

The Constitution and By-laws of

Hope Baptist Church of Joplin



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ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

Article 1, Section 1.01 – Name

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Hope Baptist Church of Joplin located in the city of Joplin, Missouri.

Article 1, Section 1.02 – Purpose

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH & COVENANT

Article 2, Section 2.01 – Statement of Faith

The following comprises the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

A. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). We believe the King James Bible to be the preserved Word of God (Psalm 12:6-7).

B. Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God

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directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations —the law, the church, and the kingdom—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).

C. The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14).

D. The Person and Work of Christ

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2).

E. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the honor and privilege of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

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F. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom, 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

G. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sins, except blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, are forgivable. (Matt. 12:31-32; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9).

H. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

I. The Church

1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14 2 Cor.11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).
4. We recognize water baptism *by immersion* and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

J. Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances, piercings, and bodily markings. *We stand against any and all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity.* (Lev. 19:28; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

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K. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, Who will rapture His church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10,4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

L. The Eternal State

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

M. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

N. Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

O. Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

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P. Human Sexuality

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5,13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
2. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of *one naturally born man and one naturally born woman*. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23). We will not perform same-sex marriages.

Q. Family Relationships

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and trustees/deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church, (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).
2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps, 127:3-5; Pray. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
3. Marriage: We believe that to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community it is imperative that all members and all persons employed or volunteers by the church in any capacity should abide and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of this church.

R. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the

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church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

S. Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps, 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

T. Euthanasia

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus, we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28).

U. Love

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18).

V. Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

W. Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to

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the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

X. Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

Article 2, Section 2.02 – Authority of Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

Article 2, Section 2.02 – Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our 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 give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from such worldly amusements as watching ungodly movies, gambling, rock music, and dancing; to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the sale or use of tobacco in any form, narcotic drugs, or intoxicating drink 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 of

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speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, and to secure reconciliation 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 3 – MEMBERSHIP

Article 3, Section 3.01 – Qualifications for Membership

Those seeking membership must, through their actions, words, lifestyle, and affiliations, evidence of genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesu Christ as personal Saviour.

- A. They must renounce sin and endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord
- B. Candidates for membership may be required to attend a pre-membership class led by a member of the church leadership, in which they will study the Statement of faith, the bylaws of this church, general church practices, and expectations of members.
- C. At the conclusion of the class, the candidates may be interviewed by the pastor and/or board members prior to bring recommended for membership to the church to ensure they fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein and agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders.
- D. After such recommendation, membership will be granted upon a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:
 - By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
 - By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
 - By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or (see part A)
 - By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastor (or the deacon/trustee if the office of pastor is vacant).

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Article 3, Section 3.02 – Duties of a Member

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Section 2.03, each member further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

Article 3, Section 3.03 – Privileges of Membership

- A. Only members, at least eighteen years of age, who are physically present at a duly-called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor and the trustees.
- B. This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under shepherd with the counsel of the deacons/ trustees. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church, The deacons/trustees shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him.
- C. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property, The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the trustees) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the trustees), be treated as a trespasser.
- D. A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings of deacons/trustees and pastor, provided he shall have made a written request upon the church and the church has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date.
 1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

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2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

Article 3, Section 3.04 – Discipline of a Member

- A. There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the deacons/trustees. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor or deacons/trustees is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The pastor and deacon/trustees shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- B. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, *he/she* is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore their *brother/sister*. Before they go, they should first examine themselves. When they go, they should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- C. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon/trustee or the pastor, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- D. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in Subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.
- E. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in Subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
- F. No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in Subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- G. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

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- H. The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess, 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

Article 3, Section 3.05 – Transfer of Membership

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

Article 3, Section 3.06 – Termination of Membership

- A. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor.
- B. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member unites in membership with another church.
- C. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member states that he or she is actively involved in any conduct described in Section 2.01(P) or files a lawsuit in violation of Section 2.01(V).
- D. The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member openly and unashamedly disagrees with any provision found in the Statement of Faith.
- E. The membership of any individual shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in a spirit of dissension actively engages in secretive discussions and/or intentionally organized, secretive meetings in a concerted effort to overthrow the pastor or present church membership.
- F. The membership of an individual will automatically terminate upon his or her death.
- G. No provision contained in this section shall be subject to or governed by the procedures regarding discipline of members set forth in Section 3.04.
- H. A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.

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Article 3, Section 3.07 – Affiliated Co-Laborer

Those desiring fellowship, accountability, and opportunities for service with this assembly on a temporary basis but who maintain active membership in a like body of believers outside the city, may be granted affiliated co-laborer status with this church. The affiliated co-laborer may be eligible to serve in certain capacities determined by the pastor and trustees, and may attend fellowship events granted for members. This affiliation does not grant membership or the rights of membership to the individual(s) so granted. Affiliated co-laborers shall not be entitled to hold any office, vote in or have any say in any church matter, and shall not be counted for quorum purposes.

A person wishing to become an affiliated co-laborer with this assembly must request so of the pastor, who will, in consultation with the trustees if necessary, decide if affiliated co-laborer status may be granted to the individual. If the pastor so determines, the person may be granted such upon a majority vote of the church membership at any public service or church administration meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

Article 4, Section 4.01 – Church Officers

The church officers are pastor, associate pastor, deacon, trustee, church clerk, financial secretary, and church treasurer, minister of finance. One person may hold two or more offices, except that of pastor. The pastor, from time to time as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the church membership and is chairman of all boards.

Article 4, Section 4.02 – Designation of Corporate Officers

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, corporate officers will be appointed. The corporate officers are: President, Secretary and a minimum of three persons serving as the board of directors. (Corporate treasurer is no longer required by the state of Missouri); (vice president is no longer required by the state of Missouri). The trustees shall constitute the board of directors of the corporation.

- A. In order for the church to be exempt, members of the corporate board of directors (trustees) cannot include those who are related to each other by blood or marriage. This would include the board member's in-laws, spouse, children, sister, brother, parent, grandparent or any spouse of the foregoing.

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Article 4, Section 4.03 – General Eligibility for all Officers

- A. The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the pastor, shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article 2).
- B. All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.
- C. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.
- D. Upon termination of membership any officer of the church shall immediately forfeit his position and return any church property to the church office.

Article 4, Section 4.04 – Terms of Office

- A. The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a pastor or severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a pastor or to sever the relationship between the pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 3.01(D).
- B. The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the pastor, shall be one year, at the expiration of which the officers may be reelected or reappointed.
- C. A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the pastor, may be filled at any regular church administration meeting.
- D. All elected and appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- E. Church officers may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, in accordance with the disciplinary steps outlined in Section 3.04.

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Article 4, Section 4.05 – Election of Officers

The annual election of officers by the church membership shall occur during the annual church administration meeting. After three deacons are in place, the church should begin a rotation of deacons to ensure the fact that not all deacons will be dismissed at the same time.

Article 4, Section 4.06 – Calling of a Pastor

Upon the resignation, death or dismissal of a Pastor, the church shall seek a candidate who subscribes to the Statement of Faith, the Covenant and bylaw provisions of this church, and whose life aligns with the qualifications of a pastor as described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The church shall abide by the following guidelines for calling a pastor:

- A. The church board shall select a pulpit committee that shall consist of the trustees and up to five other volunteers as approved by the church board. The pulpit committee shall interview potential candidates and will only consider men who completely subscribe to the Statement of Faith and Covenant contained herein.
- B. Prior to being announced to the congregation as a formal candidate, any man being considered for pastoral candidate must preach at least one Sunday service. Thereafter, upon a majority vote of the pulpit committee, the candidate may then be formally announced to the church. The candidate then must preach at least two regularly scheduled services and be available for a church-wide question/answer time prior to being voted upon by the congregation.
- C. Notice from the pulpit must be given 2 (two) consecutive Sundays prior to a formal candidate's preaching services, and 2 (two) consecutive Sundays prior to the church congregational vote.
- D. The candidate must be elected as Pastor by a majority vote of qualified, present voting members. The pulpit committee will only present for consideration to the church one candidate at a time, and an up or down vote must be cast prior to consideration of other potential candidates.
- E. The pastor has the right to recommend a candidate to the board; however, the pulpit committee may then consider the recommendation for consideration; further, the pastor cannot make the presentation directly to the church.

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Article 4, Section 4.07 – Pastoral Oversight of Officers & Staff

- A. Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist him in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- B. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority to dismiss the same. No employee or volunteer shall be hired, appointed, or retained who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

Article 5, Section 5.01 – The Pastor

- A. The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- B. The pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees at the annual church administration meeting. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly-elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church, and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.
- C. All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the pastor.

Article 5, Section 5.02 – The Deacons

The deacons shall assist the pastor, in such manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church.

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The deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor is unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the deacons (in cooperation with the trustees) may appoint a pulpit committee.

Article 5, Section 5.03 – Trustees

- A. The trustees shall assist the pastor, in such manner, as he shall request, in promoting the welfare of the church. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the trustees and deacons will appoint a pulpit committee.
- B. The trustees shall constitute the board of directors of the corporation.
- C. The board of directors shall exercise the following specific powers only upon authorization by a majority vote of the members present at a duly called church administration meeting:
 - 1. To purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
 - 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
 - 3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.
 - 4. All powers of the directors (whether deacons or other appointed group) shall be compatible with the laws of the state of Missouri.

Article 5, Section 5.04 – Church Clerk

The church clerk shall:

- A. Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws, minutes of meetings, the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination and license; and deliver such documents to successor upon leaving office;

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- B. Keep minutes of all church administration meetings, including the time and place of holding, the notice given, and the names of those present (unless a church-wide meeting), and an accurate record of all church business approved at each meeting. A copy of these minutes shall be kept as a permanent record of the church and shall be made available at all reasonable times to any proper person on terms provided by law and pursuant to these bylaws.
- C. Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law; see that reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;
- D. D. Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year;
- E. Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office; and
- F. Serve as the secretary of the corporation and be a member in good standing.

Article 5, Section 5.05 – Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall:

- A. Count, along with at least one other person so appointed, and record in a permanent record all the monies received in offerings for the church. This shall be done following each service or day of services of the church.
- B. Provide the treasurer with a record of all monies received including moneys received from outside sources, specifying the distribution into various funds as designated. A copy of the record shall be provided to the pastor each week or upon request.
- C. All funds received are to be conveyed to an appointed third party for deposit in the bank. Bank deposit receipts are then to be provided to the treasurer for verification.
- D. Maintain a permanent weekly record of individual giving for all donations, offerings, contributions and gifts, and shall guard said records confidentially as a sacred trust. The financial secretary shall issue an official receipt to each contributor and/or at the end of the fiscal year.
- E. An appointed trustee may assume the duties of the financial secretary in the absence of a financial secretary, unless already serving in the capacity of the treasurer.

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Article 5, Section 5.06 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep in the church office an accurate and permanent record of all financial transactions of church funds. Make reports of itemized disbursements and the financial condition of the church as requested by pastor and deacons, and for annual, quarterly or otherwise special or regular administration meetings; deliver such records to successor upon leaving office;
- B. Receive and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
- C. Verify all records of received funds from the church financial secretary. These and all other funds received shall be verified as to the appropriate amounts and distribution at an approved banking facility or trust company as shall be selected by the pastor or trustees.
- D. Write, sign, record, and mail checks in payment of church bills and routine expenses approved by the pastor and/or trustees as well as disburse funds and salaries as directed by the church.
- E. At least two directors (trustees) of this corporation shall be authorized to sign church checks in the treasurer's absence. No persons shall be permitted to sign checks written to themselves, and no expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) shall be made by cash.

Article 5, Section 5.07 – Associate Pastors

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastor(s) of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church. The associate pastor is hired/appointed by the Pastor and vote of church.

Article 5, Section 5.08 – Duties of All Officers

- A. All officers shall surrender all records in their possession to the minister of records at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and originals/copies must be kept in the church office.
- B. Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from his office, at the discretion of the pastor, and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the un-expired term.

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ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

Article 6, Section 6.01 – Meetings for Worship

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship, both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed at the discretion of the pastor.

Article 6, Section 6.02 – Meetings for Church Administration

- A. The annual church administration meeting shall be held in January of each year at which time the regular church administration shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of the members present.
- B. All church administration meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- C. The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The following order shall be observed at the regular church administration meetings:
 - 1. Devotions & prayer
 - 2. Reading of minutes
 - 3. Reception of members
 - 4. Dismissal of members
 - 5. Report of officers
 - 6. Reports of standing committees
 - 7. Reports of special committees
 - 8. Unfinished matters
 - 9. Election of officers
 - 10. New matters
 - 11. Adjournment
 - 12. Benediction
- D. For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with Section 3.03(0) and treat the person as a trespasser. (If any questions, consult Roberts Rule of Order).

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Article 6, Section 6.03 – Special Meetings

- A. The pastor (or deacon/trustee if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 4.04(A).
- B. Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

Article 6, Section 6.04 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE 7 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Article 7, Section 7.01 – Purpose

The church believes that it is to provide the members' children with an education, which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in ministries in education in keeping with the following dictates.

Article 7, Section 7.02 – Church Participation

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

Article 7, Section 7.03 – Staff Membership

All instructors, teachers, assistants, and administrators shall be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis.

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Article 7, Section 7.04 – Statement of Faith Accord

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of the church. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs which fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

Article 7, Section 7.05 – Unity

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church.

Article 7, Section 7.06 – Teaching

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God. Any assertion or belief which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth which will be disclaimed as false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

Article 7, Section 7.07 – Christian Walk

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a lifestyle consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE 8 – ORDINATION

Article 8, Section 8.01 – Ordination Qualifications

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel. (We do not recognize deacons as being ordained).

Article 8, Section 8.02 – Ordination Procedure

- A. Upon a conference with the pastor, and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

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B. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.

C. The pastor shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE 9 – INDEMNIFICATION

Article 9, Section 9.01 – Actions Subject to Indemnification

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nobo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Article 9, Section 9.02 – Expenses Subject to Indemnification

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, trustee, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

Article 9, Section 9.03 – Limitations of Indemnification

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacons, trustees, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 9.01. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons/trustees who were not and

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are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons/trustees so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

Article 9, Section 9.04 – Timing of Indemnification

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the deacons/trustees in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, trustee, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

Article 9, Section 9.05 – Extent of Indemnification

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, trustee, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

Article 9, Section 9.06 – Insurance

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, trustee, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 10 – COMMITTEES

Article 10, Section 10.01 – Standing Committee

The pastor (or the deacons/trustees if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the pastor may appoint other standing committees as he deems appropriate.

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Article 10, Section 10.02 – Special Committees

The Pastor, in his discretion, may create special committees to provide advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the deacons/trustees for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation.

ARTICLE 11 – DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the deacons/trustees. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 12 – BINDING ARBITRATION

Article 12, Section 12.01 – Submission to Arbitration

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

Article 12, Section 12.02 – Notice of Arbitration

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 12.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 12.04, below.

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Article 12, Section 12.03 – Limitations on Arbitration Decisions

- A. Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.04, were followed.
- B. Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Sections 4.04 or 5.06 were followed.

Article 12, Section 12.04 – Arbitration Procedures

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor and the deacons and trustees.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular church administration meeting, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit fourteen (14) days before the vote is taken.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.

These By-laws supersede any other By-laws of HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH OF JOPLIN, JOPLIN, MISSOURI.

_____ Minister of Records _____ Date

_____ Trustee _____ Date

***Amended January 2021

Amendments to By-Laws (January 2021)

Modified Article 2, Section 2.01, Subsection J – Separation

Added the following wording:

“We stand against any and all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity.”

Modified Article 2, Section 2.01, Subsection I – The Church

Added the following wording:

“by immersion”

Modified Article 2, Section 2.01, Subsection P – Human Sexuality

Modified the words “one man and one woman” to the following wording:

“one naturally born man and one naturally born woman.”

Added Subsection R – Divorce and Remarriage under Article 2, Section 2.01

Article 3, Section 3.01 – Qualifications for Membership

This Section was rewritten to better explain the necessary qualifications of persons seeking church membership

Article 3, Section 3.04, Subsection B

Modified wording to include gender applicability

Example: he/she or brother/sister

Article 3, Section 3.06

Sections C and D were added to expand and clarify when a person's membership terminates

Added Article 3, Section 3.07 – Affiliated Co-Laborer

This section was added to include someone coming from another church, perhaps moving to Joplin temporarily, and who wants to work in our church. This Section establishes rules for accountability and opportunities of service to that person.

Modifications and Additions to Article 4 – Officers as follows:

Added Section 4.01 – Specifies who the officers are

Added Section 4.02 – Added to clarify Designation of Corporate Officers

In Section 4.03 – Subsection D was added

In Section 4.04 – Subsection E was added regarding removal of officers

Added Section 4.06 – Calling of a Pastor (this section was added as our previous by-laws did not include guidelines for calling of a pastor or dismissal of a pastor)

Added Section 4.07 – Pastoral Oversight of Officers and Staff

Modifications and Additions to Article 5 — Duties & Powers of Officers

Section 5.02 – This Section was rewritten to better explain the biblical duties of a deacon

Sections 5.03, 5.04, 5.05, and 5.06 – These Sections were added and/or modified to clarify the duties and qualifications of the officers of the church

Added Section 5.07 – Added to clarify "Associate Pastors"

Modifications to the By-laws were made at various locations to add "trustees" and "trustees and deacons" as applicable
