



INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNANCE

Church Covenant -- Instrument No. I

Constitution and By-Laws -- Instrument No. II

Church Policy -- Instrument No. III

Confession of Faith -- Instrument No. IV

November, 2006

GREAT LAKES BAPTIST TEMPLE
FLINT, MICHIGAN

COVENANT, CONSTITUTUION, BY-LAWS,
CHURCH POLICY AND CONFESSIOIN OF FAITH

Instrument Number One

C O V E N A N T

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

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on 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 promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the spirit of brotherly love, that we will remember one another in our prayers, and that we will aid each other in sickness and distress.

We further agree, 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 give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the

poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We further covenant to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ; and to strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, that amidst evil and good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

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.

Instrument Number II

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

1. NAME: The name of the organization shall be the Great Lakes Baptist Temple, located in Flint, Michigan.

2. OBJECT: The object of this church is to worship Almighty God; to evangelize the world; to edify the believers; to provide Christian fellowship and to propagate and defend “the faith that which was once delivered unto the saints”.

3. The Conformity of this Church shall be as follows:

Section 1. No conformity with any other existing church or body of churches shall necessarily be expected of this church except wherein such church or body of churches conform wholly to the scriptures so as to harmonize with the Word of God as set forth in this church’s instrument, Number Three (3) know as Church Policy.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration, and accepting the Statement of Faith and the Covenant held by this Church may, upon baptism, be received into its membership.

Section 2. Members from other churches of the same faith and order may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches.

Section 3. Those who are unable to obtain a letter of dismissal

from a Baptist church in which they have previously been baptized by immersion may be received by virtue of their experience.

Section 4. Excluded members may, by a majority vote, be restored to membership on confession of their error and by giving evidence of their repentance.

Section 5. Where it is deemed expedient, the candidate shall appear before the Pastor and Deacons for advice and instructions before the name is presented for membership.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP RULES

Section 1. Active Members: All those who show their interest in the welfare of the Church and the Kingdom of our Lord by regular attendance and financial support and those who because of sickness or infirmities are unable to attend services or contribute financial support to be classed as active members.

Section 2. Non-Resident Members: All those who live too far removed from the Metropolitan Flint to maintain active membership, but prefer to remain as members and do keep in touch with the Church office as to their address and making an offering at least once a year for the support of the Church, unless they are a dependant, shall be classed as non-resident members.

Section 3. Inactive Members: All those who do not classify as non-resident members, who without reasonable excuse do not attend the regular services of Church for a period of six months and all members who fail to communicate with the Church for a period of one year may be placed on an inactive list. Names of the inactive lists shall not

be counted in any statistical reports. Any members on the inactive list shall automatically become active members upon their resumption of regular attendance and financial support.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1. It is a duty of all members to read the Church covenant at least once each 6 months and strive to adhere to the standards outlined therein.

Section 2. All members should bring themselves to the realization that we are a part of the body of our Lord Jesus, that we are of the household of Faith, and that in God's sight we are brothers and sisters. It is therefore our duty to love each other as such, to love and pray for our Church as our earthly home, and to strive to honor our Lord in all we do, say, or act, bearing in mind that we are epistles of Christ, known and read by men.

Section 3. Because our Church depends upon the tithes and offerings of our members, we assert our conviction that proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures (Malachi 3:8-11) and pledge ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of the Church of such a portion of our income as we believe God requires of us according to the principle laid down in I Corinthians 16:2.

ARTICLE V WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Church shall terminate as follows:

- (a.) By granting letters of dismissal to sister Baptist churches.
- (b.) By granting certificates of standing to those members who

desire to unite with other Evangelical churches.

- (c.) By erasure. Members who are known to be deceased, or who have joined some other Church, and those who request that their names be dropped from the membership may be erased from the roll by action of the church.
- (d.) By expulsion for disorderly walk -- by two-thirds vote of the members present.

Section 2. Dismissal by letter or by certificates of standing shall be subject to the following rules:

(a.) Requests must be made in writing or in person to the Church and the name of the church with which the member wish to unite must be designated.

(b.) Application shall be acted on by the church, provided the member is in good standing. If any objections are raised, then the matter shall be referred to the Board of Deacons who shall present in writing a report upon the standing of the applicant, stating their recommendation of the matter.

(c.) All letters or certificates shall be sent by first class mail to the Pastor or Clerk of the Church designated in the application. Membership shall terminate upon the granting of letters or certificates. All members who have requested letters or certificates shall be notified at their last known address when and if the same has been granted.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS OF THIS CHURCH

Section 1. The Officers of this Church shall be as follows:

- (a) Pastor

- (b) Clerk
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Superintendent of the Sunday School
- (e) Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School
- (f) Deacon
- (g) Board of Trustees

All officers of the Church, teachers, and leaders of any facet of the ministry shall be :

- (1) faithful to all public services of the Church;
- (2) loyal to the Church-approved program;
- (3) separate from worldliness.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Pastor shall be the moderator of the Church; he may call the Deacons or the Church together for special meeting to transact the business of the Church; he shall devote his time and energies to the welfare of the Church; he shall receive such compensation as the Church may decide, and he shall affirm the Confession of Faith each year. The Pastor shall be President of the Corporation.

Section 2. The Clerk (or their delegated assistant) shall keep a complete record of all the official acts of the Church. He/She shall affix the Church seal to and certify all documents upon order of the church. He shall keep a complete and an accurate registry of the active, inactive, and erased membership.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep an accurate account of all monies received and disburse them only by approval of the Church. He shall give a report of the treasury at the regular business meeting of the Church, all of which shall be kept on file. All records are to be

kept at the Church and no designated funds shall be diverted from their purpose except by vote of the Church.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to serve under the direction of the Treasurer in any or all matters pertaining to the Office of Treasurer. The Treasurer and Deacons will serve as Finance Committee.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Deacons and/or designated members by the pastor to receive all offerings, to count the money together, to keep a record of the same and to deposit the same to the account of the Church.

Section 6. The Sunday School Superintendent, Head Usher, Organist, Pianist, Choir Director, and Song-Leader shall be appointed by the Pastor for indefinite periods and shall fulfill their duties under his direction.

Section 7. The records of all the officers, boards, and committees shall be delivered to the properly elected successors.

ARTICLE VIII DUTIES OF DEACONS

Section 1. The Board of Deacons shall be composed of:

- (a) Bible qualified men;
- (b) A number deemed necessary to meet the needs of the growing church (minimum of five (5) Deacons)

Section 2. From the board of elected deacons will accept nominations for all officers of the church who are up for election, selected annually by the Deacons and approved by the church, except for those named in Article VII, section 6.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to meet once a

month. They shall select a chairman and a secretary from among their own number. The Secretary shall keep a record of the minutes and proceedings of all meetings. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall act as Moderator of the Church in the absence or removal of the Pastor. The Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall constitute a standing committee for the purpose of examining questionable applications for membership and to which all matters of discipline shall be referred. They shall have general supervision of all the departments. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to seek out such members of the Church who need pecuniary assistance and to use the alms of the Church of the Church for their relief, to visit the sick, to prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, to have general supervision of the spiritual interest of the church, to provide for the Service of Worship, and to cooperate with, and assist the Pastor in, the performance of this duties. The Deacons shall recommend the Pastor's remuneration and all items of Missionary payments to the Church. The Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity concerning all matters of Church business and the employing and dismissing of staff members, but the final decision shall be the responsibility of the pastor.

Section 4. The Board of Trustees shall be composed of five (5) Deacons, selected annually by the Deacons and approved by the Church. This Board shall act in an advisory capacity in all matters concerning legal transactions and Church properties. The chairman of the Deacons will act as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VX TERM OF OFFICE

Section 1. The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term which

shall terminate upon thirty days written notice by either the Pastor or the Church. The pastorate shall terminate immediately upon the Pastor's refusal to affirm the Statement of Faith as herein set forth.

Section 2. Deacons shall serve a regular term of three years. Terms shall rotate in such a manner and 1/3 of the Deacons will stand for election each year.

Section 3. All other officers shall serve a regular term of one year.

Section 4. All terms of office, except that of Pastor, shall terminate at the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE X MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings.

- (a) Sunday Meetings; The Church shall meet regularly every Lord's Day for public worship of Almighty God.
- (b) Prayer Meetings; The Church shall meet at least once during each week for prayer and thanksgiving.
- (c) Lord's Supper Service; The Church shall observe the ordinance of our Lord's Supper during a regular Sunday service at least once every three months at the Pastor's direction.
- (d) Special Meetings; Special meetings may be called by the Moderator or the Clerk shall call such a meeting upon written request signed by not less than twenty-five active members. Notice of such special meetings shall be given from the pulpit the preceding regular worship service.
- (e) The Church shall be given proper notice at least two Sundays before action can be taken on any project which involves the expenditure of more than \$500.00 whenever such expenditure is not clearly provided for in the annual

approved budget, or is of an emergency nature, in which case a report shall be made to the church at the next business meeting.

- (f) Such notice as outlined above shall be given by the Deacons before the election or dismissal of a pastor.

Section 2. Quorum. To transact business at any meeting a quorum shall be fifty active members or five percent of the last known active membership.

Section 3. Voting.

- (a) Only active members of the Church who are at least sixteen (16) years of age and have been present in at least one Sunday service a month for the previous six (6) months are eligible to vote on any Church matter.
- (b) A voice or show-of-hands vote is binding, except where otherwise provided for, whenever it is apparent that two-thirds of the members present are voting; if more than one-third of the members present to not signify their vote then a ballot vote shall be taken. A majority vote shall decide all matters except the expulsion of members (as outlined in article V. section 1), the election of a pastor (which shall be decided by a three-fourths ballot vote of members present).

Section 4. Elections

- (a) The annual election of officers shall be held on the January business meeting.

Only active members as outlined above in Article X, section 3(a) are eligible to vote. The election shall be by ballot and those receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In case of a tie, the Deacons shall immediately order a new election

by ballot for the office in which the tie shall have occurred.

- (b) The Pastor shall be elected as provided for in Article IX Section 1. Upon removal of a Pastor, the Deacons shall without any unnecessary delay confer with possible candidates for the office, and from the candidates so conferred with the Deacons shall make their recommendations to the Church. No election or dismissal of a Pastor shall take place except at a meeting called for that purpose, of which public notice has been given by the Deacons at least two previous Sundays. A three-fourths vote by ballot of the members present as outlined above in Article X, section 3 (a) shall be necessary to an election of a Pastor and a majority vote of the members present for his removal.

ARTICLE XI DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1. The departments of the Church shall be the Sunday School and any other department which is authorized by the Church and shall be subordinate to the Pastor and/or Deacons.

Section 2. Constitutions and constitutional changes of the departments shall be submitted to the Pastor and/or Deacons.

Section 3. The financial policies of the Departments shall be submitted to the Pastor and the Deacons for action. Each department shall recommend its budget to the Pastor and the Deacons on or before October 15th of each year.

ARTICLE XII ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The Pastor or the Church or, in his absence, the

Chairman of the Deacons (see article VII section1) shall act as moderator in all meetings for the transaction of business.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order, state and explain propositions.

Section 3. He shall cause the meeting to be opened and closed with prayer.

Section 4. He shall call for the business of the Church in the following order:

- (a) Read the minutes of the previous meeting.
- (b) Hear the reports of Deacons and other unfinished business.
- (c) New business.

Section 5. All business proceedings of the Church shall be governed by “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote, provided four weeks notice has been given the Church, except the Statement of Faith, which shall be irrevocable.

Revised and adopted November 19, 2006.

Witnessed by: Moderator Pastor T. Wille
Chairman of the Deacons Marvin Dean
Clerk Dawn Wagner

Instrument Number III

CHURCH POLICY

I. That the Church possess, operate, do its business and govern itself under the guidance of the Holy Bible and the following four instruments:

1. Church Covenant -- Instrument No. 1
2. Constitution and By-Laws -- Instrument No. II
3. Articles of Faith -- Instrument No. IV
4. Church Policy -- Instrument No. III

II. That the local church as an independent body, and in all matters pertaining to it's teaching, affiliations and policy, is sovereign and responsible only to the membership and the Lord Jesus Christ.

III. That the Holy Bible shall never be subjected to ridicule nor brought into disrepute by any pastor, worker, officer or member of this church and those doing so shall be counted enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ and their relationship with this Church shall be severed. (Cor. 16:22, Gal. 1:8-9, II John 7:11).

IV. That no amendment shall ever be proposed or voted upon to amend the Articles of Faith, nor shall such document ever be subjected to ridicule or unbelief, by any member of this church, and such action shall immediately and automatically sever any and all relationship with this Church.

V. That all funds and properties of organizations or classes of this Church are automatically the property of the Church, to be used as recommended by the Church or it's duly elected officers.

VI. That because of the following Scriptures references: Acts 20:28, I Thess. 5:12-13, I Tim. 5:17, Heb. 12:7, I Pet. 5:1-4, and

because this Church has adopted the Holy Bible as final authority; the members and officers of this Church shall recognize the leadership vested in the Scriptural office of Pastor (called Elders and Bishops in King James version) and shall earnestly pray for and uphold such in the work of the Lord.

VII. That the Deacons shall be counted as Holy Spirit endued Servants of the Church according to Acts 6:1-4, where they were chosen by the Church and appointed to their task by the leaders which resulted in the Church being “Multiplied greatly”. Faithful Deacons are worthy of the honor, respect and prayers of the Church.

VIII. That is or when any officer or teacher of this church shall decide he cannot cooperate, qualify, or perform the duties of his position; he shall so declare himself by either declining to accept the position or resigning from the position in person or writing to proper authorities.

IX. That if any member of this Church has any cause for complaint of sufficiently serious nature to justify expression, that, in order to prevent confusion and strife in the Church, such complaint be taken to both the Pastor and Deacons for consideration and action. Should such prove not to produce satisfaction, said complaint may be appealed to the Church by special meeting within thirty days. Should any member know to give expression to sentiments or complaints likely to cause diversion and dissension in the membership or to impede the progress of the work, such course if persisted in, shall constitute sufficient grounds for bringing the names of the ones so doing, before the church by the Deacons or Discipline Committee for exclusion from membership.

X. That upon the recommendation of the Deacons or Discipline Committee, the Church may order the names of members dropped from the church roll, whereupon they shall cease to be members of

this Church for following reasons:

1. UNCHRISTIAN CONDUCT -- constant violation on their part of the adopted and established instrument of this Church known as Church Covenant.
2. HOLDING OR TEACHING DOCTRINES SUBVERSIVE OF THOSE HELD BY THIS CHURCH, WHETHER SUCH TEACHING IS DONE IN THIS CHURCH'S BUILDINGS OR IN SOME BY THE WAY CLASS OR FELLOWSHIP.
3. CALLING, HOLDING, OR PARTICIPATING IN SECRET AND UNAUTHORIZED MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.
4. UNBRIDED TONGUE --Vulgar or profane language, backbiting, tale-bearing (this does not mean the bringing of information to the proper authorities), lying, excessive violent anger, etc.
5. ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE POLICY OR LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH, or conduct calculated to cause or create dissension or division.

X. That all publicity and advertisements of any and all departments, whether free or paid, must first receive the approval of the Pastor.

XII. That each officer shall required to read, either publicly or privately the paragraphs, articles or resolutions of the Instruments of this Church, and such Scriptures as pertain to the office or position to which he or she has been elected or appointed. This shall be done at least once yearly following the annual business meeting.

Instrument Number IV

CONFESSION OF FAITH

To set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us.. That thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed, we send forth the commonly believed confession of faith held among us, as follows:

1. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

1. By “Holy Bible” we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.

2. By “inspiration” we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writing was supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writing has ever been or ever will be inspired.

Psalms 19:7-11; 119:89, 105, 160; Isaiah 8:20; Proverbs 30:5-6; Luke 16:31; 24:25-27, 44-45; John 5:39, 45-47; 12:48; 17:17; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Romans 3:4; 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:2-3; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:19

2. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent 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.

Genesis 17:1; Exodus 15:11; 20:2-3; Psalms 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:33; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; 8:6; 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 5:7; Revelation 4:11

3. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 3:11; 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 3:16; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:8-13; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans 8:14-16, 26; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:7,13; Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2

4. OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the anti-christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness destined however to

final judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Zechariah 1:3; Matthew 4:1-3; 25:41; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11, 16, 20; 20:1-3, 10

5. OF THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Genesis 1:1, 11, 24-27; 2:21-23; Exodus 20:11; Jeremiah 10:12; Nehemiah 9:6; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 17:23-26; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6

6. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which, mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-6; Ezekiel 18:19; Romans 1:18-20, 28, 32; 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Galatians 3:22

7. OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner: born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the

Son of God and God, the Son.

Genesis 3:15; Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1: 14; 1 Corinthians 15:47; Galatians 4:4; 1 John 5:20

8. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him 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; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by his death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Isaiah 53:4-7, 11-12; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; 10:18; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 9:12-15; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

9. OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its

proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Luke 5:27; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; Acts 2:41; 16:30-33; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:1; 5:9; Colossians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:1

10. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

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

Isaiah 55:1, 6-7; Matthew 11:28; John 3:15-18, 36; 5:40; 6:37; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:29- 30; 10:13; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 22:17

11. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; 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, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Isaiah 53:11; Habakkuk 2:4; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 4:1-8; 5:1, 9; 8:1; Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 10:38

12. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to

God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Psalms 51:1-4, 7; Isaiah 55: 6-7; Mark 1:15; Luke 12:8; 18:13; Acts 2:37-38; 20:21; Romans 10:9-13

13. OF THE CHURCH

We believe that a scriptural church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Leviticus 27:32; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 11:2; 12:4, 8-11; 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:23-24; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Jude 3, 4

14. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a

believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 3:6, 16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12

15. OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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

Psalms 121:3; Matthew 6:30; 13:19-21; John 2:19; 8:31-32; 10:28-29; 16:8; Romans 8:23, 35-39; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 2:19

16. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

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

Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 11:31; 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:34, 41; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21; 12:25; Acts

10:34-35; Romans 1:17; 6:16-18, 23; 7:6; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 3:10; 1 Peter 4:18; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; 5:19

17. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth.

Exodus 18:21-22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Psalms 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Revelation 10:6

18. OF 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. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily “the third day according to the Scriptures”; that He ascended “to the right hand of the throne of God”; that He alone is our “merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God”; “that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven”- bodily, personally and visibly; that the “dead in Christ shall rise first”; that the living saints “shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump”; “that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David and that Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet.”

Psalms 72:8; Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:4-5; 32:1; Matthew 24:27, 42; 25:13; 28:6-7; Mark 16:6, 19; Luke 1:32; 24:2-6, 39, 51; John 14:3; 20:27; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 25, 42-44, 51-53; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Timothy 2:5;

Hebrews 2:17; 5:9-10; 8:1, 6; 9:28; 12:2; James 5:8; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 3:21; 20:1-6

19. OF MISSIONS

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15

20. OF THE GRACE OF GIVING

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith. We believe the scriptures command us to bring our gifts to the storehouse (common treasury of the church) that this is to be done on the first day of the week; and that this act of tithing was commended by our Lord Himself. That it was instituted 400 years before the law was given, and that it was practiced by the New Testament Church.

Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:7; Hebrews 7:2-4