



Constitution of
Temple Baptist Church
Richland, Washington

Revised: December, 2012

HOLY
BIBLE
CONCORDANCE

CONSTITUTION OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Richland, Washington

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be Temple Baptist Church of Richland, Washington.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be the fulfillment of the great commission of Christ as recorded in Matthew 28:19-20. To attain this end, we propose to promote the preaching of the Gospel to every creature, the public worship of God, Christian education, and personal obedience to Jesus Christ, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (Col 1:28)

ARTICLE III – MISSION

With Jesus Christ as our Lord and Head, we commit to fulfill the four-fold mission of the New Testament Church as commanded in the Holy, Inspired and Inerrant Word of God:

- We dedicate ourselves to the exaltation and worship of the one true God.
- We commit ourselves to use our spiritual gifts and ministries to build Christlikeness in each other.
- We accept, as a church, the call to evangelize the lost through personal witness and world missions.
- We consecrate ourselves to preserve and defend the faith once and for all delivered to the church.

Together we will strive to Love God, Be like Jesus, Win the Lost, and Defend the Faith.

ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the plenary verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)
2. We believe in the Triune Godhead. (Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 2:18; John 10:30)
3. We believe in the virgin birth and full deity of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 1:21-23; John 1:1)
4. We believe in Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension back to His Father. (John 2:19-21; Luke 24:51)
5. We believe in the personality, the deity and the work of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7-14; Acts 5:3-4; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13)
6. We believe the Genesis account of creation. God created the heavens and the earth in six literal 24 hour days. (Genesis 1)

7. We believe in the hereditary and total depravity of man in his natural state involving his fall in Adam. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12)
8. We believe in Christ's substitutionary death for fallen man. (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:8)
9. We believe in justification before God by faith alone, without any admixture of works or self merit. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; Titus 3:5)
10. We believe in the eternal security of the believer in Christ. We do not believe that it is possible for a born again person to ever fall away and perish. (John 10:28; I John 5:13; Romans 8:35-39)
11. We believe that the church is a visible, local assembly of baptized believers, congregated together by covenant to carry out the will and work of its head, Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:41-47)
12. We believe the two offices of the New Testament church are pastor and deacon. (I Timothy 3)
13. We believe that the Lord Jesus committed unto His church two ordinances: water baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:17-34)
14. We believe that Water Baptism (immersion) is to be administered to true believers only and by the appointment of a New Testament church. It is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and has no saving merit. (Acts 8:36-39; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:3-5)
15. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a church ordinance to be observed by those who are saved, baptized and in proper church membership. It was instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ himself and is symbolic of His Broken body and shed blood. In holding to the Biblical position that the Lord's Supper is "symbolic" we reject the concept of transubstantiation in any form. (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:2,17-34)
16. We believe in the complete independence of the local church. We, as a church, are a self-governing body with only the Lord Jesus Christ as our Head. (Matthew 18:17-18; Colossians 1:18)
17. We believe in the personality of Satan. (I Peter 5:8)
18. We do not believe in nor will we ever be a part of modernism, neo-evangelicalism, the charismatic movement, the ecumenical movement or extreme five point Calvinism. (See definitions attached)
19. We are not a part of the Charismatic Movement, nor do we believe in the gift of tongues for today. We believe that God can and does heal, but only according to His will and Word. (James 5) We do not believe in "divine healers".
20. We believe in the personal separation of God's children from the world. (James 4:4; I John 2:15-17)
21. We believe in the world-wide missions. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8)
22. We believe in the pre-millennial return of Christ to the earth after which He shall literally reign upon the earth for a thousand years. (Revelation 1:7; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:4)

23. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; both of the just and unjust. The redeemed shall be raised at the return of Jesus Christ and the rest of the dead will be raised and judged after the thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth. (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:23; Revelation 20:11-15)
24. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God. We believe that God ordained marriage and the family as the foundational institution of human society, and that the only legitimate marriage is a sacred and permanent covenant relationship between one man and one woman, symbolizing the union of Christ and his Church. The husband is to be the servant leader in the home and is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, and the wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-25)
25. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of child molestation, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, bisexuality, incest, pedophilia, or pornography is a sinful perversion of God’s gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:22-24; 19:5,13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-29; 7:2; First Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; Gal. 3:28; Ephesians 5:22-23; First Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as a local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree with these statements on marriage and sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

26. We believe in the sanctity of human life. Procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the moment of conception, a new life begins, a human being, a being created in God’s image. This human being is precious to God, regardless of the circumstances of conception. It is necessary to state firmly that nothing and no one should in any way condone the killing of an innocent human being, whether a fetus or an embryo, an infant or an adult, an old person, or one suffering from an incurable disease, or a person who is dying. (Genesis 1:27; Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalm 139:13-15)

ARTICLE V – CHURCH COVENANT

As a bond of unity among us, this church accepts for members the following covenant:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and on the profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church body (as defined in Article IV, 11), in knowledge, holiness, and service, to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, ministry and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly by tithes and offerings to the expenses of the church, the support of the ministry, the spread of the Gospel, and the relief of the poor and needy. We give the church such sacred care and duty, recognizing its pre-eminence over all other institutions that are of mere human origin.

By God's grace, we agree to live above reproach in this present, evil world; to be just, honest, morally clean, well-mannered and in all ways to earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We further covenant to maintain private and family Bible study and prayer, to do our best to raise our children in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We engage to seek the salvation of our families, acquaintances and the lost in our community.

We promise that we will watch over one another in Christian love, that we will pray for one another, that we will aid each other in times of need and that we will be kind, courteous, and forgiving to each other as one body in Christ.

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

ARTICLE VI – FELLOWSHIP

Temple Baptist Church shall be an independent Baptist Church. This church shall not be a member of any association or convention of churches. However, while holding this independent position this church shall be free to fellowship with whatever churches of like faith it so desires.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Qualifications for membership

A person, to become a member of this church must meet following qualifications.

1. Be a true believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Be baptized by immersion after profession of faith in Christ, the baptism being administered by a New Testament church.
3. Be in good agreement with the Articles of Faith (Article IV), Covenant (Article V) and Constitution of the church.

Section 2 – Admission Procedure

All coming for membership shall be interviewed by the pastor and deacons. If satisfied the applicant meets the qualifications, they shall recommend the reception of the applicant by the church. Vote required to receive: $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.

Section 3 – Reception of New Members

Members may be received according to the following classifications:

1. By confession of faith in Christ and baptism.
2. By letter of recommendation from another Baptist Church or Church of confirmed like faith and practice.

3. By statement affirming their conversion and baptism.
4. By restoration after having been dismissed from this church previously.

Section 4 – Responsibilities of Membership

It is the duty of all members to conduct themselves in accordance with the teaching and practices of the New Testament as reflected in the Church Covenant (Article IV) and the Doctrinal Statement. Each member is to live in the light of I Corinthians 10:31 "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

1. Support the church by faithful attendance at all services and meetings unless providentially hindered. (Hebrews 10:25)
2. Support the ministry and leadership of the church and pray for them. (Hebrews 13:17-18)
3. Participate cheerfully and regularly in the financial support of the church by tithes and offerings. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
4. Walk together in Christian love, watch over and pray for one another. (Romans 12:3-18)
5. Strive for advancement in God's knowledge, holiness and spiritual growth. (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:2)
6. Seek to understand their place in the body and to participate actively as an important member of this church. (Romans 12:3-8)
7. Discourage division and negativity through open, honest, Christ-like communication. (Ephesians 4:15-16; Ephesians 4:29)
8. Seek Biblical restoration of damaged relationships through humility and grace. (Colossians 3:12-15)

Section 5 – Privileges of Membership

All active members shall have equal rights, except those under eighteen years of age shall be ineligible to vote. Members of this church have no individual property rights in the corporation, and upon termination of membership, they shall be entitled to no interest in the assets. All property owned by this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to Scriptural religious purposes and uses. In the event of the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of the corporation, such property will not ensue to the benefit of any private person, except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for like non-profit, Scriptural religious purposes.

Section 6 – Termination of Membership

Members may be dismissed from the church and their names dropped from the membership roll by reason of:

1. Request of a church letter from another Baptist Church of like faith in order to join such church.

2. Personal request.
3. Membership in another church. If a member joins another church, his name will be dropped from the membership roll whether or not official notice has been received.
4. Death
5. Inactivity. A member who has been unjustifiably absent from the church for a period of one year without manifesting interest by communication or contribution, after due notice and effort to reclaim, may by vote of the membership be dropped from the membership roll or be transferred to the inactive membership roll. Those placed on the inactive roll shall forfeit all privileges of active church membership.
6. Gross misconduct. Members in serious violation of the teachings of the Word of God and the church covenant will be dealt with according to the instructions of Matthew 18:15-17. If the erring member cannot be restored to fellowship, then, after proper church action, the member may be dropped from the membership roll.

ARTICLE VIII – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – Principle of Organization

1. This church is congregational in its form of government: that is, the will of the congregation is the final authority in all matters affecting its own organization.
2. While congregational in government, the church recognizes the supreme Headship of Christ over the church and the position of pastor as one placed by the Holy Spirit to lead and guide the church in all matters.
3. Church membership is required for those desiring to hold any church office.

Section 2 – Offices of the Church

1. Senior Pastor: The Senior Pastor shall be chief executive officer in the church, moderator of all church meetings, chairman of the deacon's board, ex-officio member of all departments and committees of the church. The Senior Pastor shall perform all the Scriptural duties of his office and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, shall have freedom of the pulpit. It is specifically expected of him that he shall faithfully preach the entire Word of God, administer the ordinances, exercise oversight of the church in all of its work, and carefully watch over the membership and spiritual interests of the church. The Senior Pastor is of God's appointment to lead and guide the church, and this leadership should be recognized and followed as long as it is within Scriptural bounds. The Senior Pastor is elected by the church for an unlimited tenure of office to be terminated at his own request or the request of the church.

Assistant Pastor(s) shall serve at the direction of the Senior Pastor and shall share in the same responsibilities and duties as outlined for the Senior Pastor. The Assistant Pastor will serve as a voting member of the deacon's board and fulfill the Pastor's role in his absence.

2. Deacons:

A) The number of deacons to be elected shall be determined by the church board and agreed to by the church, according to the need. They shall be elected upon the basis of qualifications as set forth in the New Testament. (Acts 6; I Timothy 3) With the rotating system in operation, one-third of the deacons required shall be elected each year to serve for a three-year term. Vacancies occurring among the deacons between regular annual election periods may be filled at any time by the vote of the church, upon recommendations of the pastors and deacons. If the pastor or deacons do not make such recommendations between annual elections, the vacancy shall be filled by the church at the next annual election of deacons. To be considered for the position of Deacon, a man must have been a church member in good standing for at least two years.

B) All men nominated by the church for the position of deacon, must be examined by and approved by the pastors and the list of qualified and willing candidates provided to the Deacons before being placed before the church for final election.

C) The deacons shall constitute the pastoral staff's advisory council, and under the pastoral staff's leadership shall assist in the general oversight of the church. With the pastors, they shall seek the highest spiritual good of the church. They shall assist the pastoral staff in whatever duties and functions that the pastoral staff may desire.

D) Upon the death, resignation or removal of the Senior Pastor, the deacons shall without unnecessary delay, work with the remaining pastoral staff member(s) to appoint a pulpit committee from the membership of the church to assist in the seeking of a new pastor.

3. Trustees: The deacons shall fulfill all the legal functions of the trustee office as required by the laws of the state. There shall be no distinct trustee board as such. The pastor and the deacons shall fill the offices of the corporation.

4. Clerk: The duties of the church clerk shall be to keep a correct record of all proceedings of the regular and special business meetings of the church. The clerk shall sign letters of dismissal of members, and cooperate with the church office in keeping a correct roll of membership, and in keeping the records and papers belonging to the church. The clerk shall be elected by the church for a period of one year.

5. Assistant Clerk: All that applies to the clerk shall apply to the assistant clerk. The assistant clerk shall assume the clerk's duties in the absence of the clerk. The assistant clerk will assist the clerk as requested.

6. Church Treasurer: The Treasurer must demonstrate biblical stewardship and confidentiality as he carries out his duties. The treasurer shall receive all money coming to the church and deposit same, make payments of church accounts as required by the church budget, as authorized by the official board, or as directed by vote of the church, keep detailed records and make accurate reports to the church board and congregation at the regular business meetings. The treasurer shall be recommended to the church body for confirmation by the Official Board from a list of qualified candidates. The recommended and confirmed party shall serve for an unspecified tenure of office (no less than one year in duration) to be terminated at his own request or the request of the church.

7. Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer must demonstrate biblical stewardship and confidentiality as he carries out his duties. All that applies to the treasurer shall apply to the assistant treasurer. The assistant treasurer shall assume the treasurer's duties in the absence of the treasurer. It shall be the weekly duty of the assistant treasurer to assist the treasurer in the counting and the recording of the contributions to the church. The assistant treasurer will assist the treasurer as requested by the treasurer. The assistant treasurer shall be recommended to the church body for confirmation by the Official Board from a list of qualified candidates. The recommended and confirmed party shall serve for an unspecified tenure of office (no less than one year in duration) to be terminated at his own request or the request of the church.
8. Sunday School Superintendent: The Sunday School superintendent shall work under the leadership of the pastoral staff to supervise and organize the Sunday School program of the church. He shall have the general oversight of the Sunday School program. He shall be responsible for recruiting and arranging for training of the teachers and workers necessary to carry on the Sunday School program of the church. He shall be responsible for providing Sunday School with the materials and supplies necessary to function. All teachers and workers in the Sunday School program of the church are responsible to the Sunday School superintendent. The Sunday School superintendent will be appointed by the Senior Pastor, subject to final approval of the Official Board. If the Sunday School superintendent is unable or unwilling to carry out the functions of his office, he may be discharged at any time by the Senior Pastor. In the event that this office is temporarily unfilled, these duties and responsibilities will be fulfilled by a member of the pastoral staff.
9. Head Usher: The head usher shall arrange for ushers at all regular and special meetings of the church. The head usher shall be responsible for seeing that there are ushers at every service to take up the offerings, greet and seat those coming to the services, to look after the comfort, smooth operation and any emergencies that may arise at each service. The Head Usher shall ensure that all ushers are familiar with, trained, and capable of fulfilling the security responsibilities established by the church. The head usher is directly responsible to the pastoral staff.
10. Official Board: The Official Board of the church shall consist of the pastor, assistant pastor, the deacons, and the treasurer. The Senior Pastor shall be the chairman of the Official Board and shall call meetings of the Board as he feels necessary. The Official Board shall meet to consider the organization, needs, programs and policies of the church. Recommendations by the Official Board must be approved by the congregation. The Official Board will act as a financial advisory board to the church. Having the organization, needs and programs of the church in mind, the Board can make financial decisions and commitments to expend funds in an amount up to \$25,000/\$5,000 annually. Individual expenditures that exceed \$10,000 or represent a significant departure from the approved spending plan (budget) shall be presented to the church for the consideration of the membership.
11. Teachers and Workers: All teachers and workers in the Sunday School department shall be enlisted for unlimited terms of service by the Sunday School superintendent or pastoral staff. All teachers and workers in any program shall be subject to the approval of the pastoral staff. Those working in any capacity that involves consistent contact with or supervision of minors will be required to consent to a background check prior to their service.
12. Transportation Ministry: All transportation ministry personnel, shall be enlisted for unlimited terms of service and serve under the direction of the pastoral staff. All workers shall be subject to the approval of the pastoral team. Service may be terminated by the pastoral team or at the request of the worker.

13. Ministry Personnel: All persons involved in any program, including song leader, pianist, organist and choir director will be appointed by the pastoral staff.

Section 3 – Committees

There shall be no standing committees in the church. When a committee is necessary, one will be appointed by the pastor and deacons, with a deacon at the head of the committee. When the function of the committee is fulfilled the committee shall be dissolved. It will be the committee's responsibility to report to the pastor and congregation the result of the committee's efforts.

ARTICLE IX – CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1 – Regular Worship and Study Meetings

Regular public meetings for worship, evangelism and Bible preaching and teaching, shall be held on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and on Wednesday evenings. Other special meetings such as evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences and missionary conferences may be scheduled as the church sees fit.

Section 2 – Business Meetings and Voting Rights

1. The pastor may call business meetings as they are required. Business may be conducted at any regularly scheduled meeting of the church.
2. The annual business meeting, in which officers are elected and annual reports are given shall be on a Sunday night in the fall of the year.
3. The church year shall run from October 1 through September 30 of each year. The fiscal year shall run January 1 through December 31 of each year.
4. If the matter to be considered at a specially called meeting is other than routine church business, notice must be given to the membership publicly from the pulpit and by any combination of mail, phone, email, and the church web page at least two weeks in advance (if possible).
5. The pastor is the moderator of all church business meetings. In the absence of the pastor from a business meeting, the assistant pastor shall act as moderator pro-tem; otherwise a moderator pro-tem shall be elected by the church, with a deacon acting as chairman until such shall be elected.
6. The government of the church shall be vested in the hands of members and a simple majority vote shall be effective to bind the church except as follows: Article VII Section 2, $\frac{3}{4}$ Majority; Article VIII Section 2 – 2B, $\frac{2}{3}$ majority; Article X Section 2 and Section 5, $\frac{3}{4}$ majority present and voting; Article XIII, $\frac{3}{4}$ majority.
7. All members of the church age eighteen and above shall be entitled to vote in the church business meetings. Each member is entitled to one vote. Any member may make motions or discuss motions, upon recognition by the moderator.

8. Meetings will be conducted according to good parliamentary procedure that is agreeable to the congregation. All things will be done decently and in order and in a spirit of love and courtesy.
9. All nominations for elected offices shall be submitted to the pastor and deacons, in writing, at least three weeks before the annual elections. No nominations will be taken from the floor at the elections. All elections will be by written ballot. Those names up for election must be made known to the congregation at least one Sunday before the elections.
10. To conduct routine business thirty percent (30%) of the active membership shall constitute a quorum. However, in the case of engaging or dismissing the pastor fifty percent (50%) of the active membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 – Lords Supper observance

The pastor shall call the church to the observance of the Lord’s Supper at regular and appropriate intervals. If the church is without a pastor then the deacons shall call the church to the Lord’s Supper.

ARTICLE X – PASTOR

Section 1 – Qualifications

The pastoral candidate must be a Christian man in good agreement with the Articles of Faith, Covenant and Constitution of this church. The candidate must meet the qualifications of Scripture as given in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:4-9. The candidate must be convinced of his call to the ministry and must meet all the qualifications for membership. He should be able to demonstrate his gifts and knowledge that will be required to fulfill the task of pastor. No candidate shall be presented by the pulpit committee for a vote until he has been thoroughly examined as to doctrine, personal character, ministerial record and general fitness for the office by the pulpit committee.

Section 2 – Method of Selection

According to the Article VIII, Sections 2-E of this constitution, when the church finds itself without a Senior Pastor, the deacons are responsible to appoint a pulpit committee to seek candidates for the office of Senior Pastor. As far as is practical only one candidate shall be considered at a time, and in no case shall the names of more than one candidate at a time be submitted a vote of the church. A special business meeting shall be called to consider a candidate for the Senior Pastor position. Due notice shall be given to each active member of the meeting. Vote required to call: $\frac{3}{4}$ majority with 50% of the active membership necessary for a quorum. The candidate shall be notified by letter of the result of the vote.

Section 3 – Pastoral Provisions

The initial salary, allowances, and vacation, as well as any other consideration deemed advisable, shall be determined by the church at the time of the call and submitted to the candidate in writing. This policy shall be reviewed at least once a year by the Official Board, and recommendations shall be presented to the church for re-adoption or revision at the annual meeting.

Section 4 – Pastoral Responsibilities

The pastor is to fulfill the following:

1. He must shepherd the flock of God and protect the people of God from false teachers. I Peter 5:2; Acts 20:28-30; Titus 3:5
2. He must teach and exhort, that is, give instruction and warning to God's people. I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; I Peter 5:2
3. He is to manage the church of God by strong leadership. I Timothy 3:5; 5:17; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 5:2
4. He is to be an example to the flock. I Peter 5:3
5. He is to train and equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12
6. He is to preach the Word and lead the church in the work of soul winning. II Timothy 4:2-5
7. He is to tenderly edify the church in love and concern that the body may grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Ephesians 4:13-16
8. He is to pray for the sick. James 5:14-15
9. Fulfill all other duties outline in the current job description.

Section 5 – Termination of Relationship

The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be continuous until dissolved by either giving sixty (60) days written notice, or less by mutual consent. In the event the church initiates such action, the matter shall be presented to the church by the deacons at a special meeting called for the purpose with due notice of such meeting made to each member. Vote required to dismiss: $\frac{3}{4}$ majority with fifty percent (50%) of the active membership necessary for a quorum.

Section 6 – Applicability

All aspects, requirements, and provisions contained in Article X shall apply to all members of the pastoral staff.

ARTICLE XI – CHURCH'S PLAN OF FINANCING

Tithes and offerings shall be recognized as our plan of finance. All members are encouraged to give at least a tenth of their gross income to the Lord's work. This is encouraged not as a matter of law, but as a matter of Bible principle. Any offering given must come from a cheerful and willing heart if the Lord Jesus is to be pleased.

ARTICLE XII – LICENSE AND ORDINATION

It shall be within the power of the church to license and/or ordain into the Gospel ministry those men whom God has called and equipped. It shall have the authority, by vote of the congregation to license a man to the ministry and/or to call ordination councils and issue proper credentials.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by the membership of the church at any regular or called business meeting provided notice of such proposed amendments shall have been given at least one month previous. Vote required to amend: $\frac{3}{4}$ majority with fifty percent (50%) of the active membership necessary for a quorum.

DEFINITIONS

Modernism: A worldview of belief that asserts that all of mankind’s challenges and problems can be solved through the application of systematic reasoning. This creates a tendency in theology to conform traditional religious teaching to contemporary thought and especially to devalue supernatural elements.

Neo-evangelicalism: A worldview of belief that embraces a liberal and “lower view” of Scripture, encourages inclusivity over doctrine, and pursues ecumenical partnerships. This worldview often places a greater emphasis upon social issues and a “social gospel” than upon the biblical fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Charismatic Movement: The charismatic movement is an informal international and trans-denominational fellowship of Christians who believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit described by Paul in I Cor. 12:4 - 11 and Gal. 5:22 - 23 are manifested in these times. Although related to Pentecostalism, the charismatic movement differs in not being denominationally organized. Doctrinal distinctions associated with the Charismatic movement include 1) Baptism with the Holy Spirit as a separate event, apart from the salvation experience, 2) Speaking in Tongues, 3) The continued use of all spiritual gifts (as opposed to a division between those intended for Apostolic times and those intended for the continuing New Testament Church).

Ecumenical Movement: The ecumenical movement is the organized effort by people to bring about the cooperation and unity of all who fall under the general banner of Christendom. For this to be realized doctrinal differences must be put aside and Biblical truth subjugated for the sake of fellowship.

Extreme Five Point Calvinism: Extreme Five Point Calvinism is a theological view expressed by the acronym TULIP. These letters stand for Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints. This is a system of theology framed to exalt the honor and glory of God and does so by acutely minimizing the moral and spiritual responsibility of sinners. It emphasizes irresistible grace to such an extent that it creates a sense that there can appear to be no real need to evangelize the lost.