

A new covenant was adopted by membership present at the church business meeting on August 17, 2014. Also adopted was a yearly reaffirmation of the new covenant of each

member on roll. The new covenant follows this page.

**This constitution was adopted by three quarters vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recorder:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witnesses Present:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_