

Faith Baptist Church

Constitution
Covenant
By-laws

*Faith Baptist Church
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(SS Sept 2003 Edition)

THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Mattawan, Michigan

Constitution – Doctrinal Statement – Covenant – Consecration Pledge

PREAMBLE

The Bible admonishes us saying, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” (I Corinthians 14:40). To this end do we, members of the Faith Baptist Church of Mattawan, Michigan, solemnly and sincerely set forth the following Constitution by which we willingly and cheerfully agree to be governed.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Church shall be
Faith Baptist Church of Mattawan, Michigan

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be to promote the evangelizing of the unsaved at home and abroad and to seek the spiritual improvement of its members through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as set forth in the Scriptures.

ARTICLE III – AUTONOMY

The Faith Baptist Church of Mattawan, Michigan shall be and remain independent and autonomous. However, it may participate in fellowship and activity with organizations of like faith and practice for the promotion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as long as it does not infringe upon the independency or autonomy of this Church. In case of the Church ever being dissolved, the properties of this organization shall revert only to a Baptist Organization or Church believing in our stated doctrine and practice.

ARTICLE IV – CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Bible, as the Word of God, shall be considered the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. As expressive of our faith, we hereby adopt the New Hampshire Confession of Faith with the premillennial and other additions. (See Appendage 1)

ARTICLE V – COVENANT (See Article XVIII)

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, 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 comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense; but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage 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 Word.

ARTICLE VI – RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1 – INSTRUCTION

All new members shall be thoroughly instructed in church doctrine, church government, and the individual member's responsibility to this Church in order to promote better acquaintance and harmony among its members. The time, place, and number of sessions of the instruction class shall be under the direction of the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

SECTION 2 – EXPERIENCE

Any person who confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, gives satisfactory evidence of a change of heart and adoption of the views of the faith and practice held by this Church, and who is baptized by immersion, may be received into membership.

SECTION 3 – LETTER

Letters from other Baptist Churches shall serve as a recommendation and indication of previous baptism. All other requirements of the Article shall be fulfilled.

SECTION 4 – RECOMMENDATION

All persons applying for membership in this Church shall be recommended by the Board of Deacons before they are acted upon by the Church. Applicants for membership should receive the unanimous vote of the members present.

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – ACTIVE MEMBERS

Regular members shall be those who have been received into this Church according to the conditions set forth under "Reception of Members" and have all the rights, duties, privileges, and obligations as set forth in the Constitution.

SECTION 2

It shall be the duty of the Pastor and of the Board of Deacons, in particular, and of all the members, to seek in Christian love the restoration of any member who has fallen into sin or who has become indifferent to spiritual things. This having been done, members who fail to communicate with the Church, either in person or by letter, for a period of six months, unless known to be ill, may be notified by the Church Clerk at their last known address, of the intention of the Church to retire their names to a list of inactive members. At the expiration of sixty days from date of notice, if the absent member has failed to show cause deemed sufficient by the Board of Deacons, his name shall be placed on a list of inactive members.

SECTION 3

Inactive members shall be deprived of privileges of voting and of holding office, and shall not be counted in the active membership.

SECTION 4

Upon request by the individual and upon his giving evidence of a desire to participate in the fellowship of the Church, any inactive member may be restored to active membership by majority vote of the active members present at the regular or specially called business meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - DISMISSAL OF MEMBER

SECTION 1 – LETTERS OF DISMISSAL

Letters of dismissal to other Baptist churches shall be granted by the Church upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons and shall be sent by the Church Clerk direct to the church named in the letter.

SECTION 2 – LETTERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Letters of Christian character may be granted to members uniting with churches of other denominations.

SECTION 3 – DELETIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL

1. Any member absent from the regular worship services for a period of three months shall be called upon officially.

2. Any member absent for a period of six months shall receive a letter calling attention to his absence and urging him to again become active.

3. The names of all members who fail to express interest either through attendance or letter of testimony for a period of twelve months will be automatically dropped from the Membership Roll (by written notification). The above shall not apply to members physically prevented from active membership.

4. Names of individuals to be dropped must be posted publicly in the church building for two weeks before the individual's name will be deleted from the Membership Roll.

SECTION 4 – REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Review of the Membership Roll shall be conducted by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

SECTION 5 – EXCLUSION (See Article IX)

SECTION 6 – DEATH

The name of any individual called home to be with the Lord shall automatically be removed from the roll.

ARTICLE IX – DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1 – PROCEDURE

Since the Board of Deacons is to assist the Pastor in supervising the "spiritual work of the Church," they shall also serve as the discipline committee. In the case of personal differences of members of the church, the Board of Deacons shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences as laid down by their Lord in

Matthew 18:15-16. If, after taking such steps, either member considers it necessary to bring the case before the Church, he shall do so, through the Pastor and Deacons, and both parties in the case shall have a hearing before them. The Pastor and Deacons shall report such conclusions to the Church as they deem best.

When the Pastor and Deacons learn that a member is living a seemingly inconsistent Christian life according to the scriptures, they shall seek his restoration. If a member is charged with an offense which requires discipline, it shall be their duty to inquire into the matter, and, if it shall appear that the case requires it, shall proceed with a thorough investigation. They shall send to the offending member(s) a written statement of the specific charges made against him, and a notice of the time and place when they wish him to appear before them to examine these charges and make his defense. In the event the accused fails to appear at the specified time and place without satisfactory reason, the case shall be presented to the Church for action at a specially called meeting within thirty days from such failure. As a guide, see Hiscox, Edward T., "New Directory for Baptist Churches, the Judson Press, Philadelphia, 28th edition, 1956, ch. VII, Page 160, "Church Discipline."

If the Pastor and Deacons, after completing their investigation of any case as directed in the previous paragraph, decide that the facts thus disclosed require the Church to discipline the offending member, they shall so report to the Church and shall notify the offender of the time when his case shall be considered by the Church.

If, after careful examination, any member fails to give a satisfactory answer to the Church in relation to charges preferred against him, or if he refuses to appear before the Church when cited, he shall be excluded.

SECTION 2 – RESTRICTIONS OF MEMBERS

1. The slandering of the character of any member of the church, or hurtful destructive criticism of the methods and practices of the Church, the Pastor(s), or other officers of the church, shall be considered grounds for discipline.

2. The circulating of a petition among members without having secured permission of the Pastor (or Deacons in case of the absence of having a Senior Pastor) shall not be allowed. The person(s) so doing shall be subject to discipline.

3. The calling of a meeting with a purpose to hinder or interrupt the work of an officer, board, or committee is prohibited. Persons calling such a meeting shall be subject to discipline.

ARTICLE X – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SECTION 1 – UNSCRIPTURAL METHODS

This Church shall be supported in all its endeavors by the tithes and freewill offerings of the people and is opposed to suppers, bazaars, fairs, box socials, lecture courses, et cetera, as a means of raising money for church purposes.

SECTION 2 – SCRIPTURAL METHODS

The Church accepts the Bible method of finance as final authority in all matters of faith and practice. In matters of church finance, we believe that tithes and offerings are the biblical injunctions for giving (See Malachi 3:8-10, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-15). “Upon the first day of the week” (regularly and systematically) “As God has prospered him” (proportionally) “Tithes and Offerings” (proportion is a tithe and offering) “Prove me now herewith (Administrator is God) and “As he purposeth in his heart, so let him give” (each member deciding in the light of the Word of God and the leadership of the Spirit of God, his responsibility).

ARTICLE XI – OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 1

The officers of this Church shall consist of Pastor, Board of Deacons (six or more), Current Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Head Usher, and Nominating Committee (two).

SECTION 2 – PASTOR

The highest office of the Local New Testament Church is that of the Pastor (I Peter 5:2-4). The biblical synonyms for this office are bishop (Overseer — the office, what he does) Titus 1:5-7; I Timothy 3:1; Acts 20:28 elder (President of the assembly — the man, what he is) I Timothy 5:1; Minister (Servant) II Timothy 2:24; Colossians 1:25. The Pastor (meaning “Shepherd”) shall meet all the Biblical requirements for this high and holy office (I Timothy 3:1-7). The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible to thoroughly investigate the purposed candidate for this office to assure the church that he meets all the Biblical qualifications of this important office in the local Church of Jesus Christ.

SECTION 3 – DEACON

A man eligible to hold the office of Deacon shall have attained the age of 21 years and be a capable spiritual leader as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.

SECTION 4 – ALL OTHER OFFICERS

A member holding any one of these offices shall be in full fellowship with this Church.

SECTION 5 – CONSECRATION PLEDGE

The Pastor(s), all Church officers, and Biblical School officers and teachers shall sign the Consecration Pledge before they are eligible to accept a nomination or appointment to an office. (*See Appendage 2*)

ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – PASTOR(S) (See Article XVI)

SECTION 2 – DEACONS

Six shall be elected initially; two for a three-year term; two for a two-year term, and two for a one-year term. Annually thereafter, two shall be elected for a three-year term. After a deacon has served for a three-year term, one year must have elapsed before he can be elected to the Board for another term. If the Church lacks a sufficient number of qualified men to fill the necessary offices of deacon, the office shall be declared vacant and a person completing a three-year term shall be eligible for reelection. The Pastor shall appoint the balance or the necessary three men to complete the Property Committee to represent the Church legally whenever necessary until qualified deacons can fill this constituted office.

SECTION 3 – ALL OTHER OFFICERS

They shall be elected annually for only a one-year period.

ARTICLE XII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – PASTOR

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach statedly at the Church, to supervise the pulpit ministry, including arrangement of pulpit supplies during his absence, to administer the ordinances of the Gospel and to perform the various duties incumbent upon his office. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Deacon Board and all Church committees, and serve as Moderator at all Church business meetings.

SECTION 2 – DEACONS

The term "Deacon" means "Servant"—to the Church, for the Lord. Also the term "Deacon" means "Helper"—Helper to the Pastor in the Church doing the work of the Lord. Therefore, the Deacons shall serve the Church by helping the Pastor in the general supervision of the work of the Church.

The Deacons shall elect their chairman and secretary directly following the annual election. The chairman of this Board shall be Vice-Moderator of the Church. They shall meet monthly, or as called by the Pastor. They may further organize into such special committees, as they feel necessary for the efficient operation of the Church. Any member being absent from regular monthly board meetings for three months in succession, apart from illness or valid excuse, shall be dropped from the Board.

The Deacons, together with the Pastor, shall (1) assist the Pastor with the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism; (2) assist the Pastor as the Discipline Committee; (3) present an annual budget for adoption; (4) serve as the Property Committee who shall represent the Church legally whenever necessary and be responsible for the insurance, maintenance, cleanliness, safety and comfort of all Church properties; (5) submit a list of qualified men from which all candidates for the office of Deacon must be nominated. Such qualified candidates' list shall be held by the Pastor for two weeks in advance of election; (6) hire a Certified Public Accountant to audit the books of all the treasurers in the Church and Bible School whenever requested by the Board of Deacons or the Church; and the accountant's report shall be presented in writing to the Church.

An officer of the Church failing to fulfill the duties of his office shall be admonished by the Pastor. If he still neglects to fulfill his duties, he may be removed from such office. Nominations to fill this vacancy shall be made immediately by the Nominating Committee for election by the Church. The person thus elected shall hold office until the next annual election. Any electee or appointee who may desire to resign may do so orally (before two or more witnesses). However, it is preferable that a resignation be put in writing and presented to the Pastor, Church Clerk, or any one of the Deacons. The Deacons shall collect and dispense a Fellowship Communion Offering to meet emergency needs. One Deacon shall be appointed by the Board to act as treasurer of the communion fund, and another member of the Board shall aid him in counting the receipts. This fund will be subject to an audit of the Deacon Board only. The ministry of mercy that shall be performed by this fund shall be kept confidential.

SECTION 3 – CURRENT TREASURER

The Current Treasurer shall have custody of all Church and Bible School monies (except Fellowship Communion Fund). He shall keep an accurate record of all current and Bible School receipts and expenditures. He shall make all disbursements according to the approved church budget. He shall present a written monthly statement of credit or indebtedness to the Deacon Board, one statement quarterly and annually to the Church. A copy of the same shall be presented to the Pastor and chairman of the Deacon Board, which statement shall be read at the monthly Deacon Board meeting. The treasurer shall count all receipts with the help of the Financial Secretary. In case of the absence of one or the other, they shall request the Deacons to temporarily appoint someone to assist in counting the receipts for this particular occasion. Two signed statements (two signatures) of the receipts shall be given to the Pastor and chairman of the Board of Deacons of each offering received. The Treasurer shall present an annual report including the auditor's statement.

SECTION 4 – FINANCIAL SECRETARY

It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to have charge of distributing offering envelopes and keeping an accurate record of all Church and Bible School offerings received. He shall deposit all Church and Bible School offerings received. He shall deposit all Church offerings as soon as possible in the name of the Church at a reputable bank approved by the Board of Deacons. He shall be properly covered by insurance. He shall keep an accurate record of individual contributors and present to them a quarterly and annual report of their giving. This statement of receipts will serve for income tax purposes. The annual report of the Financial Secretary is not to include the names of individual contributors, but a summary of giving through envelopes, loose offerings, current, missions, special, etc. The Financial Secretary shall assist the Treasurer in counting all offerings.

SECTION 5 – CLERK

The Clerk shall keep a correct and permanent numbered and dated record of all the business meetings of the Church, sign all letters of dismissal, take charge of all Church records, maintain a register of members, in which shall be noted such changes as may occur.

The Clerk shall enter upon the records of the church current events in the life of the Church that are likely to be of historical value, making the Church records a true and complete history of the Church.

SECTION 6 – BIBLE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

It shall be the duty of the Bible School Superintendent to assist the Pastor(s) in supervising the various departments of the Bible School, and carry out the related responsibilities as delegated by the Pastor in charge.

SECTION 7 – BIBLE SCHOOL SECRETARY

The Bible School Secretary shall keep an accurate record of attendance and offerings of the Bible School, order the various Bible School materials, and prepare a list of the absentees and prospects for the teachers of the Bible School.

ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 – DEACONESS COMMITTEE

The Deaconess Committee shall consist of the wives of all elected Deacons, and shall have responsibility to cooperate with the Pastor and Deacons in the following lines of work: to assist in the preparation for the administration of the ordinances, charitable visitation, and provide flowers for the decoration of the pulpit. Together with the Deacons, they shall arrange receptions for new pastors, missionaries, special guests and other social functions of the Church. They shall elect their own chairman and secretary at their first meeting immediately after the annual election.

SECTION 2 – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members: two appointed by and from the Deacon Board, the Bible School Superintendent, and two nominated (not Deacons) by and elected from the congregation at the regular annual election. There shall be one or more (preferably two) nominees for each office and committee providing qualified (ARTICLE XI, Sec. 3; ARTICLE XI, Sec. 4; ARTICLE XIII, Sec. 5; see CONSECRATION PLEDGE, Appendage 2) candidates are available. No nominee shall have his/her name posted until he/she has been consulted and accepts the nomination to the ballot. The list of nominees for the various offices shall be posted at least two weeks in advance of the annual meeting. This Committee shall be a standing committee during the entire fiscal year and shall so act to fill any vacancies that may occur until the next annual election. At the annual meeting the Nominating Committee shall present a prepared ballot listing one or more nominees for each vacant office, allowing space for additional nominees from the floor. Such additional nominees must meet the above qualifications to be elected to office and must have been consulted and given their consent to be nominated for office.

SECTION 3 – PULPIT COMMITTEE

The Pulpit Committee shall consist of the Deacon Board. The Committee shall secure pastoral candidates and provide pulpit supplies during the time the Church may be without a Pastor. All candidates shall be thoroughly investigated. (See ARTICLE XVI, Sec. 1,2,3)

SECTION 4 – OTHER COMMITTEES

Such other committees, standing or ad hoc, may be constituted by Pastoral appointment. Their scope of activity and term of service shall be specified at time of appointment.

SECTION 5 – TERM OF OFFICE

The term of service of all committees, except the Pulpit Committee, shall be for one year. The Pulpit Committee shall be dissolved from their duties when the new Pastor assumes his duties.

SECTION 6 – QUALIFICATIONS

All committee members shall be regular members in full fellowship. Members of the nominating committee and Pulpit Committees shall have attained the age of 21.

ARTICLE XIV – CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

BE IT RESOLVED that Faith Christian School is a ministry of the Faith Baptist Church and subject to its complete control. It is not a separate organization but rather an outreach ministry of the church. Faith Christian School has been established on the basis of conviction and beliefs and has a right to be separate from any governmental control.

ARTICLE XV – THE MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

SECTION 1 – SUNDAY SERVICES

Regular Sunday Services (Bible School, Morning, and Evening) shall be maintained. Women's Organizations, Men's Organizations and Sunday School Classes may organize subject to the approval of the Pastor and Deacon Board. Officers of all such organizations must be active members of the Church. The Church is to receive an annual report from all such organizations.

SECTION 2 – MIDWEEK SERVICE

There shall be a regular midweek service.

SECTION 3 – ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday of January. The fiscal year of the church shall be from January 1 to December 31.

SECTION 4 – QUARTERLY MEETINGS

There shall be a quarterly meeting of the Church to conduct business on the second Wednesday, whenever practicable, of April, July, October and January. The last quarterly meeting shall be held in connection with the annual meeting.

SECTION 5 – SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor or Deacons at any regular scheduled service of the church. Notice of such meetings shall be given in the service immediately preceding, except in cases of membership or emergency. Provision for emergency action of the body shall be granted by majority vote of those active voting members present and voting.

SECTION 6 – QUORUM

A quorum at any Church business meeting shall require 25% of the active members. An active, eligible voting member shall be one who is in full fellowship with the Church. See ARTICLE VII, Sec. 2 & 3.

A majority vote of those eligible voting members present and voting shall decide all matters, except the calling or dismissing of a Pastor, or amending the Constitution, or purchase, sale or mortgaging of Church real property, which cases shall require a three-fourths majority vote (see ARTICLE XVI, Sec 1; ARTICLE XIX).

SECTION 7 – VOTING AGE

Privilege of voting shall be extended to those of legal voting age as specified by the State of Michigan, though young people are encouraged to take interest in the business affairs of the Church.

SECTION 8 – ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER

Questions regarding parliamentary procedure will be resolved according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XV – CALLING A PASTOR(S)

SECTION 1

The Pulpit Committee shall thoroughly investigate and prayerfully consider all candidates and make a report to the congregation at least once a month. As the Holy Spirit leads, they shall present the name of one candidate at a time for approval given by the Church at a special meeting called for that purpose. Before the candidate is presented to be voted upon, the Pulpit Committee must secure his permission and present to the Church, at the time of voting, a signed statement by the proposed candidate signifying his unreserved acceptance of the Church’s Constitution, Covenant, and Doctrinal Statement. A three-fourths majority of the voting members present and voting (quorum is necessary) shall be required to call a Pastor.

The call shall be extended by the Church through the Church Clerk. Should the candidate fail to receive the three-fourths majority, or refuse the call, the Pulpit Committee shall seek out another acceptable candidate.

SECTION 2

In case either Pastor or the Church shall desire to sever the pastoral relationship, not less than one month’s notice shall be given by either party so desiring. However, this period of time may be shortened by mutual agreement.

If the Pastor is voted out of office (See ARTICLE XV, Section 6), he shall be dismissed immediately from his pulpit, pastoral and administrative duties with four weeks’ salary and use of any housing for 30 days. If the Pastor is found guilty of heresy or immorality, he shall be dismissed immediately (shall not preach or pastor or administrate the Church) with two weeks’ salary and use of any housing for 30 days.

SECTION 3

The Deacon Board shall present a contract, approved by the Church, to the new Pastor, including moving expense, salary, parsonage, utilities,

car expense, vacation, and other expenses incumbent upon the office of the Pastor.

SECTION 4

The Church shall accord the Pastor respect and honor for the office's sake, and shall provide adequately for his material needs and that of his family. The Pastor shall be considered the Church's leader in all matters.

SECTION 5

Establishment of additional Pastoral offices, as well as other supplemental staff positions, may become necessary from time to time. As this need becomes apparent, the Pastor and Deacons will present to the church a definition of the office or position to be filled, along with an approximation of additional budget funds necessary (if any) to fill said position. The church will be responsible by majority vote, to approve the establishment of such a position as well as to appropriate the necessary funds for its support and acquisition.

The specific choice of personnel for these positions shall be made by the Senior Pastor, who shall seek counsel of godly advisors, including Deacons, in these matters, depending upon the Holy Spirit for final guidance. He shall seek to regularly and as fully as possible inform the congregation as to progress being made.

In case of the position of Associate Pastor, the congregation shall ratify by majority vote the choice of candidate presented by the Pastor.

Termination of relations with any church staff below the office of Senior Pastor will be transacted by the Pastor, who shall determine with the Deacons the specific terms of severance.

ARTICLE XVII – ORDINANCES AND ORDINATION

SECTION 1

That baptism by immersion shall be practiced exclusively by this Church.

SECTION 2

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed preferably on the first Sunday of each month, except as circumstances may require occasional change of time.

SECTION 3

When any brother who is a member of this church believes himself to be called of God to the Gospel ministry, and wishes the recognition of the church by public ordination, he shall make his desire known to the Pastor. (If there be no Pastor, or if he be the Pastor, he may present his petition directly to the Deacons.). The Pastor (or Deacons in the absence of a Senior Pastor), upon satisfactory examination, may recommend to the church the calling of an inter-church council for the purpose of detailed examination by and recommendation of assembled brethren of like faith and practice as to the candidate's readiness for ordination.

The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Gospel Ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. Upon satisfactory recommendation the Church will then proceed with a public Ordination Service.

ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting, (See ARTICLE XV, Section 6) provided that such amendment, in writing, shall have been approved by the Deacon Board and made available at the regular services on the two consecutive Sundays next preceding such meeting and posted for two weeks immediately preceding the meeting in a conspicuous place within the church building.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH
WITH REVISIONS**

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe (a) that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; (b) that has God for its author, salvation for its end; (c) and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; (d) that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; (e) and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union; (f) and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:21; Acts 1:16; II Samuel 23:2; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psalm 3, 111; Rom 3:1-2
- (b) I Peter 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39
- (c) Proverbs 30:5-6; John 17:17; Revelation 22:18-19; Romans 3:4
- (d) Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48; I Corinthians 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16, 12:47-48
- (e) Philippians 3:16, 2:1-2, Ephesians 4:3-6; I Corinthians 1:10; I Peter 4:11
- (f) I John 4:1, 6; Isaiah 8:20; I Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11; II Corinthians 13:5, Jude 1:3, Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 119:59-60; Philippians 1:9-11

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe (a) that there is one, and only one, true and living God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; (b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness; (c) and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; (d) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; (e) equal in every divine perfection, (f) and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) John 4:24; Psalm 147:5, 83:18; Hebrews 3:4; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10; Isaiah 45:21-22
- (b) Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:15-16; Revelation 4:6-8
- (c) Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 10:37; Jeremiah 2:12-13

- (d) Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; I Corinthians 12:4-6; I John 5:7; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 3:16-17
- (e) John 10:30, 5:17, 14:23, 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4, 20:28; I Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5-6
- (f) Ephesians 2:18, 1:3-14; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4-5, 2:7

Explanatory Notes:

1. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both perfect God and perfect man, the Son of God, and God the Son. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:35, Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psalm 2:7, Galatians 4:4; I John 5:20; I Corinthians 15:47.
2. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, baptizes empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer in accordance with the Scriptures.

III. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe (a) that man was created in holiness, in the image of God, under the law of his Maker; (b) but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; (c) in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners; (d) not by constraint, but choice; (e) being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin; (f) without defense or excuse.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Genesis 1:27, 31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:24-29; Genesis 2:16-17
- (b) Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12
- (c) John 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-19, 8:7; Psalm 14:3

- (d) Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:5, 12; Romans 3:9-18, 23
- (e) Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18, 2:1-16; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 20:15
- (f) Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:19-32; Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:22

IV. THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe (a) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; (b) through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; (c) who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; (d) honored the divine law by His personal obedience, (e) and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; (f) that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in Heaven; (g) and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 18:11; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 3:5, 7; Acts 15:11; Luke 19:10
- (b) John 3:16, 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14, 12:24, 9:11-12
- (c) Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9, 14; II Corinthians 5:2
- (d) Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21
- (e) Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25, 3:21-26; Mark 10:45; I John 4:10-11, 2:2; I Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15
- (f) Hebrews 1:3,8; 8:1; Colossians 3:1-4
- (g) Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:18, 7:25-26; Psalm 89:19, 34

V. JUSTIFICATION

We believe (a) that the great gospel blessing which is Christ (b) secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; (c) that Justification includes the pardon of sin; (d) and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; (e) that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; (f) by virtue of which His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; (g) that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8
- (b) Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11-12; Romans 8:1
- (c) Romans 5:9; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43
- (d) Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5-7; II Peter 3:7; I John 2:25; Romans 5:21

- (e) Romans 4:4-5, 3:28, 5:21, 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9
- (f) Romans 5:19, 3:24-26, 4:23-25, 5:11; I John 2:12
- (g) Romans 5:1-3; I Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33; I Timothy 4:8

VI. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe (a) that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; (b) that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; (c) and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, (d) which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17; Luke 14:17
- (b) Romans 16:25-26; 1:15-17; Mark 1:15; Acts 17:30
- (c) John 5:40; Matthew 23:37; Romans 9:32; Proverbs 1:24-29; Acts 13:46
- (d) John 3:19; Matthew 11:24; Luke 19:27; II Thessalonians 1:8-9

VII. GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe (a) that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; (b) that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; (c) that it is effected, in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, (d) so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; (e) and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) John 3:3-7; I Corinthians 2:14; Revelation 14:3, 21:27
- (b) II Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29, 5:5; I John 4:7
- (c) John 3:38, 1:13; James 1:16-18; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13
- (d) I Peter 1:22-25; I John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24; Romans 6:17-18; Colossians 3:9-11
- (e) Ephesians 5:9, 2:14-22; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Matthew 3:8-10, 7:20; I John 5:4, 18

VIII. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe (a) that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; (b) whereby, being deeply convinced of our Christ, (c) we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for

mercy; (d) at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18, 20:21; Ephesians 2:8; I John 5:1
- (b) John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-31
- (c) Luke 18:13, 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; II Corinthians 7:10-11; Romans 10:12-13; Psalm 51
- (d) Romans 10:9-11; Acts 3:19-22; Hebrews 4:14, 1:8, 7:25; II Timothy 1:12; Psalm 2:6

IX. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe (a) that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; (b) that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; (c) that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; (d) that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of His free mercy; (e) that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; (f) that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; (g) that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; (h) and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) II Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Romans 11:5-6
- (b) II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48, 15:15; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16
- (c) Exodus 33:18-19; Matthew 20:15; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:22-24; Jeremiah 31:3
- (d) I Corinthians 4:7, 1:26-31; Romans 3:27, 4:16; Colossians 3:12; I Corinthians 15:10; I Peter 5:10; I Thessalonians 2:12-13; I Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7
- (e) II Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:22; John 6:37-40; II Peter 1:10
- (f) I Thessalonians 1:4-10
- (g) Romans 8:28-31; Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:29
- (h) II Peter 1:10; Philippians 3:12, 14; Hebrews 6:11-12

X. SANCTIFICATION

We believe (a) that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness;

(b) that it is a progressive work; (c) that it is begun in regeneration; (d) and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 7:1, 13:9; Ephesians 1:4-6
- (b) Proverbs 4:18; Hebrews 6:1; II Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16
- (c) I John 2:29; Romans 8:5; John 3:6; Philippians 1:9-11
- (d) Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11,12,30, 6:18; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 13:5; Luke 9:23, 11:35; Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18

XI. THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe (a) that such only are real believers as endured unto the end; (b) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; (c) that a special Providence watches over their welfare; (d) that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) John 8:31; I John 2:27-28, 3:9, 5:18
- (b) I John 2:19; John 13:18, 6:66-69; Matthew 13:20-23
- (c) Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33; Psalm 121:2-3
- (d) Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Jude 1:24-25; Hebrews 1:14, 7:25, 13:5; I John 4:4; I Peter 3:3-5

XII. A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe (a) that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; (b) observing the ordinances of Christ; (c) governed by His laws; (d) and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; (e) that its only scriptural officers are Bishop, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) I Corinthians 1:1-13, 4:17, 14:23-25; Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:1, 8:1, 11:21-23; III John 1:9; Acts 2:41-42; II Corinthians 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Corinthians 5:12-13
- (b) I Corinthians 11:2, 23-24, 2:17, 4:17; II Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17-20; II Corinthians 2:17, Colossians 2:12

- (c) Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15, 21, 15:12-14, I John 4:21;
I Thessalonians 4:2; II John 1:6; Galatians 6:2; Acts 2:36;
Ephesians 1:22; all the epistles
- (d) Ephesians 4:7; I Corinthians 14:12; Philippians 1:27
- (e) Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23, 15:22; I Timothy 3; Titus 1, Acts 20:17, 28.

XIII. THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is (a) the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; (b) that it is holy, just and good; (c) and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature; (d) to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Romans 3:20, 31, 4:15; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17
- (b) Romans 7:7-22; Galatians 3:21; Psalm 119
- (c) Romans 8:7-8
- (d) Romans 8:2-4, 10:4; I Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 8:10

XIV. THE ORDINANCES—BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is (a) the immersion in water of a believer; (b) into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; (c) to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; (d) that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; (e) and the Lord's Supper in which the saints by the use of bread and the cup are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, (f) preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Places in the Bible Where Taught

- (a) Acts 8:36-39, 2:28-42, 8:12, 16:32-34; Matthew 3:5-6, 28:19;
John 3:22-23, 4:1; Mark 16:16
- (b) Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Galatians 3:27-28
- (c) Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16
- (d) Acts 2:41; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts and the Epistles
- (e) I Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20
- (f) I Corinthians 11:28, 5:8-11, 10:3-32, 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

XV. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe (a) that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day; (b) and is to be kept sacred for Christian purposes, (c) by abstaining from all secular labor, except work of mercy and necessity, (d) by the devoted observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; (e) and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Acts 20:7; Genesis 2:3; Colossians 2:16-17; Mark 2:27-28; John 20:19;
I Corinthians 16:1-2
- (b) Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalm 118:24
- (c) Isaiah 58:13-14
- (d) Psalm 118:15; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26
- (e) Hebrews 4:3, 11

XVI. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe (a) that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; (b) and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; (c) except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; (d) who is the only Lord of conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18; II Samuel 23:3, Exodus 18:21-23;
Jeremiah 30:21
- (b) Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-17; I Timothy 2:1-8
- (c) Acts 5:29, 4:18-20; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:14-18, 6:7-10
- (d) Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4, 9-13; Revelation 19:16; Psalm 72:11; 2

XVII. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe (a) that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; (b) that such only as through faith are justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in His esteem; (c) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight wicked, and under the curse; (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23;
Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16
- (b) Romans 1:17, 7:6, 6:18-22; I Cor. 11:32; Proverbs 11:31;
I Peter 4:17-18; I John 3:7, 2:29

- (c) I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21, 55:6-7; Psalm 10:4
 (d) Proverbs 14:32, 10:24; Luke 16:25, 12:4-5, 9:23-26; John 8:21-24,
 12:25-26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13-14, 10:28

XVIII. ANGELS, FALLEN AND UNFALLEN

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless spiritual beings known as angels; that one, "Lucifer, son of the morning"—the highest rank—sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan; that a great company of the angels followed him in his moral fall, some of whom became demons and are active as his agents and associates in the prosecution of his unholy purposes, while others who fell are "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; I Timothy 3:6; II Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6)

We believe that Satan is the originator of sin, and that, under the permission of God, he, through subtlety, led our first parents into transgression, thereby accomplishing their moral fall and subjecting them and their posterity to his own power; that he is the enemy of God and the enemy of the people of God, opposing and exalting himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped; and that he who in the beginning said, "I will be like the most High," in his warfare appears as an angel of light, even counterfeiting the works of God by fostering religious movements and systems of doctrine, which systems in every case are characterized by a denial of the efficiency of the blood of Christ and of salvation by grace alone. (Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:12-14; II Corinthians 4:3-4, 11:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-12; II Thessalonians 2:4; I Timothy 4:1-3)

We believe that Satan was judged at the Cross, though not then executed, and that he, a usurper, now rules as the "god of this world;" that, at the second coming of Christ, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years, and after the thousand years he will be loosed for a little season and then "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone," where he "shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:1-3, 10)

We believe that a great company of angels kept their holy estate and are before the throne of God, from whence they are sent forth as ministering spirits to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. (Luke 15:10; Ephesians 1:12; Hebrews 1:14; Revelation 7:12)

We believe that man was made a little lower than the angels; and that, in His incarnation, Christ took for a little time this lower place that He might lift the believer to His own sphere above the angels. (Heb. 2:6-10)

XIX. THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. We believe (a) that our Lord Jesus Christ rose bodily from the tomb on the third day; (b) that He ascended into Heaven; (c) that He is now at the right hand of God the Father as our only sufficient mediator and advocate. (d) We believe in the personal, imminent, pre-millennial, coming of Christ for the Church, (e) the resurrection and physical glorification of the saints, (f) the great tribulation, (g) after which He will return with His saints on this earth where He will sit on the Throne of David, and shall subdue all enemies and reign in righteousness for a thousand years. (h) After this shall be the judgment of the Great White Throne when the unsaved dead shall be raised and judged, that this will result for them in eternal punishment in the lake of fire which is the second death; (i) and that the saved shall then enjoy eternal glory with God.

Places in the Bible Where Taught:

- (a) Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:30; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6
 (b) Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 12:2, 8:1
 (c) Hebrews 7:25; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3, 8:6, 2:17, 5:9-10;
 I John 2:1; Romans 8:34
 (d) I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-53; Philippians 3:20-21;
 II Corinthians 5:10
 (e) I Corinthians 15:20-58
 (f) Matthew 24:21-22; Revelation 7:14
 (g) Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30; I Corinthians 15:25;
 Revelation 20:1-6, 19:11-16; Matthew 24:30
 (h) Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21 and 22; Romans 6:23; John 5:28-29
 (i) II Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 4:9, 12:23; I Corinthians 13:8-10;
 Revelation 21:27, 22:3, 19:1, 21:3, 22:14; Revelation 21 and 22;
 John 14:1-3

CONSECRATION PLEDGE

God Being My Helper

This Consecration Pledge is to be signed by all Church and Bible School Officers and Teachers annually or when appointed to fill a vacancy.

1. By the grace of God, I will walk circumspectly before the world, ever mindful of the words of Romans 12:1-2.
2. By the grace of God, I will fulfill my Covenant (Church Covenant) relation to my Savior, Church, and Brethren in Christ, and will abide by the Constitution of this Church and its Doctrinal Statement.
3. By the grace of God, I will endeavor to glorify the name of the Lord as exhorted by the words of I Corinthians 10:31-32.
4. I will accept the office to which I have been elected or appointed.
5. I promise with God's help to discharge the duties of my office to the Church.
6. I will give loyal support to the Pastor and the general program of the Church.
7. I will sincerely try to attend Bible School, Sunday Morning and Sunday Evening Services and the Midweek Bible Study and Prayer Services, plus regular or special Board Meetings, etc.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____