

# Grace Baptist Church



*Constitution*

*Covenant*

*and*

*By-Laws*

2630 Hamilton Mason Road  
Fairfield Township, Ohio 45011  
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# Article I Doctrinal Statement

## Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, 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, angels, 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, and 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 Saviour.

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 Saviour 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.

## **Grace Baptist Church Declaration of Faith**

### **i. Of The Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction (II Timothy 3:16-17); that it has God for its author, salvation for its end (II Timothy 3:15), and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter (Proverbs 30:5-6); that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us (Romans 2:12; John 12:47-48); and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union (Philippians 3:16), and the supreme standard by which all conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (I John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20)

### **ii. Of The True God**

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, Whose name is JEHOVAH (Exodus 3:14, Psalm 83:18), the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth (John 4:24; Psalms 147:5, 83:18; Hebrews 3:4; Romans 1:20; Jeremiah 10:10); inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11); and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19 John 15:16); equal in every divine perfection (John 10:30), and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Ephesians 2:18; II Corinthians 13:14).

### **iii. Of The Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker (Genesis 1:27,31; Ecclesiastes 7:29); but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state (Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12); in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners (Romans 5:19; John 3:6; Psalms 51:5), not by constraint but choice (Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18), 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 (Ephesians 2:13; Romans 1:18,31; 2:1-6), without defense or excuse (Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:20; 3:19).

### **iv. Of The Way Of Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (Ephesians 2:5; I John 4:10); through the Mediatorial

Offices of the Son of God (John 3:16; 1:1-14); Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin (Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:9,14); honored the divine law by His personal obedience (Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8) and by His death made a full atonement for our sins (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25); that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven (Hebrews 1:8; Colossians 3:1); and united 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 Saviour (Hebrews 7:25-26; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:18).

#### **v. Of Justification**

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him (John 1:16; Ephesians 3:8), is Justification (Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1); that justification includes the pardon of sin (Romans 5:9) and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness (Romans 5:17; Titus 3:5,6); 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 (Romans 5:19; 3:24-28); 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 (Romans 5:1-3,11; Matthew 6:33).

#### **vi. Of The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that the blessings of salvation are offered freely by the Gospel of Christ (Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith (Romans 16:25-26; Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel of Christ (John 5:40; Romans 9:32); which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (John 3:19; Matthew 11:20).

#### **vii. Of Grace In Regeneration**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again (John 3:3, 6-7); that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind (II Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Roman 2:28-29); that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth (John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18); so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel of Christ (I Peter 1:22-25; I John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24); and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life (Ephesians 5:9, 3:14-21; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23)

#### **viii. Of Repentance And Faith**

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God (Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; I John 5:1); whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ (John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-31), we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy (Luke 18:13; James 4:7-10); 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 Saviour (Romans 10:9-13; Acts 3:22-23).

#### **ix. Of God's Purpose Of Grace**

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners (II Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 11:5-6); that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16); that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable (Exodus 33:18-19; Matthew 20:15; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:23-24, 11:28-36); that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy (I Corinthians 4:7, 1:26-31; Colossians 3:12); that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree in harmony with the whole counsel of God (II Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:12; Romans 8:28-30; John 6:37-40); that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel of Christ (I Thessalonians 1:4-10); that it is the foundation of Christian assurance (Romans 8:28-31, 11:29); and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence (II Peter 1:10-11; Philippians 3:12).

#### **x. Of Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness (I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 7:1); that it is a progressive work (Proverbs 4:18; II Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 3:12-16); that it is begun in regeneration (John 6:29; Romans 8:5; Philippians 1:9-11); 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 (John 17:17; Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Peter 2:2).

### **xi. Of The Perseverance Of Saints**

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end (John 8:31; I John 2:27-28, 3:9); that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professions (I John 2:19; Matthew 13:20-21); that a special providence watches over their welfare (Romans 8:28; Matthew 6:30-33); and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Jude 24-25).

### **xii. Of The Harmony Of The Law And The Gospel**

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government (Romans 3:31; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17); that it is holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12-14,22; Galatians 3:21); and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin (Romans 8:7-8; Jeremiah 13:23); to deliver from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel of Christ, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the church (Romans 8:2,4, 10:4; Jude 20-21; Matthew 16:17-18).

### **xiii. Of A Gospel Church**

We believe that the church of Christ is a visible congregation of baptized believers (I Corinthians 1:1-13; Matthew 18:17; Acts 5:11, 8:1), associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel of Christ (Acts 2:41-42,47; II Corinthians 8:5; II Thessalonians 3:6; Romans 16:17-20); governed by His laws (Matthew 28:20; John 14:15,21; I John 4:21); and exercising gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word (Ephesians 4:7; I Corinthians 14:12; Philippians 1:27); that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons (Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; I Timothy 3), whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

### **xiv. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer (Acts 8:37; Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:22-23), into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48), to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effects, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12); that it is a prerequisite to the privilege of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20), in which the members of the church by the sacred use of unleaven bread and fruit of the vine (Mark 14:22-25), are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ (I Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29); preceded always by solemn self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28, 5:1,8).

### **xv. Of The Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day (Acts 20:7; Colossians 2:16-17; John 20:19; I Corinthians 16:1-2); and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes (Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10; Psalms 118:24), by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations (Isaiah 58:13-14; 56:2-8), by the devout observation of all means of grace, both private (Psalms 118:15) and public (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 11:26, 13:44); and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God (Hebrews 4:3-11).

### **xvi. Of Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society (Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18); and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed (Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13; I Timothy 2:1-8); except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18, 6:7-10), Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth (Matthew 23:10; Romans 14:4; Revelation 19:16; Psalms 72:11).

### **xvii. Of The Righteous And The Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked (Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 12:26; Romans 6:16); 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 (Proverbs 21:27; Romans 1:17, 4:6, 6:18-22; I John 2:29, 3:7); while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse (I John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36); and this distinction holds among men both in and after death (Proverbs 14:32, 10:24; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24).

### **xviii. Of The World To Come**

We believe that the end of this world is approaching (I Peter 4:7; I Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Matthew 24:35); that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven (Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; I Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11), and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place (Matthew 13:37-43,49, 24:30-31, 25:31-33); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment (Acts 24:15; I Corinthians 15:12-58; John 5:28-29), and the righteous to endless joy (Matthew 25:35-41; Revelation 22:11; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 6:22); and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness (Romans 3:5-6; II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; Romans 2:2-16).

## **Article II**

**This church shall be known as Grace Baptist Church.**

## **Article III**

### **Membership**

#### **Section 1.**

Persons may be received into this Church (1) upon conversion and baptism; (2) by letter from another Baptist Church of like faith and order; (3) by relation of Christian experience and baptism; (4) by relation of Christian experience and having been previously baptized of like faith and order; and (5) by restoration.

Candidates for membership shall confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, giving evidence of Christian experience and accepting the Doctrinal statement and Covenant of this church. They may be received by the vote of the Church upon recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons.

The church shall not receive members into the fellowship of this church who have not been baptized by a Baptist Church of like faith and order. Further, we cannot receive letters from nor grant letters to a Baptist Church that receives Alien Immersion. People who were baptized by a Baptist Church who had been receiving Alien Baptism would become members of this church by Statement.

“We the members of Grace Baptist Church will not pursue legal action or sue the pastors, deacons, trustees, church staff, or any other member in connection with the performance of their duties. We voluntarily agree to abide by I Corinthians 6:1-8.

#### **Section 2.**

Members in good standing may be given letter of recommendation to another Baptist Church of like faith and order.

The Church will exclude those from our membership:

- (1) Who are physically able to attend services and do not for a period of three (3) months. This does not include invalids, shut-ins, and service personnel.
- (2) Who have joined a church that is not a Baptist Church of like faith and order. This will be done automatically when they join said church
- (3) The Deacons will counsel with members that are accused of “unchristian life conduct.” If the evidence and elements are proven to be true to the satisfaction of the Deacons, that member’s option is to come forward acknowledging their sin and repent if the person refuses the above option, that person will be removed from membership. A member does not have the option to remove oneself from membership. 2 Thessalonians 3:6

## **Article IV**

### **Officers**

#### **Section 1.**

The officers of this church shall be: Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Clerk, and Educational Director and Assistant.

#### **Section 2.**

The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term, the relation to be dissolved at any time by either Church or Pastor upon thirty (30) days notice. (See by-law on pulpit committee.)

#### **Section 3.**

The Deacons shall be elected for one year and re-elected thereafter each year. The number of deacons shall be proportionate to church membership.

The Deacons shall meet regularly during the year and shall organize at their first meeting following the regular church election, selecting a chairman, secretary and other positions as required. They shall keep a record of all meetings and shall submit to the church annually a report of their activities, if requested. A quorum shall comprise a simple majority of the deacons.

**Section 5.**

The Trustees shall be elected for a three (3) year term. A Trustee can be re-elected to succeed himself; it is preferred that all do not go out of office at one time. Chairman and other needed officers to be elected by fellow Trustees at their first meeting after the regular Church election.

**Section 6:** Vacancies may be filled at any regular business meeting of the Church.

**Section 7.**

All other positions such as organist, pianist, music director, and their assistants and ushers, etc., shall be elected by the Corporate Body but shall not be considered officers of the church.

**Section 8.**

Any officer can be removed from his office for conduct unbecoming a Christian, or negligence after due deliberation by the Deacons and adoption of their recommendation by the Church.

## **Article V**

### **Duties of Officers**

**Section 1-Pastor .**

The Pastor shall fulfill the Scriptural requirements according to the New Testament and in particular I Timothy 3:1-7.

His work and office are well defined by the New Testament names given him. Pastor, meaning shepherd; Bishop defined as overseer and Elder. See Acts 20:28 and I Peter 5:2 – Thus the Pastor is to exercise spiritual oversight, feed and care for the flock.

He is Preacher, Teacher, Leader and Counselor. He shall administer the Ordinances, moderate all meetings if he so desires; appoint all committees (subject to ratification by vote of the church). He will be a member of all committees and councils.

He shall be the executive officer of the church, supervising the ministry and program of the church, tenderly watching, nurturing and promoting the best interests of the church, under the command of our Lord Jesus, “Go and Disciple.”

**Section 2-Deacons.**

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to cooperate with the Pastor in caring for the spiritual development of the Church.

They shall fulfill the requirements of the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:8-13) as to spirituality, character, and service. They shall assist in the observance of the ordinances of the Church, and shall be available at all times to counsel with and assist the membership. The Deacons shall periodically review the membership roll with a view toward maintaining close contact and fellowship among the members. They shall seek to maintain harmony and discipline in the Church and shall make whatever recommendations to the Church as are necessary to achieve these ends. They shall counsel with candidates for Church membership, ascertaining the basis upon which they desire membership, encouraging new Christians in relating their conversion experience, explaining the ordinance of baptism and the mutual dependence of church and member. They shall recommend the new Christian to the Church for baptism, and shall assume responsibility for adequately instructing the new members in Baptist doctrine and policy.

The deacons shall assume responsibility for nurturing stewardship among the members and emphasizing the spiritual importance of dedication of our time, talents, and means to the Lord.

**Section 3. Trustees.**

The Trustees shall confine their activities to the care of the property of the corporate body, in keeping with the laws of the State of Ohio (See Appendix A), wholly subject to the will of the Church in carrying out their responsibilities. To this end, the

Trustees will meet monthly or more frequently as necessary. The Custodian shall be elected by the Board of Trustees and approved by the Church and may be removed by resigning or recommendation from the Trustees. His term of office shall be determined by the satisfaction of his work.

#### **Section 4- Financial Secretary.**

The Financial Secretary shall receive all the funds of the Church, make proper record of same, and deposit in bank designated by the Church. The Financial Secretary, with the Deacons, shall acquaint the membership of the financial needs of the Church and supply them with offering envelopes. Upon request by a member he shall furnish that person a record of their tithes and offerings.

#### **Section 5- Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall receive a report from the Financial Secretary of all funds contributed and shall dispense same as ordered by the Church. He shall present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular business meeting showing the actual financial condition of the Church. This report shall include a current statement of unspent and undesignated balances of the itemized budget. All expenditures of the Church shall be paid by check except petty cash, which shall be noted monthly as "miscellaneous." The Treasurer is subject to call, to attend regular or special meetings of either the Deacons or Trustees.

#### **Section 6-Church Clerk.**

The Clerk shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Church; issue letters and certificates of Christian character as directed by the Church; and preserve all documents, papers and letters coming into his hands during this term of office and deliver the same with all records kept by him to his successor. He shall keep an account of any special events in the life of the Church which are of historical interest and value. The Church may provide clerical assistance in keeping the Church records.

#### **Section 7- Educational Director and Assistant.**

The Educational Director and Assistant shall be responsible for the educational program of the Church. He shall preside at the meetings of the Sunday School officers and teachers for the purpose of determining curricula, activities, and policies of the school. He shall in concert with his Assistant and the Pastor appoint all other Sunday School officers (such as department heads

and secretaries) and teachers. The Educational Director shall be responsible for supervising the classes and making whatever recommendations or staff changes deemed necessary to maintain a high standard of spiritual instruction.

## **Article VI** **Committees**

#### **Section 1- Auditing Committee.**

Once a year an Independent Auditor outside of the church shall be appointed to inspect the books of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary for the preceding year. Results of these inspections are to be made a matter of written record and reported to the corporate body in a Business Meeting. Neither the Financial Secretary nor the Treasurer shall be involved in the auditing process except to assist the auditor with questions they may have concerning our records. .

#### **Section 2- Nominating**

Once a year or when necessary the church body will nominate candidates by secret ballot for the various offices to be filled. The Nominees report shall be published to the Church membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the Business Meeting, at which the election will take place. When voting by secret ballot, the Moderator will appoint three (3) or more tellers who will count the votes and make a written report to the Church Clerk as soon as possible during the meeting.

#### **Section 3- Committee Appointments.**

All Committees shall be appointed by a vote of the church body. The Pastor by virtue of his office shall be a member of all Committees, Councils and Organizations of the Church.

## **Article VII**

### **Meetings**

#### **Section 1- Meeting for Worship.**

Unless otherwise provided, the Church shall meet each Sunday for Public Worship both morning and evening and on Wednesday evening for Bible Study and Prayer. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed as deemed by the pastor, generally the Fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) Sunday of a given month.

#### **Section 2-Meeting for Business**

The corporate (church) body shall meet as necessary to conduct Business Meetings on Sunday Night. Business may be conducted on Sunday morning or Wednesday Night if circumstances deem that necessary. Business may not be conducted during church service. The Fiscal Year begins the first Sunday in May of each year.

#### **Section 3- Moderator.**

The duly installed Pastor of the Church, if he so desires, shall preside at all meetings except in matters pertaining to him personally. In the absence of the Pastor, the Chairman of Deacons will serve as moderator. Next in succession as moderator shall be the Chairman of Trustees. Any decision of the Moderator may be invalidated by a vote of the corporate body.

#### **Section 4 – Voting**

Each member who is at least eighteen (18) years old shall be entitled to one vote. The right to vote is confined to those who are on the active membership roll. Simple majority of the membership govern on any item called to vote before the corporate body. Voting by secret ballot will be used for the item under consideration if requested by any member of the Church. In such a case, the Moderator will appoint three (3) or more tellers who will count the votes and make a written report to the Church Clerk as soon as possible during the meeting. Fifty-one percent (51%) for the active members at the meeting are required to vote. The Church will not be held responsible for any action taken by any officer, organization, member nor is this action considered legal or binding by or against the corporate body, unless that action is accepted by a majority of the active members present at a regular business meeting or special business meeting (See Section 5 below).

#### **Section 5 –Special Meetings**

The corporate body will be called at any other time to transact business, only in emergency situations, and providing the planned meeting is announced to the congregation during the preceding Sunday morning and evening services or all members have been advised in writing. Meeting of the corporate body may be called by the Pastor, Moderator, Deacons, Trustees, or any seven (7) members.

#### **Section 6- Motions.**

No recommendation (motion) shall be given at a business meeting unless Pastor and Deacons (or Pastor and Trustees) are consulted beforehand for approval.

## **Article VIII**

### **Licensing and Ordination**

#### **Section 1**

Any member who has the Scriptural qualifications, and by zeal and aptness gives evidence that he is called by God to preach the Gospel and shall have preached before the Church, shall be given a license providing two-thirds (2/3) of the members present agree thereto.

#### **Section 2.**

When any licensed preacher of our Church or any Church of like faith and order is called to full time Gospel service, the Church or Missionary agency to which he had been called shall present a written petition to this Church for ordination. This Church will then call an ordination council to examine the Brother as to his call and doctrinal beliefs, and if recommended by the council, this Church will complete the ordination.

#### **Section 3.**

All members elected to serve as Deacons shall be ordained before assuming office. Upon completion of their term of office, they shall remain subject to call in the field of ordained laymen.

## **Article IX**

### **Auxiliary Organization**

#### **Section 1 – Requirements of Officers.**

The Officers of all adult and young people’s auxiliary organizations shall be members of this Church in good standing, elected by their respective organizations, subject to ratification by vote of the Church.

#### **Section 2 – Constitution.**

The constitutions of auxiliary organizations shall be drawn as not to conflict with the Constitution of this Church.

#### **Section 3 – Meetings.**

Auxiliary organizations may hold meetings at such times as will not conflict with the meetings of the Church, nor shall such meetings conflict with the policies of the Church- the Pastor and Deacons having responsibility to interpreting these policies.

## **Article X**

### **Records**

#### **Section 1 - Inspection of Records.**

Any of the official records of the Church may be inspected upon request by any member of the Church. Such requests should be made to the Chairman of the Deacons or Chairman of Trustees, with the Treasurer or Clerk who will permit in their presence the review of appropriate records. In this connection, a member may examine the financial records covering his own offerings—but he will not be permitted to see the financial records covering any other member.

#### **Section 2 – Annual Reports.**

Brief annual reports shall be made by officers of all church organizations, auxiliaries, classes, etc., and standing committees covering their respective activities and finances received and disbursed; to be presented in writing to the Church body at the June Business Meeting, if requested. In the event a class or organization dissolves, the treasury will revert to the Church.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I**

#### **Pulpit Committee**

In case of a vacancy in the pulpit, the Church shall elect a Pulpit committee. This committee shall take steps necessary to secure a pastor. They shall investigate the merits of every man under consideration in regard to his personal character, education, ministerial record, doctrinal beliefs and preaching ability in determining his fitness for the pastorate. When a suitable candidate is found, the committee shall recommend him to the Church. No consideration shall be given by the Church to any candidate lacking prior recommendation by the committee, nor shall more than one candidate be considered at a time. The pulpit committee shall be responsible for supplying the pulpit in the interim. They shall organize the installation of the new pastor. For a pastor to be Called he must receive a minimum 75% yes votes. At the conclusion of the installation service the committee shall be discharged.

## **Appendix A**

### **Ohio General Code:**

#### **Section 8623-106. Trustees**

The corporate powers, property and affairs of every corporation not for profit, subject to limitations contained in the general code, the articles or regulations shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a board of not less than three trustees, each of whom shall be a member of the corporation, and at least one (1) of whom shall be a citizen of the state of Ohio. The articles of (or) regulations may provide the tenure of office of the trustees thereof, except that no term shall exceed in number o its trustees; provided, however, that members of any corporation heretofore or hereafter organized for the purpose of owning and conducting a hospital may provide for the election of a board of not more than fifteen trustees to serve during life.

Unless otherwise provided in the articles or regulations, any vacancy in such board of trustees caused by death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by the remaining members thereof.

#### **Sec. 8623-110. Liability of Trustees.**

Neither the member nor the trustees of a corporation not for profit shall be personally liable for any debt or obligation of a corporation not for profit.

### **Appendix B**

This Constitution and By-Laws, dated June 2005 supersedes all previous Constitutions and By-Laws.