

CONSTITUTION OF BLUE RIVER BIBLE CHURCH

Blue River Bible Church
15608 Fairchild Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64147

AS PASSED AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MAY 7, 1975,
AND REVISED AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
APRIL 28, 1976, APRIL 21, 1982, APRIL 20, 1983,
JULY 17, 1988, JANUARY 17, 1999, JANUARY 23, 2005,
FEBRUARY 1, 2009, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010, AND JANUARY 1, 2023

Preamble

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and on the public profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly 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 in knowledge, holiness and edification; to promote its vitality and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to rear our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid gossiping, backbiting, and unbiblical anger; to abstain from any practice which would bring reproach to the name of Christ; and to be zealous in our efforts to make our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ known.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; and to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, seeking it without delay.

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

Constitution

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Blue River Bible Church, Inc.

Article II. Purpose

Blue River Bible Church exists for the purpose of glorifying God through the worship of God, and through the work of making disciples of Christ by reaching the lost with the gospel, and by bringing believers to spiritual maturity. Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 2:41–47.

Article III. Confession of Faith

The Doctrinal Statement

We believe in:

The verbal, plenary inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures. The Bible is God's written Word and is the only guide for faith and practice.

The unity of the Godhead in three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, that He is true God and true man.

The virgin birth of Christ, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

The personality and deity of the Holy Spirit.

The reality and personality of angels, including Satan, the adversary of God and man.

The fall of man and his total depravity. All men are sinners and lost apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The reality and eternal existence of heaven and hell. Those trusting in Christ are bound for heaven and those not trusting in Him are bound for hell.

Salvation by the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross and the shedding of His blood.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only condition of salvation. Salvation is by God's grace through faith apart from works.

The eternal security of all born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His glorified bodily presence at the right hand of God as our only High Priest and Advocate.

The imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ to receive His Church unto Himself.

The visible and premillennial return of Christ with His Church to establish His millennial kingdom on the earth.

The physical resurrection of all men: the saints to heaven and the wicked to hell.

The importance of the local church in the fulfilling of the Great Commission through evangelism both here and worldwide.

Section 1 Of the Scriptures

We believe divinely inspired men wrote the Holy Bible. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any error for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions will be tried. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

Section 2 Of the Godhead

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2, 3, Mark 12:29–32; Ephesians 1:3–14; Revelation 4:11.

Section 3 Of the Father

We believe the Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. He draws people to Jesus for salvation. He adopts into His family as His children all who receive Christ. He both hears and answers the prayers of the saints. John 1:12; 6:44; 16:23, 24; Ephesians 1:5; 1 John 4:14.

Section 4 Of the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. As the sinless Lamb of

God, He died on the cross shedding His blood as the vicarious sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. He arose bodily and ascended to heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God interceding for His redeemed people. Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:18–25; Acts 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; 1 Peter 1:18–21.

Section 5 Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person of the same nature as God the Father and God the Son. He is the primary agent for restraining sin in the world, bringing salvation to unbelievers, and securing salvation for believers. He gives spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of serving the church, but the sign gifts, such as tongues and healing, have ceased. John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:8–11; Romans 8:14–16; 1 Corinthians 13:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:6, 7.

Section 6 Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was created a holy angel and enjoyed heavenly honors but, through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels. He is now the prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. He is the chief adversary of both God and man, the accuser of the saints, and the author of all false religion. Though he will command and empower the antichrist, he is destined to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to eternal condemnation in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels. Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–19; Revelation 12:9, 10.

Section 7 Of Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that man came by direct creation of God as recorded in Genesis 1, 2; man did not come by any sort of evolution. Man was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless state. As a result, all mankind are now sinners, both by birth and by choice, and under just condemnation and with neither defense nor excuse. Genesis 3:1–6, 24; Romans 1:18–20; 5:12–19.

Section 8 Of Heaven and Hell

We believe the eternal destiny of man is either heaven or hell. The unbelieving and unregenerate will spend eternity in hell, a place of conscious suffering and torment. Those who trust in Christ will spend eternity with Him in heaven, a place of conscious rest, blessedness, and joy. Luke 16:19–31; John 14:1–6; Revelation 20:15.

Section 9 Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial work of the Son of God, in that He freely took upon Himself our nature—yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. His atonement consisted not in setting for us an example by His death as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitution of Himself in the

sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust. He rose from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. Isaiah 53: 4–6; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7, 8; Hebrews 10:12.

Section 10 Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. We are saved by God's grace through faith apart from works. Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8, 9.

Section 11 Of Justification

We believe justification is the great blessing that Christ secures to those who believe in Him. Justification involves the pardoning of sin and the imputation of righteousness. It comes solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, apart from any works that we have done, and results in eternal life. Acts 13:39; Romans 3:24, 25; 5:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

Section 12 Of Sanctification

We believe that the essential meaning of sanctification is "set apart to God." For the believer there are three aspects of sanctification. Positionally, we are sanctified the moment we trust in Christ (Hebrews 10:9, 10). In our experience we are being sanctified daily (2 Corinthians 3:18). Final and complete sanctification will come when Christ returns (1 John 3:2, 3).

Section 13 Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are born again are eternally secure and kept by the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35–39; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 1:3–5.

Section 14 Of the Church

A. We believe that the universal Church is the body and bride of Christ and is made up of all born-again persons in this present age, beginning at Pentecost and continuing until Christ calls the Church to Himself. All believers of this age are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation and should unite with a local church. Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Hebrews 10:24, 25.

B. We believe that a local church is a congregation of born-again people associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in Christ. Its leadership is composed of pastors, elders, and deacons. The local church is autonomous but may fellowship and cooperate with other groups of like precious faith. Acts 2:41, 42; 20:17–28; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1–15.

Section 15 Of the Ordinances

A. Baptism. We believe water baptism is performed by immersing a believer in water. It is a symbol of spiritual baptism and a picture of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:41.

B. The Lord's Supper. We believe the Lord's Supper, also called Communion, is a memorial to the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross at Calvary. Using the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine to represent Christ's body and blood, every believer is encouraged to participate after self-examination. 1 Corinthians 11:23–32.

Section 16 Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, honored, and obeyed, except 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. Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29; Romans 13:1–7; 1 Timothy 2:1–8.

Section 17 Of the Resurrection and the Result Thereof

We believe that Jesus Christ arose from the grave in a glorified body as predicted, that He ascended into heaven as witnessed, and that He is seated at the right hand of the Father and has become the perfect high priest of the New Covenant as prophesied. We believe that before the Tribulation He will rapture the living saints and resurrect those who have died in Christ as promised, and that He will rule and reign as king for a thousand years as predicted. John 14:3; 20:14–17; Acts 1:9–11; 1 Corinthians 15:51–53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:1–6; Revelation 20:1–4.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1 Benefits of Membership

No one has to be a member to benefit from the ministry of Blue River Bible Church. Its worship services, Bible studies, counseling, and associated ministries are open to all. However, one must become a member to participate in the following specific ways:

- A. Except by special permission of the Church Board, only members may serve in teaching and leadership positions.
- B. Only members (who are 18 years of age or older) may vote in church meetings.
- C. Only members may be elected to the Church Board.

Section 2 Admission to Membership

A. Qualifications. There are four general qualifications for membership in Blue River Bible Church. First, prospective members must have a testimony of personal

salvation. Second, they must have been (or be willing to be) baptized by immersion. Third, they must demonstrate a willingness to abide by biblical principles. Fourth, they must be willing to function within the limits of this constitution and the decisions of the Church Board.

B. Procedure. A prospective member will read this constitution and affirm his agreement with it. He will meet privately with at least two church officers. Once the church officers have established the genuineness of the prospective member's conversion, his baptismal status, and his willingness to support the work of the church, they will recommend him to the congregation for membership in a regular service of the church. The congregation will then decide on his acceptance by a majority vote.

Section 3 Duties of Membership

A. Lifestyle. Members are expected to maintain a manner of life appropriate to the gospel of Christ, that is, to live a life that brings no reproach on Christ or His Church.

B. Participation. Members are expected to pray faithfully for its ministries and leaders, to attend its services regularly, and to give consistently to its maintenance as the Lord enables them.

Section 4 Discipline of Members and Attendees

Membership in Blue River Bible Church entails submission to its standards of faith and practice. When a member clearly and flagrantly violates these standards, the church may discipline that member in accordance with the requirements of Scripture.

A. Purpose. The purpose of any disciplinary action is twofold: first, to restore the flagrantly erring believer, and second, if that fails, to protect the church from his or her continuing influence. 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7; Galatians 6:1.

B. All members of this fellowship are expected to conduct their lives according to the standard set forth in the Scriptures. Such conduct includes moral purity, personal honesty, and biblical fidelity, e.g., abstaining from sexual immorality, unresolved personal conflicts, divisiveness, and false teaching. Our lives are to be consistent examples of authentic Christianity as we walk in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 18:15–20; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 2 Timothy 3:14–17.

C. Should any member willfully depart from this scriptural standard and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles of conduct, the pastor or an elder, with at least one other elder, shall confront, counsel, and pray with the erring individual for the purpose of leading the person to repentance and, ultimately, full restoration. This shall be done in a spirit of humility, gentleness, and loving honesty. Should there be no evidence of repentance, the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:16, 17 shall be followed. If these steps of reproof are taken and there is no repentance, the person will be removed from

ministry, membership, and fellowship of this church by the Church Board. This decision will be reported to the congregation. Ephesians 4:25–27.

D. Any attendee of this church, not included in membership, involved in open sexual immorality, divisiveness, false teaching, or any other sinful conduct condemned by Scripture and disruptive to the fellowship, shall be confronted and counseled concerning that conduct. The pastor or an elder, and at least one other elder, shall confront, counsel, and pray with the erring individual for the purpose of protection of the fellowship, purification of the fellowship, and ultimately, repentance of the erring individual. This shall be done in a spirit of humility and gentleness, as well as loving honesty. Should there be no evidence of repentance, the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:16, 17 shall be followed. If these steps of reproof are taken and there is no repentance, the person will be removed from ministry and/or from fellowship of this church by the Church Board. This decision will be reported to the congregation. 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 1 Timothy 5:19, 20; Titus 3:9–11.

E. Any person who for any reason has been excluded from church membership or fellowship may be restored to his former status upon the decision of the Church Board, after he has given satisfactory explanation and acceptable evidence of honest repentance and has made genuine confession of wrongdoing, 2 Corinthians 2:5–11; Galatians 6:1.

Section 5 Termination of Membership

A. Upon his written request, a member wishing to sever his membership shall be dropped from the roll.

B. Any member who comes under final disciplinary action by the Church Board will be excluded from membership.

C. Any member who permanently moves out of the Kansas City area will be automatically removed from the membership roll, except for one who gives reason to remain on the list and gains this approval from the Elder Board.

D. Members are expected to attend worship services regularly or otherwise show interest in the activities of the church. In the event a member fails these responsibilities for six months, he will, upon decision of the Church Board, be placed on inactive status. A member on inactive status loses his privilege to vote on church matters. If such a member continues to be absent from the church, it shall be the prerogative of the Church Board to remove him from membership. If a member on inactive status begins to attend worship services regularly and otherwise shows interest in the activities of the church, the Church Board may return him to active status.

Article V. Biblical Standards of Morality

In a world of ever-changing moral standards, we believe that the Bible is the sole, unchanging authority on which to base our standards of morality. The Bible instructs us in not only how sexuality is viewed, but also how we develop personal relationships and how we view and treat others.

Section 1 Sexuality and Marriage

We believe in the sanctity of marriage as a God-ordained, special union between one man and one woman, where sexual relations are both honored and affirmed by God. The Bible teaches that all sexual unions outside of marriage, as thus defined, are sinful. When dealing with sexual sins, we have no alternative but to follow the teachings of Scripture, as we understand them, and consistently apply those teachings to both heterosexual and homosexual situations. Therefore, no member of Blue River Bible Church will perform a ceremony of marriage that is in opposition to the standards laid out in Article V, neither shall the facilities of the church be used to declare or celebrate such unions or practices. Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 5:18-19; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; I Corinthians 7:2-8.

A biblical marriage relationship is the only acceptable place for the expression of sexual desire and relations. Sexual expression within the context of singleness is rejected by the teaching of Scripture. Matthew 19:10-12; I Corinthians 7:1, 8-9, 32-35; I Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 13:4.

Section 2 Sexual Deviations

There are many practices common and/or accepted by society that are deviations from the clear teachings of Scripture and are to be rejected. These include but are not limited to premarital sex, extramarital sex, adultery, cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, pedophilia, bestiality, and incest. The Bible teaches that the physical condition in which a person is born, including their sex, is established by God (Exodus 4:11; Psa. 139:13-14; John 9:3), thus showing that claims of sexual mutability are false. Furthermore, it explicitly identifies transvestism and its related corruptions, including sex-change operations, as abominations to God (Deuteronomy 22:5). Leviticus 18:6-18, 22-24; 19:29; 20:13; 2 Samuel 13:11-12; Proverbs 6:26-29; Matthew 5:27-28; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 6:9.

Section 3 Biblical Response to Sexual Sin

We believe that all Christians are to be held by the Scriptures to the biblical model of sexual expression. We understand the Bible to teach that we must oppose sexual sin while demonstrating compassion for those who fall victim to it, distinguishing between the value and identity of each person as an individual, and the behavioral choices which some individuals may make. We believe that God's grace and mercy apply to those who have fallen into sexual sin and have acknowledged, confessed, and repented, and that Christ's example and the teachings of Scripture dictate that the church has a responsibility to assist in their restoration. 2 Corinthians 2:1-8; Gal. 6:1-2; I Thessalonians 4:3-7; I John 1:9.

Section 4 Biblical Response to Racial Issues

In regard to the outward distinctions between people, we believe that the following biblical principles must be applied. Truth is not determined by what any group may advocate, but only by what the Word of God declares (John 17:17; II Tim. 3:16-17). To discriminate against anyone or to show partiality toward anyone on the basis of outward characteristics, such as racial distinctions, economic status, physical condition, or personal background, is sin (Jas. 2:1-12). Mankind is essentially one race, all descended from the one man Adam (Acts 17:26), and all mankind, whether male or female, no matter their outward characteristics, are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27; Jas. 3:9). Jesus taught that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). Your neighbor is anyone whose need you see, no matter what his/her race may be (Luke 10:25-37). The ultimate answer to racism is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which delivers man from the power of sin and gives him the ability to love his neighbor as himself (Rom. 1:16).

Article VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1 Meeting Procedures.

- A. Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- B. A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 25% of voting members.
- C. Absentee ballots shall be accepted for election of officers and shall be issued at the discretion of the Church Board. Only ballots received prior to the election shall be accepted.

Section 2 Annual and Semi-annual Meetings

Semi-annual business meetings of the church shall be held in March and September, when the regular business of the church shall be transacted and reports made. The March meeting shall be designated the Annual Meeting, at which time annual reports from the pastor and various departments may be made.

Section 3 Special Business Meetings

The pastor or elders or any ten voting members of the church may call a special meeting by giving notice of the same, and the purpose for which it is called, to the church at both regular stated services of worship on the two Sundays prior to such meeting. No other business shall be transacted at such meeting except that which is stated as the purpose of the meeting.

Section 4 Emergency Meetings

In the event of an emergency, the above requirement for a two-week notice shall be waived. A reasonable effort shall be made by the pastor and Church Board to notify the membership of such a meeting.

Article VII. Worship Services

Unless otherwise provided, the church shall meet each Sunday for worship, both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for Bible study, prayer, and other ministries. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be observed at least quarterly, but preferably monthly, as the pastor deems appropriate. He will explain its significance, and the congregation will be served regardless of church affiliation.

Article VIII. Church Officers and Administrative Functions

Section 1 Church Officers

All church officers shall be men who are voting members of Blue River Bible Church, and who are led by the Holy Spirit and have proven their worthiness by exemplary living and knowledge of the Scriptures. They will actively support Article VI by their regular attendance, participation in ministry, and verbal and financial support of the ministries of the church. Their titles shall be Pastor(s), Elders, and Deacons.

Section 2 Elections, Duties, and Terms of Church Officers

- A. Senior Pastor
1. Call and Tenure of Office. The candidate for the office of Senior Pastor must be in complete agreement with this Constitution, and he must be an ordained minister or willing to seek ordination by Blue River Bible Church at the earliest convenience. After being examined and recommended unanimously by the Church Board, the Senior Pastor will be chosen by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of all voting members present at a meeting called for that purpose. The Senior Pastor shall hold office unless $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members elect to remove him at a special meeting called for that purpose or until he asks that the pastoral relation cease. The Senior Pastor will give thirty days notice, in writing, to the Church Board if he desires to end his office as Senior Pastor.
 2. Duties. The Senior Pastor is a salaried elder on the Church Board. His primary responsibilities include a) preaching and teaching the Word of God, for the purpose of bringing saints to maturity in Christ (Eph. 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 4:2); and b) training the Church Board members to be effective leaders of the Church (2 Tim. 2:2). His secondary responsibilities include, but are not limited to, spending sufficient time in the study of God's Word each day, enabling him to carry out his primary responsibilities (2 Tim. 2:15), and the visitation and counseling of the Church family. He will also oversee other ministries of the

Church as an ex-officio voting member of all departments, boards, and committees. He will normally preside at all worship meetings of the Church. He will supervise the paid staff members.

B. Associate Pastor(s)

1. Call and Tenure of Office. The candidate for the office of Associate Pastor must be in complete agreement with this Constitution, and he must be an ordained minister or willing to seek ordination by Blue River Bible Church at the earliest convenience. After being examined and recommended unanimously by the Church Board, the Associate Pastor will be chosen by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of all voting members present at a meeting called for that purpose. The Associate Pastor shall hold office unless $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members elect to remove him at a special meeting called for that purpose or until he asks that the pastoral relation cease. The Associate Pastor will give thirty days notice, in writing, to the Church Board if he desires to end his office as Associate Pastor.

2. Duties. The Associate Pastor is a salaried elder on the Church Board. He reports to the Senior Pastor and shall assist the Senior Pastor as needed in a range of duties consistent with his abilities and the needs of the congregation. In addition, he will be given preaching and teaching opportunities and assist in the conducting of worship services.

3. Definition. "Associate Pastor" includes any man hired, full- or part- time, to assist in any pastoral ministry.

C. Elders

1. Elder Board. The Elder Board shall consist of the elders, both salaried and non-salaried. The Chairman of the Church Board shall serve as Chairman of the Elder Board.

2. Call and Tenure of Office. When qualified men are available, there will be at least three elders on the Church Board, in addition to the pastor(s). Elders are selected from the voting members of the congregation by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at any business meeting. Elders are non-salaried members of the Church Board. An elder shall hold office unless $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members elect to remove him at a special meeting called for that purpose or until he resigns. An elder will give thirty days notice, in writing, to the Church Board if he desires to end his office as elder. Qualifications for elders are given in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9.

3. Duties. Elders oversee the administration and spiritual leadership of the church in accordance with the Church Constitution, preserving the stated purpose (Art. II) and the Confession of Faith (Art. III). The elders meet monthly and are responsible to oversee the following:

- a. Worship services and church meetings
- b. Visitation of church members and regular attendees
- c. Church policies

- d. Examination of potential church members
- e. Administration of the ordinances of the church, and
- f. Examination of potential elders and deacons.

D. Deacons

1. Deacon Board. The Deacon Board shall consist of the deacons.
2. Call and Tenure of Office. When qualified men are available, there will be at least five deacons on the Church Board. Deacons are selected from the voting members of the congregation by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote at any business meeting. Deacons are unsalaried members of the Church Board. A deacon shall hold office unless $\frac{3}{4}$ of the voting members elect to remove him at a special meeting called for that purpose or until he resigns. A deacon will give thirty days notice, in writing, to the Church Board if he desires to end his office as deacon. Qualifications for deacons are given in 1 Timothy 3:8–13 and Acts 6:1–6.
3. Duties. Deacons oversee the physical care of the church property, and assist the elders in overseeing the financial operation of the church and the physical care of the congregation. Deacons will choose officers from their members including, but not limited to, Chairman, Maintenance Director, and Secretary. They will take all necessary measures for the protection and maintenance of the church properties. The deacons will meet at least once a month, and this meeting will be with the elders whenever it is deemed necessary by the Senior Pastor, Elder Board, or Deacon Board. They will assist the elders with the following:
 - a. Visitation of church members and regular attendees
 - b. Examination of potential church members, and
 - c. Administration of the ordinances of the church.

Section 3 Administrative Functions

A. Church Board

1. Definition. The Church Board shall consist of the pastor(s), elders, and deacons. Each member shall have an equal vote.
2. Duties. The Church Board shall choose one of the elders to serve as chairman. He will also chair the church business meetings. The Church Board shall meet jointly when necessary and shall report to the congregation semiannually. The purpose of the Church Board is to coordinate all activities of the church officers and administrative functions of the church. A quorum will consist of sixty percent of the members of the Church Board. The Church Board will not have authority to approve an expenditure in excess of \$5000 without congregational approval. The Church Board shall serve as a Search Committee when it is necessary to seek out a Senior Pastor or Associate Pastor, but they may delegate this responsibility to a committee they choose.

B. Corporate Board. The Elder Board shall constitute the Corporate Board, and shall be the official Church representative for all legal and business transactions.

C. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be an elder or deacon appointed by the Church Board and elected by the congregation. He will have charge of all monies received and keep an accurate, itemized account of all receipts and expenses. He will prepare a financial report for each monthly board meeting and each congregational meeting. Standard and customary financial practices shall be used, including a paper or audit trail for each transaction. The financial records will be audited annually by a committee selected for that purpose. The Elder Board will appoint assistant(s) to the treasurer as deemed appropriate.

D. Church Board Secretary. The Secretary shall be an elder or deacon appointed by the Church Board. The secretary shall be responsible for a record of the proceedings of the church at all business and Church Board meetings. He shall be responsible for the registry of membership and baptisms, and for an account of special events in the life of the church that are of historic interest.

E. Other Functions and Responsibilities. The Church Board shall determine the need for leadership and shall appoint or remove directors as needed. These directors may include, but not be limited to Sunday School superintendent, head usher, choir director, and women's Bible study group teacher. The Board shall prepare and present ministry descriptions for each director.

Section 4 Removal From and Vacancy of Office

In the event that any officer or director fails to fulfill the duties and obligations of the office to which he has been elected or appointed, the Church Board shall have the right to remove the officer or director and fill the vacancy as prescribed by Article VIII, Section 2.A.1, 2.B.1 or 3.E or Article VIII as appropriate. Any officer, appointed or elected, wishing to resign from his duties, may do so by giving thirty days written notice to an elder, and the resignation will be acted upon by the Church Board.

Article IX. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Church Board or a committee of elders and deacons whom they appoint. It is the duty of the Committee to nominate candidates for the offices of elder and deacon for the election. They shall contact the person to be nominated to see if he is willing to serve. One month prior to a business meeting at which election of an elder or deacon will be considered, the congregation shall be notified of the formation of the Nominating Committee. The congregation may then make recommendations to the Committee. No nominations shall be taken from the floor during the business meeting. The nominations shall be placed in the church bulletin two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

Article X. Auditing Committee

The auditing committee shall consist of four people appointed by the Church Board. They shall audit all accounts of the church and certify the same in a report to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. They shall also be responsible for establishing the procedure and methods to be followed by the treasurer in maintaining financial records.

Article XI. Method of Amendment

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular business meeting or specially called meeting; providing that said revision or amendment has been posted and that posting announced to the congregation at both regular services of worship two Sundays preceding the date of the meeting.

Article XII. Associations

A New Testament church is autonomous and subject to Christ, its head. It can affiliate with other organizations only on the grounds of fellowship. This church, therefore, desires to fellowship with organizations composed of born-again believers in doctrinal agreement, and declares itself to be independent, fundamental, and premillennial.

Article XIII. Dissolution

Dissolution of the Church may occur after a three-fourths majority vote of members present at a meeting properly called for that purpose. Subsequent notice will be given to the Missouri Secretary of State in accordance with RSMo §355.681, including the effective date of dissolution. Upon dissolution and payment of creditors, any assets of the corporation shall be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as not-for-profit, and similar to the Church in faith and practice. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, officer of the corporation or any private individual; and no donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets.