

ARTICLE I - NAME

The Name of this organization shall be CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF PULASKI, NEW YORK.

ARTICLE II - OUR PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this church to herald forth the gospel for the salvation of souls, the edification of believers through the teaching of God's Word, the proclamation of God's saving grace worldwide as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ's finished work of redemption and His shed blood on the cross, the promotion of Godly public Christian worship, the administration of the New Testament ordinances, the defense of *the Faith once delivered* until He comes to take His church to Himself.

ARTICLE III - COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We purpose, 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 attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God; 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 conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ our Savior; and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to stir up one another to love and good works; to be consistent in our attendance at all regular services of the church unless providentially hindered; to be respectful and modest in demeanor during the services; and to worship God according to His revealed will; when the case requires, to warn, rebuke, and discipline all open violations of the clear teachings of the Scriptures. We further understand that failure to comply with the spirit and regulations of this covenant renders us liable to church action as prescribed in Matthew 18:15-17. In all this do we engage to the glory of Him who has called us out of the darkness into His marvelous light.

We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1: THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the authority and the sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plurally inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried. (IITim. 3:16-17; IIPeter 1:19-21).

Section 2: THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Ex. 20:2-3; Isa. 44:6; Matt. 3:13-17; ICor. 8:6; IICor. 13:14; Col. 1:16-17; ITim. 2:5; IJohn 5:7; Rev. 4:11).

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He is both the Son of God and God the Son, existing from all eternity, coequal with the Father and the Spirit; that He was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman; that His humiliation did not consist of laying aside His Deity; that He was crucified, buried, and risen bodily from the dead, and is ascended into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest; interceding for us. (John 1:14; IJohn 5:20; Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; John 8:58; 17:5; Micah 5:2; Gal 4:4; Matt. 28:6-7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 39; John 20:27; ICor. 15:3-4; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 2:17; 5:10; 7:25; 8:6; 12:2; ITim. 2:5; IJohn 2:1).

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son; that He was active in the creation; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God from the moment of salvation. (John 14:16, 17, 26; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; Luke 1:35; Gen 1:1-3; John 16:7-11; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13; John 15:26; Rom. 8:9)

Section 3: THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; that he was created by God as an angel, but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age, and the ruler of all the powers of darkness, and the adversary of every Christian; and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Job 1:8, 12; 2:1-3, 5; Eph. 6:11; IICor. 2:11; Isa 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-17; IICor. 4:4; Matt. 4:1-3; IPeter 5:8; Rev. 20:10; John 14:30; 16:11; Eph. 2:2).

Section 4: CREATION

We believe the Biblical account of the creation, of the physical universe, angels, and men; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct immediate creative acts of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. (Gen. 1; 2:7, 18; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3; Psa. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3; ITim. 6:20).

Section 5: THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God), but by voluntary transgression fell from this sinless and happy state, (and all men sinned in him) in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Gen. 1:26, 27, 31; 2:16-17; 3:1-6, 8; 12; Rom. 3:10-19, 23; 5:10-19; 1:18-32; Psa. 51:5; John 3:6; Rom. 7:18; Eph. 2:3, 4, 18; Jer. 16:12; ICor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; Gal. 3:22; John 3:19; IJohn 5:19).

Section 6: SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated, and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus

qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God, prompted by the Holy Spirit, and is an integral part of saving faith.

(Jonah 2:9; Isa. 53:4-7; Eph. 1:4; 2:8-9; John 6:37; Acts 13:39,48; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14-17; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 10:9-11; Titus 3:5-7).

Section 7: GRACE AND THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine Truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life. (John 3:3-8; II Cor. 5:17,19; I Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13; I John 5:1; Acts 16:30-31).

Section 8: JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous on the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood. (Acts 13:39; Rom. 4:5,24; 5:1,9; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9; Isa. 64:6).

Section 9: SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God, accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return. (Heb. 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; II Cor. 3:18; I Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-27; I Thess. 4:3-4; 5:23-24; I John 3:2; Jude 24-25; Rev. 22:11).

Section 10: THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS

We believe that all who receive Christ as their personal Savior are born from above and are eternally secure in Christ in a relationship forged by God, which He will not break, and which cannot be broken by anyone, including ourselves. The Christian has no license to sin (Rom. 6:1-4). The presence of sin will break the fellowship, but not the relationship between the Christian and God, and may bring the Christian under divine chastisement. (Phil. 1:6; John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1).

Section 11: THE CHURCH

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the

furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Phil. 1:1; I Cor. 11:2; Acts 2:41-42; 20:17-28; 6:3-8; I Tim. 3:1-13; Acts 15; Acts 8:4).

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the church which is the body of Christ. (I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23-24; Col. 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

Section 12: ORDINANCES

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water, and is properly called *believer's baptism*. It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn emblem our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life. We believe that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall, by the pastor, or some person designated by the church, be immersed in water in accordance with the Scriptural teaching. Immersion shall be a prerequisite to church membership. (Acts 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12).

The Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes and our continual fellowship with Him, and should always be preceded by careful self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinance is baptism first, then the Lord's Supper (that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers) and that it is open communion. The Lord's Supper (communion) shall be served to the assembled church by the pastor, or some person designated by the church, and the deacons on the first Sunday evening of each month, or at the discretion of the deacons. Since it is the Lord's Table none who are His shall be barred, but the pastor shall frequently state the Scriptural order, which places obedience in matters such as baptism as a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper, and shall explain the meaning of the ordinances. (I Cor. 11:23-32; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42).

Section 13: SEPARATION

We believe in obedience to the Biblical command to separate ourselves, unto God, from worldliness, modernism, apostasy, and any individual or group that threatens or interferes with the church's ministry to glorify Jesus Christ as the Son of God, in His person and work. (II Chron. 19:2; Matt. 7:15-20; Acts 20:28; 31; Rom. 16:17-18; I Cor. 6:14-7:1; I Thess. 1:9-10; II Thess. 3:6,14; I Tim. 4:1-2; 6:3-5; II John 7-11; Rev. 18:4-5).

Section 14: STEWARDSHIP

We believe it is the responsibility of all believers to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support it with their means as the Lord has prospered them and to faithfully attend the services of their church. (I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 4:1-2).

Section 15: CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings. (Rom. 13:1-7; IISam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; I Tim. 2:1-3; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29; Dan. 3:17-18).

Section 16: THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe in the imminent, bodily, personal, pretribulational return of Christ at the Rapture, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord before the seven years of the Tribulation. (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44, 51-54; Phil. 3:20-21; Rev. 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the rapture of the church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom. (Dan. 9:25-27; Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29-30; Rev. 20:1-4,6).

Section 17: THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in God's esteem; while all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse, and therefore stand condemned before God; and that this distinction holds among men both during life and after death, in the everlasting conscious joy of the saved, and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in a literal hell. (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:16-23; 7:7; I John 5:19; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25-26; Matt. 25:34-41; John 3:18; 8:21; Rev. 20:14-15).

Section 18: GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the gifts of evangelist, pastor/teacher are sufficient for the perfection of the saints today, that apostolic sign gifts, including tongues, disappeared as the scripture was completed and its authority recognized. (I Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:7-12; I Cor. 13:8).

ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATIONS

As a New Testament church cannot *join anything outside itself, but only affiliate therewith on the grounds of fellowship*, this church declares itself to be in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and the Empire State Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches. We reject fellowship with any church or group which does not accept the authority of the whole Word of God, or which permits the presence of modernism or modernists.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall consist only of those individuals who have professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, giving evidence in their lives of being new creatures in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17), having been scripturally baptized (immersion following their salvation), and having declared themselves in accord with the principles, practices and doctrines of this church as stated herein, and whose names appear on the membership roll of this church.

Section 1: RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Paragraph A: Procedure

Candidates for church membership shall appear personally before the pastor and deacons to be interviewed in relationship to their Christian experience. Having been recommended by the deacons, and having given personal testimony before the church, the names shall then be submitted to the church for its action. Three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast shall be required for reception into membership; minimum being a quorum (Article VIII).

Paragraph B: Mode

Candidates may become members of this church in one of three (3) ways: (1) by baptism; (2) by statement of Christian experience; (3) by restoration.

1. Members from other churches holding the same doctrinal convictions may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches, after being interviewed by the Pastor and deacons.
2. Persons coming from other denominations, who have been *born again* (John 3) and have obeyed the Lord in scriptural baptism (immersed), but having no regular letter of dismissal, may be received by giving satisfactory evidence to the Pastor and deacons of Scriptural faith and Christian conduct.
3. No one who is (or becomes) a member of a secret society shall be permitted to unite with or retain membership in this church (John 18:20).

Section 2: DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

Paragraph A: Letter

A letter of dismissal may be granted to any member in good and regular standing, upon recommendation of the deacons and vote of the members present at a business meeting. The letter shall be addressed to some particular church known to be of like faith and practice. Valid for six months from date.

Paragraph B: Letter of Resignation

Any member may present a formal letter of resignation from the membership of this church to the Pastor and the church. Vote of acceptance terminates the membership.

Section 3: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

Paragraph A: Responsibility

The purpose of church discipline is to maintain its spiritual and doctrinal purity. Preceding any disciplinary action, Matt. 18:15-17 shall be followed. The matter of discipline of the membership shall be in the hands of the deacons assisted by the Pastor, but in cases of expulsion from membership, final action must be taken by the church. Three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast shall be required for expulsion from membership. No member shall be expelled until every effort has been made, including, if physically possible, personal visits to reclaim him (her) for Christ and the church. It is specifically directed that the deacons, in safeguarding the purity and peace of the church, shall move with special promptness and vigor against anyone who is obstructing the work or disturbing the peace of the church by slander, false doctrine, immorality, gossip, conspiracy, or other unfair and unchristian methods. It is recognized that a Baptist church must be a democracy in which the majority shall prevail. It is recognized further, that while the minority has the right of private opinion in all questions, and the right of appeal in any constitutional proper manner, they shall not have the right to engage in secret or open propaganda, or of deliberately disturbing the peace and interrupting the work of the church. It is further recognized that when the church by regular order and proper vote has determined upon a course of action, that course becomes the duty of every member of the church. (I Thess. 3:6, 11, 14; I Cor. 5:11-13; Tit. 3:9, 10).

Paragraph B: Inactive List

Members failing to support the church by their attendance within a period of three (3) months, without legitimate excuse, shall be listed as **inactive** by the deacons after contacting the member. **Inactive** members shall not have the right to vote or hold office. **Inactive** members may be reinstated to **active** membership by their regular attendance and a satisfactory statement to the deacons of their intent to fulfill their duties as members. Members classified as **inactive** for more than one (1) year may be removed from the church membership roll subject to Paragraph A of this section.

It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Board (Pastor and deacons) to review the membership rolls and keep them current.

Section 4: DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Paragraph A: Covenant Obligations

The Church Covenant sets forth the obligations assumed by every member of this church. Frequent reading of the Covenant is recommended to every member.

Paragraph B: Privileges

1. To vote and act in the transactions of church business subject to Article VIII, Section 1, Paragraph C.
2. To hold office if scripturally qualified (I Tim. 3; Tit. 1).
3. To have a voice in church business and activities.
4. To speak and teach Christian principles.
5. The right to a fair hearing in case of charges or attempts at dismissal.

Paragraph C: Church Loyalties

1. Regularly attend the services of worship.
2. To lead a Christian life.
3. Maintain honorable business relations with the church and with all men.
4. Make regular systematic contributions as the Lord has prospered (I Cor. 16:2).
5. To honor and esteem their pastor.
6. To pray for the pastor and deacons fervently and daily in love.
7. To systematically study the Bible.
8. To handle all cases of personal difficulty according to Matt. 18:15-17.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS, ELECTED POSITIONS AND BOARDS

Section 1: OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

1. The officers of the church shall be Pastor and deacons (I Tim. 3:1-13). The elected positions of the church shall consist of clerk, financial secretary, treasurer, and Bible School superintendent. These shall be filled from among the men of the church first, and shall be at least 21 years of age. Each officer except the pastor shall have been a member of this church for a period of at least one (1) year before being placed in nomination; except that after six months' membership and upon recommendation of the pastor and deacons, they may be considered for office by the church. (Previous membership requirement may be disregarded during the first two (2) years of the church's organization).
2. All officers and elected positions shall be spiritually mature, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the spiritual welfare of this church. They shall also be faithful and diligent in attendance and participation in both regular and business meetings of the church. Their moral conduct shall be beyond reproach and free of carnal indulgences, such as the use of intoxicating liquors, tobacco in all its forms, and narcotic drugs. In the light of I Timothy 3, the home and family relationships must be considered, as well as individual qualifications.
3. No officer except the pastor shall remain in the same office more than three consecutive years, except when one has filled an unexpired term. One (1) year must intervene following the third year in office.
4. The number of deacons shall be three or more to meet the needs of the church; determined by the number of *Spirit-filled* men available who meet the qualifications listed in Acts 6, I Timothy 3, and Titus 1:5-9. They shall serve terms of three (3) years each, and election shall be arranged so that one-third of their number shall be elected annually. All other elected positions shall be elected annually. Election is by ballot from the membership of the church at the annual election during the third quarterly business meeting.
5. Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office shall resign from his office. If and when any officer shall refuse to subscribe to the Articles of Faith, the Covenant, or the Constitution of this church, his resignation shall be requested by the deacons.

Section 2: THE PASTOR

Paragraph A: Qualifications

The pastor of this church shall be a man who has indicated in writing to the clerk of the church, or the chairman of the pulpit committee, his agreement with the constitution of this church. He must also meet the qualifications as set forth in the New Testament for his office as pastor, elder and bishop of the local church (Acts 20:17-32; I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:3-9; I Pet. 5:1-4). No man who is a member of, or in sympathy with a secret society, nor a divorced man (whether unmarried or remarried), nor a man married to a divorced or unsaved woman shall be pastor of this church (II Cor. 6:14-18). In addition, the pastor shall

also indicate convictions against questionable indulgences such as alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco in any form and gambling in any form (I Cor. 8:9-13; 10:31,32).

Paragraph B: Call

The procedure for calling a pastor shall be as follows:

1. Upon recommendation by the pulpit committee, the candidate shall be presented to the church, and minister in the pulpit.
2. Notice of the meeting to vote on the proposed candidate shall be given from the pulpit for the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. This meeting shall be scheduled for the Wednesday immediately following his ministry in the pulpit.
3. The election requires an affirmative vote, on the first ballot, of three-fourths (3/4) of the voting members present. The candidate shall not be reconsidered for this vacancy.
4. The candidate shall be notified of the decision. A letter shall be written by the chairman or secretary of the pulpit committee promptly following the vote.
5. The pastor shall be called for an indeterminate term.

Paragraph C: Termination of Ministry

1. The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total voting membership present and voting at a special meeting called for that purpose. Public notice shall be given on two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.
2. The pastor or the church shall give written notice of not less than thirty (30) days and not more than ninety (90) days of such action or either resigning or dismissal. Upon dismissal all services of the pastor cease.
3. If at any time the pastor does not adhere to the doctrinal statement as covered in this Constitution, Article IV, or lives in a manner inconsistent with a Christian profession, the deacon board may approach the pastor about the issue. If deemed necessary the deacon board may call for a vote of confidence from the congregation.

The pastor's salary and vacation shall be agreed upon by both parties involved. The church shall make every effort to properly support its pastor to the best of its ability. The pastor shall be released from his duties at least two (2) weeks for vacation and one (1) week for conference each year. The pastor shall, with the deacons, make arrangements for the continuation of the pulpit ministry in his absence.

Section 3: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND ELECTED POSITIONS

Paragraph A: Pastor

The pastor shall be shepherd of the flock, overseer of the work of God, preacher and teacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ and the chief executive officer of the church. He shall give himself **to prayer and to the ministry of the Word** (Acts 6:4) and shall perform the duties of an elder and bishop as set forth in the Scriptures (I Pet. 5:1-4). He shall oversee the work of the Bible School and all other sub-organizations of the church; and shall serve as member ex-officio of all boards, committees, and organizations of the church business meetings except in matters pertaining to himself.

Paragraph B: Deacons

1. Qualifications for deacon shall be such as are prescribed and set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:3; I Tim. 3:8-13).
2. It shall be the duty of the deacons to assist the pastor in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; to be his counselors; to exercise special and prudent watch-care over the church membership; to seek out such members as need assistance to administer the alms; to inquire into the fitness and qualifications of applicants for membership; to visit the sick; to supervise the preparation and distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.

3. They shall appoint a chairman and secretary of their number, and shall keep minutes of their monthly meetings in a permanent record.
4. They constitute a pulpit committee in securing pulpit supplies, and in recommending candidates for the pastorate.
5. They, together with the pastor shall constitute the discipline committee.
6. They shall appoint persons to fill until the next annual meeting, vacancies in offices which occur during the church year.
7. They shall make a full report of their activities to the church at each annual meeting or as requested by the church.
8. The deacons shall provide ushers for all services.
 - (a) Agreeable to the provisions of the **Act of Incorporation** and laws of the State of New York, the deacons shall act as trustees, representing the church as its agent.
 - (b) The deacons shall not have the authority to sell, lease, give away, or dispose of church property in any manner to exceed one per cent (1%) of the dollars in value; nor to mortgage or encumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount except as the church shall order in the same by a corporate act.
 - (c) The deacons shall care for the property of the church, to hold, repair, invest and preserve the same, including hiring and supervising the custodian.
 - (d) The deacons shall superintend any improvements that are not entrusted to a special committee of the church.
 - (e) The deacons shall present a proposed budget for the consideration and approval of the church at third quarterly business meeting.

Paragraph C: Bible School Superintendent

The Bible School Superintendent shall be in charge of the administration and promotion of the church Bible School and shall work in close cooperation with the pastor and deacons. He shall appoint Bible School teachers and officers on an annual basis, or as required. All appointments must be approved by the pastor and the deacons. He shall make a full report at the annual meeting and whenever requested by the church or the deacons. The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Paragraph D: Treasurer

The treasurer shall disperse moneys of the church as directed by the church, keep a true and fair record of accounts and make a full report to the church at each annual meeting and when otherwise directed by the church or the deacons. His books shall be audited by the auditing committee before each annual meeting and at the request of the deacons. The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Paragraph E: Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall receive all moneys and collections; shall count with the assistance of another officer, record and deposit the same to the credit of the church; shall keep a separate account of each envelope holder and furnish statements annually and whenever requested. In his absence the deacons shall appoint a person to assume these responsibilities. He shall make a full report at the annual meeting and whenever requested by the church or the deacons. The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Paragraph F: Clerk

The clerk shall keep true and complete minutes of the proceedings of the church, maintain records, keep a register of all members of the church, write letters of dismissal, give notice of church business meetings, and perform such other particular duties as may be prescribed by the church. His term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Section 4: BOARD AND COMMITTEES

The Pastor of the church may be the moderator at all church board and committee meetings, except those meetings involving the pastor directly or a meeting which the law requires a moderator be elected, in such a case the vice-chairman of the Board of Deacons shall moderate. The pastor shall be ex-officio member of all board and committees connected with the church. No board or committee may meet to conduct any business without it being known by the pastor.

Paragraph A: Board of Deacons

The deacons will form a Board of Deacons which consists of the pastor, a vice-chairman (vice-moderator in absence of the pastor) and a secretary. The deacon board will tend to such matters as prescribed under Deacons (Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B). The deacon board shall be the executive arm of the congregation in its dealings with the pastor, affiliated organizations, branch works and any other outside organization. The deacon board shall have the authority to appoint individual committees for the transaction of its business. The deacon board shall also handle and consider suggestions, recommendations and grievances by any member affiliated with the church.

Paragraph B: Pulpit Committee

The deacon board shall constitute this committee according to Article VII, Section 2, Paragraph C, Clause 3 to Section 3, Paragraph B, Clause 4.

Paragraph C: Discipline Committee

The deacon board shall constitute this committee according to Article V, Section 3.

Paragraph D: Trustee Committee

The deacon board shall constitute this committee. It shall perform all duties of trustees as defined in Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B, Clause 9.

Paragraph E: Nominating Committee

The deacon board shall constitute this committee. They shall submit a list of nominees for all elected offices to be filled. This list shall be posted in the church building one Sunday previous to the election. They shall approach the proposed nominee as to his acceptance of candidacy. Whenever possible they shall select two (2) or more candidates for each office. They shall provide ballot forms for the third quarterly business meeting.

Paragraph F: Budget Committee

The Budget Committee shall consist of the pastor, deacon board, and treasurer. It is to review and make recommendations concerning the proposed budget presented by the secretary. The whole committee shall then adopt a budget to be presented to the whole membership for its approval at the third quarterly business meeting.

Paragraph G: Auditing Committee

The auditing committee shall consist of the Board of Deacons and the Treasurer. They shall have all accounts audited and certified. They shall present their report at the annual meeting of the church.

Paragraph H: Building Committee

The committee shall consist of the Board of Deacons, the financial secretary, and the treasurer. It shall be a standing committee. The pastor by virtue of his office will act as the administrator of any building program. They are responsible for planning the details and making all arrangements connected with construction.

Paragraph I: Missions Committee

The pastor with the deacons shall nominate a missions committee chairperson for approval by the church at the annual meeting. The chairperson shall choose the committee members from the church membership who are in good standing.

Paragraph J: Other Committees

The pastor with the deacons shall be authorized to appoint any other committees not covered by this constitution. They shall serve until the next annual meeting of the church. Continuing committees shall be elected by the church.

ARTICLE VIII - BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1: PROCEDURE

Paragraph A: Business for Consideration

Any business item to be voted on by the church shall have been considered by the deacons or a constitutionally authorized committee acting in its scope. Any item from the floor shall be brought back at the next business meeting with a recommendation from the appropriate body.

Paragraph B: Quorum

Twenty-five percent (25%) of the active voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Paragraph C: Voting Members

A voting member is an active member at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Paragraph D: Order of Meetings

In the conduct of business rules contained in **NEWLY REVISED ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER** shall govern all cases to which they apply. In exceptions, a majority vote shall establish the rule.

Paragraph E: Moderator

The pastor, his appointee, or in his absence anyone whom the Board of Deacons may select, shall service as moderator at all business meetings of the church.

Section 2: TYPES OF MEETINGS

1. The fiscal year of the church shall close on the last day of December and begin the first day of January.
2. **Annual Meeting:** There shall be an annual meeting of the church on the third Sunday in January to present annual reports, and transact any other business. In case of any emergency omission in holding the Annual Meeting as above, the meeting shall be called and held upon the earliest available date thereafter, to be determined by the Deacon Board.
3. **Quarterly Meetings:** There shall be quarterly meetings of the church on the second Sunday of the months of April, July, and October, to transact all necessary business of the church.

Paragraph A: Annual Elections

Annual election of Deacons and standing committee members will be held during the third quarterly business meeting on the second Sunday in October. The elected officers will attend board meetings in unofficial capacity during the balance of the year and take office on January first.

Paragraph B: Annual Budget

The budget committee will propose the annual budget for approval at the third quarterly business meeting on the second Sunday of October.

Paragraph C: Annual Elections

Annual election of Deacons and standing committee members will be held during the third quarterly business meeting on the second Sunday in October. The elected officers will attend board meetings in unofficial capacity during the balance of the year and take office on January first.

4. **Special Business Meetings:** These may be called at any time by the pastor, the Board of Deacons, or at the request (written) of ten (10) qualified voters of the church provided public notice is given of the same on the Lord's Day preceding, except for dismissing a pastor which shall be given public announcement for two (2) preceding Sundays. No other business shall be transacted than that stated in the notice.

5. The church shall act on any vacancy of office at the next called business meeting.
6. Candidates for membership may be voted upon at any regularly called business meeting.

ARTICLE IX - MONETARY PRINCIPLES

Section 1: SUPPORT

The systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. It must be kept on the plane of voluntary, freewill offering, untainted by any hope of material gain. All members are expected to give regular financial support to the church and to the advancement of the projects it shall sponsor. In determining the Lord's portion we believe and affirm with the scriptures that a bare minimum of one-tenth (1/10) of one's income should be faithfully and cheerfully given by everyone (II Cor. 9:6,7), and many can and should give more than the tithe, for all we have belongs to Christ (I Chron. 29:14,16; Acts 4:32-35). No moneys shall be raised for the support of the church and its various activities by any but the Biblical plan of tithes, offerings, and gifts, and sacrificial love considerations for Christ's work. This shall be construed to mean that church suppers and bazaars, professional fund raising organizations, etc. are not a scriptural means of raising money.

Section 2: STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT

A statement of each subscriber's account shall be given to him at the end of each year, if he desires it, from available records, by the Financial Secretary.

Section 3: OBLIGATIONS

No financial obligation shall be placed upon the church either as a mortgage, note, outstanding bill, or in any other form unless money is in hand to meet the same, except as stated in Article VII, Section 3, Paragraph B, or by corporate act of the church.

ARTICLE X - MISSIONS

It shall be the policy of this church to support only missions engaged principally in evangelization. The missions supported and the missionary speakers shall be known to be in hearty agreement with our Confession of Faith, both in doctrine, practice, and policy. The amount given to missions shall be designated in the annual missionary budget.

ARTICLE XI - CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

All major officers of church organizations and all regular teachers in the Bible School must be members of this church in good and regular standing. No organization may support any work or missionary without receiving the approval of the deacons and the pastor.

Section 1: THE SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

Paragraph A: Purpose

The Bible School shall function as part of the church, not a separate organization. The purpose of the Bible School is to win every scholar to the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, and then instruct him in Christian living, including church attendance.

Paragraph B: Organization

1. All officers and teachers shall be members of the church.
2. All officers and teachers of the school shall be appointed annually and shall state their acceptance of the Confession of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of the church. Any whose conduct or teaching is considered injurious to the class, school, or church, shall upon recommendation of the Superintendent

and the Bible School Council (Bible School Teachers and Officers) be referred to the Deacons for necessary action.

3. All questions of an important nature shall be brought before the Bible School Council for consideration. They may make recommendations to the church for action.
4. All teachers, officers, and literature must first be approved by the deacons and the pastor.
5. All moneys shall be turned over to the financial secretary of the church.

Section 2: SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

No subsidiary organization of the church shall engage in any practice or hold any policy contrary to the general position of the church itself. All regular officers and teachers shall be members of the church. At each annual meeting of the church, each organization shall submit a report covering all activities and all moneys received and disbursed.

ARTICLE XII - GENERAL

Section 1: USE OF THE CHURCH PROPERTY AND NAME

Paragraph A: Use of Property

1. Use of the property for other than regularly scheduled meetings shall first be approved by the deacons.
2. All gatherings off the church property held in the name of the church shall first be approved by the deacons.
3. No secret society will be permitted to hold services in the church. No pastor or pulpit orator will be permitted to preach from the pulpit of the church who denies the fundamentals of the faith once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Any visiting speaker must have the approval of the pastor and deacons.

Section 2: CHURCH POLITY

The government of this church under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit is in the hands of the body of believers, which compose its membership, whose majority vote shall be final. The immediate direction of this church is committed to the officers and those in positions of responsibility who were elected by the church body. No ecclesiastical body can dictate the policies of this church as stated in this Constitution.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: DOCTRINAL

The doctrinal basis of this church, as stated in Article IV of this Constitution, may not be amended or changed.

Section 2: OPERATIONAL

This constitution, except for Article IV, may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at any annual or special business meeting. Notice of the proposed amendment shall have been presented and recorded in the minutes of a business meeting at least two (2) months prior to the vote.

A written notice, including the proposed amendment, shall be distributed to each member at least one (1) month prior to the meeting at which the action is desired. Notice of the meeting shall be given from the pulpit for the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV - RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

Section 1: DEFINITION

This church shall be a religious organization. No member shall receive profit from the organization except, of course, as remuneration for services rendered.

Section 2: DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of this church (or corporation) all its debts shall be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members, or other individuals; but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the statement of faith adopted by this church.