

Cedar Street Baptist Church  
Constitution and By Laws

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of preserving and making secure the principles of our faith and to the end that this body be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the Missionary Baptist Churches affiliated with the Ogeechee River Baptist Association, Georgia Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church, and to set forth the relationship of this body to other bodies of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I. Name

This body shall be known as the Cedar Street Baptist Church of Metter, Inc. located at 255 Cedar Street, Metter, Georgia 30439.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ, to nurture its members through a program of Christian education, to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and to preach and propagate among all people the Gospel of the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

ARTICLE III. Membership

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Section 1. Profession of Faith

The membership of this church shall be composed of persons who have given evidence of regeneration, who have been baptized by immersion, who have subscribed to the covenant and constitution of this church, and who have been received by vote of the church.

(Refer to Church Covenant and Articles of Faith)

Section 2. By Letter

A member of another Baptist Church of like faith and order may be received by vote of the church upon a letter of dismissal from that church.

Section 3. By Statement

Anyone who has once been a member of a Baptist Church, of like faith and order, and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has no regular letter of dismissal, may be received into our fellowship upon a statement satisfactory to the church.

Section 4. Letters of dismissal may be granted to any church of like faith and order for members in good standing. When letters are granted membership in this church will be terminated and their name will be removed from the church roll.

Section 5. When a member of this church joins another church, membership in this church will be terminated and their name will be removed from the church roll.

Section 6. The church, after due notice and opportunity for hearing and kindly efforts to make such action unnecessary, may terminate the membership of persons who habitually absent themselves from the services when well and able to attend, or otherwise fail to fulfill the obligations specified in the church covenant.

Section 7. In considering the duties involved, members are expected first

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of all to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend regularly the services of the church; to give regularly and systematically to its support and Kingdom causes; and to share in its organized work.

Section 8. In considering the rights involved, members and members only may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

#### ARTICLE IV . Meetings

Section 1. This church shall hold regular meetings for worship, training and fellowship.

Section 2. This church shall hold its regular business meeting at which time the material and spiritual conditions of the church will be discussed and plans projected for progress in Kingdom endeavors.

Section 3. Other meetings of the church as a whole or of authorized groups within the church shall be set according to the needs of the congregation.

#### ARTICLE V. Church Officers & Staff

##### Section 1. Staff and Officers

###### A. Staff

The Staff of this church shall be a Pastor, Minister of Music, Youth Minister, Treasurer, Church Secretary and Custodian.

###### B. Officers

The officers of the church shall be the Deacons, Trustees, and Clerk. These shall be elected by the church and shall be members of good standing.

##### Section 2. Election and duties

###### A. Pastor

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Whenever a vacancy occurs, a pastor shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the pastor or the church.

The call of the pastor shall take place at a meeting, held on the day of his visit, especially set for that purpose of which at least one weeks notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a Pastor Search Committee elected to seek out and nominate a pastor, whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for this office. The committee shall bring only one prospective candidate for consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate.

The pastor shall have charge of the welfare and oversight of the church. He shall be ex-officio member (non-voting) of all organizations, departments, and committees. He may call a special meeting of the deacons or any committee according to procedures which may be set forth in the By-laws. He shall conduct religious services on stated and special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister to the members of the church and community, and perform other duties that pertain to that office. He shall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall, in cooperation with the church council, provide pulpit supply when he is absent and arrange for workers to assist in revival meetings and other special services. He shall be the administrative head of the church, working with all committees, departments, & ministries of the Church.

#### B. Minister of Music

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Minister of Music shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the minister or the church.

The call of the Minister of Music shall take place at a meeting, held on the day of his visit, especially set for that purpose of which at least one week notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a Minister of Music Search Committee elected to seek out and nominate a Minister of Music, whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for this office. The committee shall bring only one

prospective candidate for consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate. Once approved by the church, this person shall report to the Senior Pastor. In general, the position of Minister of Music requires creating a team environment and directing and interfacing with paid and volunteer musicians, staff, and church members to accomplish effective music ministry at Cedar Street Baptist Church.

#### C. Youth Minister

Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Youth Minister shall be called by the church to serve until the relationship is dissolved at the request of either the minister or the church. The call of the Youth Minister shall take place at a meeting, held on the day of his visit, especially set for that purpose of which at least one week notice has been given the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a Youth Minister Search Committee elected to seek out and nominate a Youth Minister, whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for this office. The committee shall bring only one prospective candidate for consideration of the church, and no nomination shall be made except that of the committee. Election shall be by ballot with an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting. Should the one recommended by the committee fail to receive a three-fourths vote, the committee will be instructed to seek out another minister, and the meeting shall be adjourned without debate. Once approved by the church, this person shall report to the Senior Pastor. The Youth Minister is responsible for designing, developing, and implementing a Total Youth Ministry program in which young people are integrated into the life of the church and in which the church community supports and nurtures the youth in all aspects of their life. The Youth Minister should be an advocate for youth and educate the congregation about the hopes, concerns and needs of youth in the local church and community. The Youth Minister will plan, develop, and implement all aspects of a balanced youth ministry program in the areas of group building, worship, study, mission, and outreach, to include regular meetings and special events.

D. Treasurer

The Church Treasurer shall be recommended to the church by the Finance committee for employment by church action. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, keep in bank, and disburse by check upon proper authority all money or things of value that are given to the church, and keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, rendering regular account to the church to be preserved by the church clerk. The treasurer's book shall be audited as arranged by the church. And all books, records, and accounts kept by him/her shall be considered the property of the church. The treasurer shall upon invitation meet with the deacons and shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance committee. The treasurer shall be under the supervision of the Finance Committee.

E. Church Secretary

The Church Secretary position shall be recommended to the church by the Pastor for employment by church action. The secretary of the church office helps the church function by acting as a personal secretary to the pastor and by maintaining the church office. This person should be a Christian with general office skills who feels called to Christian service. The Church Secretary will be dealing with private affairs and must maintain confidentiality at all times. The Church Secretary will be under the supervision of the Pastor.

F. Custodian

The Custodian position shall be recommended to the Church by the Building & Grounds Committee for employment by Church action. The Custodian is responsible for performing custodial duties, minor maintenance and other miscellaneous duties in order to ensure that municipal buildings and facilities are maintained in a healthy, safe and sanitary manner. The Custodian shall be under the supervision of the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

G. Deacons

The active deacons shall be composed of a minimum of three (3) male

church members and as many other deacons as the church may require. The election of deacons will be under the supervision of the acting deacons. Nominations will be made from a list comprised of all men of the church who are 21 years of age, whose Christian Character and qualifications fit them for this office, and have been a resident member for two (2) consecutive years unless said person has requested that his name be omitted from the list. There will be no more than two immediate family members serving on the active Deacon body at the same time. Immediate family is defined as Grandfather, Father, Son, or brother. From this list, the active Deacon body will present to the church persons to fill the vacancies. The number presented will be twice the number of vacancies.

To be eligible for nomination, a candidate and his family must be supportive of the church with their time and financial support. They must be actively and consistently involved in service to the ministries of the Church. The qualified candidates will be presented to the Church at a Sunday Morning business meeting in July. The persons receiving the most votes will then be contacted by the Pastor or Chairman of Deacons and notified that they have been nominated to serve. If the person has not been ordained and agrees to serve, then an Ordination Council will be formed. The ordaining council will consist of all ordained deacons, pastor, and all other ordained men of the church. Upon approval by the council, the candidate will be recommended to serve as deacon. If the candidate is not approved, the deacon body will look at the next candidate on the list of presented names who received the most votes. At a business meeting in August, the elected deacons will be presented to the church.

The deacon shall be elected for a term of three (3) years with one-third of the number being elected each year. Exception: A deacon(s) may be elected to complete a term vacated by one who is unable to complete his three year term or unexpired term with the time of election being at the regular deacon election or at the discretion of the church. After the completion of a full or partial term, no deacon shall be eligible for re-election until after the lapse of two years. The deacons shall elect annually their own chairman.

Deacons shall at all times consider themselves as servants of the church, with the pastor, and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress; including oversight of the discipline of the church; establish and maintain spiritual fraternal relations with all members of the church;

assisting the pastor in the observance of the ordinances, and having general oversight of all church functions and needs. They shall arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties. The pastor, or the chairman of deacons, may call the deacons into special session whenever need for such arises.

#### H. Trustees

The church shall elect at least four members to serve as trustees. Their term of office shall be for four years with one-fourth of the number being elected each year. Vacancies may be filled at any time with the one elected filling out the unexpired term of the one whose vacancy is being filled. Having served as a trustee during a previous term will not disqualify a member for re-election.

The trustees shall, as provided by law and the action of the church, hold in trust the title to all property of the church and shall represent the church in all matters of legal responsibility regarding purchases and improvements that relate to the church and to the community as the church may direct. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action: neither shall they have any control over the use of the church property except by vote of the church.

#### I. Clerk

The clerk shall be elected annually. It shall be his/her duty to attend, or be represented at all church business meetings, to keep accurate records of all business transactions, to prepare the annual associational letter. He/she shall issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church, preserve all papers, and valuable letters and records that belong to the church, and preserve a true history of the church. It shall also be the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate roll of the church membership is kept with dates and methods of admission and dismissal, change in name, correct mailing addresses and other pertinent information.

### ARTICLE VI. General

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### Section 1. License

When a member announces to the church that he feels the call to the ministry, the church, by majority vote, may license him as an acknowledgment of his call to the ministry and encouragement to make preparation for it. The clerk of the church may furnish the member with a copy of the minutes upon request. It is understood that the performance of civil duties by the member shall be governed by state law. An examining council will examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry.

### Section 2. Ordination

In the event this church has been requested to ordain a member who has been called as a pastor of a Baptist church the following procedure shall be followed: The church will express its approval by a vote of three-fourths of the members present at any regular arranged business meeting of the church. Then the church shall invite the associational council on ordinations to examine the candidate concerning his fitness for the ministry. In the event the association has no such council this church shall invite representatives of neighboring churches to examine the candidate and report to the church. Then in the event the report is favorable, the church shall proceed with the ordination.

### Section 3. Affiliation with Associations and Conventions

We recognize that there is mutual helpfulness in the association of churches who are in such agreement in faith and practice as to encourage the spirit of fellowship and good will. We also recognize that there have been devised, through the voluntary cooperation of churches of like faith and order, organizations whose purpose is to implement the missionary, educational, and benevolent interest and obligations of the individual Christian and his church family.

Believing that the Ogeechee River Baptist Association, The Georgia Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention are organizations which have as their sole purpose the promotion and support of missions education and benevolence of the constitution and the articles of faith of the church, we therefore agree to participate in these organizations through

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our duly elected messengers and our support of the causes which these organizations represent.

Section 4. Property holding:

It is agreed that the securing and maintaining of real property, building and equipment by this church shall be for the expressed purpose of providing facilities for public worship and for the engagement upon the missionary, educational, and benevolent interest of this church, for the character and in the spirit of the constitution and articles of faith of the congregation.

If at any time this church shall determine to alter the quality of its beliefs and practices so as in important respects to be at variance with character described in this constitution and in these articles of faith, if the decision is by less than unanimous vote of those present at a regular business meeting of the church, it is understood that the rights of the property of the church shall inhere in that part of the congregation which shall agree to continue to use the property for the purpose for which it was purchased and has been to that time maintained.

ARTICLE VII . Adoption and Amendments

Section 1. This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than thirty days after formal presentation of the constitution to the church.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church; provided, however, that such amendment, alteration, or repeal must be given to the clerk in writing and this proposed change shall be presented to the church at least thirty days prior to the time the vote is taken.

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BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. Meetings

Section 1. The regular worship services of the church shall be held on each Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday evening, unless otherwise agreed upon by the church. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a quarter.

Section 2. The church shall hold regular business meetings. The meeting time shall be determined by a vote of the membership. Special business meetings may be called by the pastor or the chairman of the deacons at such time as they may be needed, with reasonable notice of the time and place of meeting given to the congregation. The pastor shall serve as moderator of the business sessions of the church. In his absence, or upon his request, the chairman of the deacons, or some other person chosen by the church, may serve as moderator.

Section 3. Quorum

Fifteen percent of the number of the active Sunday School roll of the membership shall constitute a quorum to transact business. Any member of the church is eligible to vote.

ARTICLE II. Other Church Officers

Section 1. Sunday School Director

The Sunday School Director shall have general oversight of the entire school, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with, and according to, the plans and methods of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, subject to the approval of the local church. He/She shall acquaint himself/herself with the best methods of Christian education and endeavor to adopt them in this school. It shall be his/her duty to counsel regularly with his/her teachers and officers through officers and teachers meetings, in the work of the school, giving advice and receiving suggestions

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from his/her co-workers. He/She shall see that a full and accurate report is made of the work of the Sunday School in the regular business meetings of the church. The Sunday School Director and his/her Assistant shall be responsible for counting the Sunday Morning offering, balancing with the envelopes and placing them in the Counting Committee's box in the office. No Staff Members nor their immediate family may serve in this position. No members of the immediate family of the Assistant Sunday School Director may serve in this position. See Article III. Section 3B of the By Laws for definition of immediate family.

#### Section 2. Assistant Sunday School Director

The Assistant Sunday School Director shall serve with the Sunday School Director to assist with the oversight of the Sunday School Department. No Staff Members nor their immediate family may serve in this position. No members of the immediate family of the Sunday School Director may serve in this position. See Article III. Section 3B of the By Laws for definition of immediate family.

#### Section 3. Awana Director

The Awana Director shall have charge of the activities of the Awana program. He/She shall acquaint himself/herself with the program and methods outlined by the Awana Program and shall endeavor to adopt such programs in this church, subject to the approval of the church. He/She shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

#### Section 4. Director of Men's Ministry

The Director of the Men's Ministry shall promote the work of the Men's Ministry as outlined by the Men's Ministry Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, seeking to enlist the men of the church in an active program for Christ. He shall see that a full and accurate report is given at

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the regular business meetings of the church.

#### Section 5. Women's Ministry Director

The Women's Ministry Director shall seek to enlist all the women and Young People of the church in a program of bible study, missions, training, giving, and activity, according to plans promoted by the Women's Ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. She shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

#### Section 6. Pianist and Organist

The Pianist/Organist shall play for all public services and shall assist the music director.

### ARTICLE III . Standing Committees

#### Section 1. Number of Committees

The church shall elect such standing committees as may be deemed necessary to carry on the various phases of the program of the church efficiently and effectively. In any event, the church shall at all times have the following standing committees: Nominating, Budget and Finance, Building and Grounds, and Church Council.

#### Section 2. Election of Committees

The nominating committee shall nominate to the church in business meetings persons to serve for the succeeding year on the standing committees, except the nominating committee. The church will then elect the personnel of the several committees. The members of the nominating committee shall be appointed by the Pastor at the May business meeting. The first order of business is to elect a chairperson. The committee will then nominate The Sunday School Director, The Awana Director, Women's Ministry Director, and the Men's Ministry Director to the church for election. Upon approval by the church, these four shall automatically become members of the nominating committee. The nominating committee report

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should be voted on in an August business meeting.

### Section 3. Duties of Committees

#### A. Nominating Committee

This committee shall consist of at least 3 persons plus the hereinafter designated. Throughout the year, this committee shall have the responsibility of nominating to the church persons to serve in the various capacities and positions of the church and its organizations, and on standing and special committees, vacated from time to time, by removal, death, expiration of term of office, or failure to function. The first report of the new committee each year shall consist of nominations for the office of Sunday School Director, Awana Director, Women's Ministry Director, and Men's Ministry Director. Upon their election by the church, these persons shall become members of the nominating committee, to assist with the selection of other personnel for the organizations and committees of the church. The report of the committee shall be recommended to the church, and any member of the church will have the privilege of a nomination from the floor.

#### B. Budget and Finance Committee

This committee shall be composed of 5 members consisting of the following: A representative from the Deacons (excluding the Deacon Chairman), Sunday School, Awana, Men's Ministry, and Women's Ministry. No members of immediate family may serve on this committee. Immediate family is defined as Spouse, GrandParent, Parent, Child, Step Child, Sibling, Aunt and Uncle and In-Law. No Staff Members nor their immediate family may serve on this committee. This committee shall meet monthly or at other regular intervals to consider the financial condition of the church. This committee shall prepare annually a proposed budget including local expenses, education, missions, and benevolence, and shall submit the same to the church in a business meeting in November. In preparing the budget the committee shall confer with the head of each organization of the church. Upon adoption it becomes the duty of the Budget and Finance Committee, together with such others as may be needed, to monitor and

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work within the boundaries of the budget. Due to the nature of the business of this committee, members will consistently attend all meetings except in an emergency. If one cannot fulfill the duties of this committee, a replacement representative will be selected. The committee shall be responsible for the work of the Church Treasurer and any other person or persons employed in the capacity of handling church finances.

#### C. Building and Grounds Committee

This committee shall have a minimum of 3 members and shall consist of both men and women. It shall be the duty of this committee to give attention to and study the condition and state of repair and appearance of the buildings and grounds including the pastor's home, making such repairs as authorized by the church and included in the church budget. All matters of major repair and items of equipment shall be referred to the finance committee for recommendation to the church.

The committee shall be responsible for the work of the custodian and all other persons employed in the capacity of caring for the building and grounds. The custodian shall be responsible for purchasing custodial supplies.

The custodian, or custodians, shall be recommended to the church by the building and grounds committee for employment by church action. It shall be the custodian's duty to so care for the physical plant as to contribute helpfully to the comfort and well-being of the members at all services. He shall see to the cleanliness, ventilation, and upkeep of the building. He shall see that the grounds are kept in such a way as to be in keeping with what would be expected of God's House.

#### D. Church Council

The Church Council will be composed of the following: A Deacon Representative, Sunday School Director, Awana Director, Women's Ministry Director, Men's Ministry Director, Youth Minister, Youth Committee Chairman, Intermediate Youth Committee Chairman, Senior Adults President, Children's Committee Chairman, Music Director, Building &

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Grounds Chairman, Church Clerk and Treasurer. The Council will be an advisory body to work with the Pastor. They will meet quarterly.

#### Section 4. Other Standing Committees

Other standing committees and any additional committees, will be elected as desired by the church and serve for the purpose designated. Duties of all committees desired by the church will be defined and adopted as a part of the By-Laws.

##### A. Membership Committee

The membership committee shall be composed of, a Deacon Representative, Church Clerk, Sunday School Director, Men's Ministry Director, and Women's Ministry Director.

This committee shall make a study of the church membership roll annually, and shall report to the Deacons the names of inactive members. After these bodies have made diligent and loving efforts to contact and regain a ministry to the delinquent member, the membership committee will then recommend to the church a course of action toward this member.

##### B. Baptism Committee

This committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in baptismal services. They are responsible for the maintenance and preparation of baptismal robes and other needed supplies. This committee consists of three couples/pairs elected for one year terms.

##### C. Benevolence Committee

This committee is to assist the Pastoral staff in evaluating and overseeing the benevolent ministry of the church. They shall administer the funds made available for this purpose through the church budget or funds designated for this purpose. The committee shall consist of at least 3 members.



D. Ushers Committee

This committee shall provide all possible assistance to guests and members before, during, and after all worship services and at such other times as needed. They shall recruit sufficient ushers to effectively meet this responsibility. They shall give careful attention to all needs of the congregation. They shall receive the offerings in the worship services. The committee shall consist of a minimum of two members.

E. Counting Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to count church offerings. The committee will go to the bank on Monday and retrieve the night deposit. They are to record all cash and checks and prepare the bank deposit. The counting function is never to be done by just one person and only by committee members. No Staff Members nor their immediate family may serve on this committee. No members of immediate family may serve on this committee. See Article III. Section 3B of the By Laws for definition of immediate family. The committee consists of six members.

F. Constitution and By Laws Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to review the entire document, to determine if any revisions are necessary, to make recommendations as needed to the church, and to receive input from church membership regarding areas of concern. The committee would be formed every three years or sooner if determined necessary by the nominating committee. Three members, one of whom is a Deacon, would serve for one year and the committee would dissolve at the end of a year's service.

G. Hostess Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to oversee and guarantee the wisest use of the kitchen and dining room facilities and equipment. They will oversee the serving of meals by the church. This committee is also responsible for meals served to families who have lost a member of their family. Meals will be served in the church fellowship hall unless the family

requests otherwise. This committee shall consist of a minimum of nine members.

#### H. Decorations Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to decorate the church facilities with flowers and other decorations as appropriate during regular worship services as well as special events. The committee shall consist of a minimum of four members.

#### I. Sound Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to provide sound reinforcement for the services of the church. They are to record and make available recordings of the services as requested. This committee is responsible for the maintenance and inventory of existing sound equipment and for the requests of new equipment to be purchased. There are to be at least three members on this committee with one being the Music Minister.

#### J. Background Search/Child Protection Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to formulate a background search plan for the church and ensure that the appropriate searches have been conducted and recorded. They should ensure that the church is legally compliant concerning background searches. This committee shall consist of four members to serve as outlined in the committee's policy manual. The members will serve a four year term with one rotating off each year.

#### K. Pastor Search Committee

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Pastor, this committee shall be responsible for presenting a qualified candidate for election at the church business meeting. This committee shall consist of seven members to be nominated by the Church Council and presented to the Church for election. All members of the committee have equal voting rights. After this committee fulfills their responsibilities, the committee will dissolve. The committee elects its own Chairman.

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L. Minister of Music and/or Youth Search Committee

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Minister of Music and/or Youth this committee shall be responsible for presenting a qualified candidate for election at the church business meeting. This committee shall consist of seven members to be nominated by the Church Council and presented to the Church for election. All members of the committee have equal voting rights. After this committee fulfills their responsibilities, the committee will dissolve. The committee elects its own Chairman.

M. Facility Planning Committee

It is the responsibility of this committee to oversee the church property and buildings. The committee plans and recommends to the church any plans for renovation projects or new buildings to be added. Once approved by the church, the committee supervises project until completion. This committee consists of seven members, two of which shall be female.

N. Youth Committee

This committee is responsible to assist the Youth Minister in leading the ministry that reaches and develops youth grades nine through twelve and young families so that they become more like Christ. They will lead, promote and oversee the spiritual formation of children by teaching them to worship, learn and obey the Word, and win others to Christ. The committee will consist of six members, elected for a three year term with two rotating off each year.

O. Intermediate Youth Committee

This committee is responsible to assist the Youth Minister in leading the ministry that reaches and develops youth grades six through eight and young families so that they become more like Christ. They will lead, promote and oversee the spiritual formation of children by teaching them to worship, learn and obey the Word, and win others to Christ. The committee will consist of six members, elected for a three year term with two rotating off each year.

#### P. Children's Committee

This committee is responsible for planning events and leading the ministry that reaches and develops children ages birth through fifth grade and young families so that they become more like Christ. They will lead, promote and oversee the spiritual formation of children by teaching them to worship, learn and obey the Word, and win others to Christ. The committee will consist of six members elected for a three year term with two rotating off each year.

#### Article IV. Special Committees

Special committees shall be elected for specific obligations as desired by the church. These committees shall be elected by the church upon the recommendation of the Moderator unless the church directs their appointment in a different manner.

#### Article V. Adoption and Amendments

Section 1. These By-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds of the members present at the business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than thirty days after formal presentation of the By-Laws to the church.

Section 2. Any of the rules in these By-Laws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a two thirds vote of the members present at any regular business meeting of the church; provided, however, that notice and proposal of such amendment, alteration, or repeal must be given in writing at the preceding regular business meeting of the church.

#### Article VI.

Section 1. The Adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

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Section 2. A copy of this Constitution and By-Laws shall at all times be kept by the clerk among his/her records and another copy shall be kept in the church office, and all amendments to or revisions thereof shall, after passage by the church, be prepared by the clerk and posted in the copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and made available to the church members generally upon request.

Addendum Number One  
CHURCH COVENANT

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spiritually; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; 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 one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for the reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

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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.

Addendum Number Two  
Articles of Faith

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

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## A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

## B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-*

*25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to



fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

#### IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

## V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## VI. The Church

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A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

### VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

### IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

### X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*

## XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.*

## XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

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In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

*Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

### XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

*Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

### XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner.

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Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

*Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philipians 1:15-18.*

#### XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-*

*11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

#### XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.*

#### XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

*Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.*



## XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

Addendum Number Three

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Section 1. Marriage

In accordance with the *Baptist Faith and Message (2000)*, Cedar Street Baptist Church recognizes the covenant of biblical marriage between one naturally-born male (biological gender) and one naturally-born female (biological gender), exclusively, and shall not recognize any marriage based on any other union (Gen. 2:21-24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Church facilities are not available to the general public for any non-biblical union. Marriage within Cedar Street Baptist Church must occur only under the following conditions:

- a. Each person desiring to be joined in a marriage covenant must be a born-again, professing believer of Jesus Christ;
- b. At least one member of the couple to be married must be a member of Cedar Street Baptist Church. (An exception to this condition may be made on a case-by-case basis upon approval by the majority of the active Board of Deacons and the Senior Pastor.);
- c. Each person desiring to be joined in the marriage covenant must have attended pre-marital counseling by the Senior Pastor;
- d. The Senior Pastor or another licensed official approved by the majority of the active Board of Deacons and the Senior Pastor must perform the ceremony. Finally, neither pastoral staff nor laity is permitted to officiate over a non-biblical marriage.

Section 2. Family

In accordance with the *Baptist Faith and Message (2000)*, Cedar Street Baptist Church recognizes that a family consists of people related to one another through biblical marriage, blood, or adoption. Furthermore, Cedar Street Baptist Church shall not recognize any marital union outside of one naturally-born male (biological gender) and one naturally-born female (biological gender) in covenant marriage.

April 23, 2017

Addendum Number Three

Robert's Rules of Order will be used for the Conduct of Church  
Business Meetings  
"Let All Things Be Done Decently and In Order"

Regular Business Meeting

I. Items usually considered in a regular business meeting

- (1) Prayer and meditation.
- (2) Reading of minutes of previous meeting, and clerk's report
- (3) Report of Church Finance Committee.
- (4) Report of church officers: Sunday School, Awana, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, or any other organizations.
- (5) Unfinished business  
(Note: A motion to consider is not necessary. The matter is before the church and should be acted upon unless a motion to postpone is acted upon.)
- (6) Report of committees.  
(Note: These reports should be adopted, together with any amendments that may be made unless a motion to postpone be carried. In such case, reports remain as unfinished business for the next meeting)
- (7) New business.  
(Note: It is the privilege of any member to present any matter which, in his or her judgment, should claim the attention of the church. But such procedure is usually unwise unless the one presenting the matter is prepared to make a motion to consider the matter, and unless the counsel of others has previously been sought.)

April 23, 2017

A. Consideration of recommendations of the Deacons

B. Authorization of expenditure of money.

C. The acceptance of resignations and employment of new workers

D. Consideration of new buildings and repairs and replacements

(8) The granting of letters of dismissal.

Letters of dismissal are to be placed with the clerk's report.

II. Items usually considered in a special business meeting.

(Note: No items of business should be considered in such meetings except the one matter for which the meeting is called, except that by unanimous consent other matters may be considered which were not specified in the call)

This Document was adopted on April 23, 2017 . This document supersedes any previous document referring to the Constitution and By-Laws of Cedar Street Baptist Church of Metter, Inc.

April 23, 2017