

**New Antioch
Missionary Baptist Church**

**Constitution
and
Articles of Faith**

NEW ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1 – Name
- Section 2 – Purpose

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

- Section 1 – Statement of Faith
- Section 2 – Authority of Statement of Faith
- Section 3 – Covenant

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 – Qualifications for Membership
- Section 2 – Duties of a Member
- Section 3 – Privileges of Membership
- Section 4 – Discipline of a Member
- Section 5 – Transfer of Membership
- Section 6 – Termination of Membership

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

- Section 1 – Church Officers
- Section 2 – Designation of Corporate Officers
- Section 3 – Eligibility for the
Continuance in Office
- Section 4 – Terms of Office
- Section 5 – Pastoral Oversight of
Officers and Staff

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Section 1 – Pastor
- Section 2 – Associate Pastors
- Section 3 – Deacons
- Section 4 – Board of Trustees
- Section 5 – Youth Director
- Section 6 – Records Director
- Section 7 – Director of Finance
- Section 8 – Building Fund Treasurer
- Section 9 – Director of Sunday School
- Section 10 – Director of Hospitality
- Section 11 – Duties of All Officers

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

- Section 1 – Meetings for Worship
- Section 2 – Special Meetings
- Section 3 – Fiscal Year

ARTICLE VII – ORDINATION

- Section 1 – Ordination Qualifications
- Section 2 – Ordination Procedure

ARTICLE VIII – INDEMNIFICATION

- Section 1 – Actions Subject to Indemnification
- Section 2 – Expenses Subject to
Indemnification
- Section 3 – Limitations of Indemnification
- Section 4 – Timing of Indemnification
- Section 5 – Extent of Indemnification
- Section 6 – Insurance

ARTICLE IX – TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

- Section 1 – Private Inurement
- Section 2 – Political Involvement
- Section 3 – Dissolution
- Section 4 – Racial Nondiscrimination
- Section 5 – Limitation of Activities

ARTICLE X – BINDING ARBITRATION

- Section 1 – Submission to Arbitration
- Section 2 – Notice of Arbitration
- Section 3 – Limitation of Arbitration Decisions
- Section 4 – Arbitration Procedures

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

ADOPTION

PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1 – NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. The name or the denomination of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church will not be changed without a **one hundred per cent (100%) majority vote**.

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE

- (A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of **Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986**, including but not limited to, for such purposes the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, and nursing homes.
- (B) The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

- (A) **The Holy Scriptures.** We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for the faith and life. The **sixty-six (66)** books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21**).
- (B) **Dispensationalism.** We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvations, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations – the law, the church, and the kingdom – are the subjectings of detailed revelation in Scripture (**Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6**).
- (C) **The Godhead.** We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (**Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26**).
- (D) **The Person and Work of Christ.**
1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (**Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8**).
 2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (**Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5**).
 3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (**Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2**).
- (E) **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (**John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14**).
 2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (**Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27**).

3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (**Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12**).
 4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (**1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22**).
- (F) The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (**Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19**).
- (G) Salvation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (**John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19**).
- (H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**
1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (**John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:4-5**).
 2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (**Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2: 11-15**).
- (I) The Church.**
1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (**1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:25-27**).
 2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (**Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11**).
 3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (**Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1,4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4**).
 4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age (**Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**).
- (J) Separation.** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (**Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6: 14 - 7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11**).

- (K) The Second Advent of Christ.** We believe in that “blessed hope”, the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (**Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6**).
- (L) The Eternal State.**
1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (**Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13**).
 2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (**Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6**).
 3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (**Matt. 25: 41-46; Mark 9: 43-48; Luke 16: 19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15**).
- (M) The Personality of Satan.** We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (**Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14: 12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10**).
- (N) Creation.** We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (**Genesis 1-2; Ex. 20:11**).
- (O) Civil Government.** We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consistently of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (**Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14**).
- (P) Human Sexuality.**
1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. Any employee of the church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment. (**Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4**).

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. **(Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).**
 3. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure, ordination, and to usurp authority in the church. **(Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).**
- (Q) Divorce and Remarriage.** We believe that God intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor, preacher, or deacon **(Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).**
- (R) Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable **(Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).**
- (S) Missions.** We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us **(Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).**
- (T) Lawsuits Between Believers.** We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander **(1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).**
- (U) Giving.** We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all right to direct use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made **(Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).**

SECTION 2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

SECTION 3 – COVENANT

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

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

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, and all others; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from ungodly amusements (i.e. gambling, exc.); to be free from all oath-bound secret societies and partnerships with unbelievers; to abstain from the sale or use of tobacco in any form, narcotic drugs, or intoxicating drink as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a **majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting**, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in an acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein; and who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon **majority vote of the congregation** after confession is made publicly before the church membership of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidence repentance to the pastor (or the deacons if the office of pastor is vacant).

SECTION 2 – DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in **Article II, Section 3**, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a life-style walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the church.

SECTION 3 – PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the undershepherd with the counsel of the deacons. Membership in this church does not afford an individual with any property, contract, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Determination of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him. The membership of the church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor and deacons.

- (B) Each member of the church shall be entitled to vote on all matters except those pertaining to the disciplining of members, the purchase or sale of real property, and the dismissal or calling of a pastor, in which matters, only members at least **eighteen (18) years** of age shall be entitled to vote.
- (C) Members absent from church services for **eight (8)** consecutive weeks will be considered inactive and lose voting privileges and the right to be recognized or speak at a called or scheduled business meeting (with exceptions of, but not limited to, military service, homebound, in nursing home, caregiver, college students, evangelists, or missionary service). Any exceptions not mentioned may be brought before the Pastor and discipline committee to determine membership status. After **four (4)** weeks of regular attendance, that member would regain active status and voting privileges.

SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

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

- (G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

SECTION 5 – TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members, not under the disciplining process of **Section 4**, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 6 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) See **Article III, Section 4 (E)**.
- (B) No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.
- (C) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are pastor (see Article V, Section 1), associate pastor (Article V, Section 2), deacon (Article V, Section 3), trustee (Article V, Section 4), youth director (Article V, Section 5), records director (see Article V, Section 6), director of finance (see Article V, Section 7), building fund treasurer (Article V, Section 8), minister of Sunday school (see Article V, Section 9), and minister of hospitality (see Article V, Section 10). One person may hold **two (2) or more** offices, except that of pastor.

SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the director of records shall serve as secretary of the corporation; director of finance shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and a deacon shall serve as the vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE

- (A) All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the statement of faith (as set forth in Article II) annually in the presence of each other.
- (B) All church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the pastor in order for them to continue in their offices.
- (C) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

SECTION 4 – TERMS OF OFFICE

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

- (A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any regular administration meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church **two (2) Sunday's** prior to said regular administration meeting. **A three-fourths (¾) majority of the members present and voting** shall be required to decide the matter. Disciplinary removal of the pastor from the office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Article III, Section 1(D).
- (B) Deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a **majority vote of the remaining members of the deacons and pastor.**

SECTION 5 – PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- (A)** Subject to the approval of the church membership and on the condition that shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the pastor may hire associates and assistants to assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B)** All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor who has the sole authority (if applicable) to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 – PASTOR

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

SECTION 2 – ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Under the direction and guidance of the pastor, the associate pastors of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries of the church.

SECTION 3 – THE DEACONS

The deacons shall assist the pastor, in such a manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall, in cooperation with the pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for church meetings if the office of the pastor is vacant. The deacons shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor.

SECTION 4 – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board of trustees of the corporation consisting of **three to five (3 to 5)** members shall exercise only the following specific powers:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, and to borrow money and incur indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

SECTION 5 – YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Youth Director shall have the following responsibilities:

- (A) Consult:** To develop each age-specific ministry according to the commitment level philosophy of ministry (ministering to people at each level of spiritual commitment) - where ministry is extensive in scope (reaching and discipling youth) and intensive in depth (caring for and developing youth and leaders); to communicate a vision for ministry that is relational, incarnational (Christlike) and purposeful with each group; to help each ministry create strategies and programs that accomplish their objectives; and to inform the church on these ministries, allowing youth to impact adults and adults to impact the youth.
- (B) Coordinate:** To ensure continuity between the various ministries so that the transitions between the various groups are as smooth as possible and that as few youth are lost to the church as possible; to provide a unified sense of purpose and direction in terms of focus and curriculum (without necessarily studying the same material); to organize combined events that bring the different groups together, and to share resources between the groups; to plan and organize youth activities in the church both during and after regular activity times; to plan special trips for youth from the church to attend various community activities, field trips or even retreats or other gatherings away from the community; to oversee all aspects of youth ministry including encouraging more youth to attend services and activities.
- (C) Care:** To shepherd the leaders of the various ministries by giving them ownership, rewarding them verbally and visually, never allowing any unfair criticism to be directed toward them, and standing up for them as their advocate while allowing fair criticism; to reach out to youth as a resource that they can access for counseling or spiritual guidance; and to help kids with problems such as relationship issues, spirituality and dealing with troubles in their lives. This will also require being involved in their lives as a spiritual mentor and friend.
- (D) Communicate:** The Youth Director will meet and coordinate with church groups, other religious leaders and parents to ensure all needs are being met with the youth ministry. The Youth Director will report to the church, as represented by the deacons.

SECTION 6 – RECORDS DIRECTOR

The director of records shall:

- (A) Certify and keep at office of the Church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws.
- (B) Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of meetings of the deacons, with the time and place of holding, the notice meeting given, the names of these present at the meetings.
- (C) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law.
- (D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. In case of the absence or disability of the Secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the Pastor, or by the deacons.
- (E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions.
- (F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed.
- (G) Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the deacons or the minutes of the meetings of the church members.
- (H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year.
- (I) Keep all records at the office of the Church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
- (J) Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

SECTION 7 – DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The director of finance shall:

- (A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the Corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the Church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Pastor.
- (B) Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the Church.
- (C) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Church as may be directed by the Pastor, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements.
- (D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital.
- (E) Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check.

- (F) When and as requested, render to the Pastor accounts of all his transactions as director of finance and of the financial condition of the Church.
- (G) Present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular quarterly and or monthly church administration meetings and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting.
- (H) Keep all church financial records at the office of the Church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.
- (I) Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

SECTION 8 – BUILDING FUND TREASURER

The building fund treasurer shall:

- (A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all building funds of the Church, and deposit all funds in the name of the Church in the appropriate accounts.
- (B) Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the Church (if applicable).
- (C) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the building fund of the Church as may be directed by the Pastor, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the monthly church business meeting.
- (D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Church's building fund transactions.
- (E) Make all expenditures of the church by check.
- (F) When and as requested, render to the Pastor accounts of all his transactions as building fund treasurer and of the financial condition of the Church's building fund.
- (G) Present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular monthly church business meetings.
- (H) Keep all church financial records at the office of the Church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office.

SECTION 9 – DIRECTOR OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Director of Sunday school shall supervise the Sunday school. In consultation with the pastor he shall recommend the appointment of the teachers of the Sunday school. He shall reside at teachers' meetings, and report the condition of the Sunday school at the annual and or monthly church administration meeting.

The Director of Sunday school is responsible to the church for planning, conducting, and evaluating the value of this ministry. The Director of Sunday school shall have the following responsibilities:

- (A) Lead in determining the Sunday school's needs to reach and teach effectively
- (B) Give directions to the enlisting of workers.
- (C) Give support and guidance to other officers in accomplishing his/her work.
- (D) Help in leading all workers to become effective witnesses to lost persons.
- (E) Help workers see the importance of involving people in effective Bible study.

- (F) Determine training needs of the workers and develop a comprehensive training plan.
- (G) Lead teachers / workers in setting challenging and reachable goals.
- (H) Give assistance to the selection of teachers.
- (I) Determine financial and physical resources needed.
- (J) Assist the church in planning, conducting, and evaluating the Vacation Bible School.
- (K) Should be enrolled in the Bible Teaching Program of the church.

SECTION 10 – DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY

The minister of hospitality, in cooperation with the pastor, shall appoint a sufficient number of assistants to care for the work of ushering and extending the official hospitality of the church to its members and visitors. Additional duties will include flower fund; visitation; sending cards to the sick, shut-in, and bereaved; coordinating and distributing food (including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets) from the food pantry.

SECTION 11 – DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

- (A) All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual church administration meeting and shall surrender any records in their possession to the director of records at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- (B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the Bylaws for a period of **three (3) months** may be removed from his office at the discretion of the pastor and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the unexpired term.

**NEW ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Mission

Seeks to select and use music:

- That brings glory to God
- In accordance to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- In accordance to the church doctrine of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
- That prepares the congregation for the Pastor's message/teaching
- That ministers to the congregation

Position Duties and Responsibilities

1. Selects music in coordination with the Pastor and the musician(s)
2. Plans and implements appropriate music for Sunday worship services, midweek, and special services
3. Must have the flexibility to make changes in the music as needed for Sunday worship services, midweek and special services
4. Will coordinate special music for each worship service
5. Responsible for the planning and development of the music ministry of the church
6. Ensures the care, maintenance, and inventory of all music and equipment
7. Must have the flexibility to work with all age groups

Character and Nature of Position

1. Must be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ
2. Must be a person of character and integrity who views this position as a calling from God
3. His life must exemplify the purpose and doctrine of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
4. Must be a church member and is required to keep an active membership status
5. Must desire to assure that all involved in the worship and music ministry realize their maximum potential through effective leadership and training
6. Should have a shepherding pastoral heart to encourage those participating in worship services

Communication

1. Will bring any problems or issues to the Pastor
2. Will contact the Pastor if unable to attend
3. Arranges (if possible) for someone to direct the music in his absence
4. Evaluates and suggests equipment needs for the music ministry
5. Notifies deacon/trustee of any need for damage/major repairs to church instruments/equipment

**NEW ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MUSICIAN**

Mission

Seeks to select and use music

- That brings glory to God
- In accordance to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- In accordance to the church doctrine of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
- That prepares the congregation for the Pastor's message/teaching
- That ministers to the congregation

Position Duties and Responsibilities

1. Selects music in coordination with the Pastor and the music director
2. Selects and plays appropriate music for Sunday worship services, midweek, and special services
3. Must have the flexibility to make changes in the music as needed for Sunday worship services, midweek, and special services
4. Aids the music director in the care, maintenance, and inventory of all music and equipment
5. Must have the flexibility to work with all age groups

Character and Nature of Position

1. Must be a devoted follower of Jesus Christ
2. Must be a person of character and integrity who views this position as a calling from God
3. His/her life must exemplify the purpose and doctrine of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
4. Must be a church member and is required to keep an active membership status

Communication

1. Will bring any problems or issues to the Pastor/music director
2. Will contact the Pastor/music director if unable to attend church services when required to play
3. Arranges (if possible) for someone to play the music in his/her absence
4. Evaluates and suggests equipment needs for the music ministry
5. Notifies deacon/trustee of any need for damage/major repairs to church instruments/equipment

**NEW ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
CUSTODIAN**

All cleaning must be completed weekly before each Sunday morning.

General Duties

1. Vacuum, sweep, or mop all floors (auditorium, restrooms, foyer, classrooms, office).
2. Empty all trash cans.
3. Clean/disinfect all door handles, push bars, push plates.
4. Clean doors and glass inserts. Clean front doors inside/outside the church.
5. Dust/clean all furniture and window sills in auditorium, classrooms, and office.
6. Clean interior windows as needed in auditorium and classrooms.
7. Dust clean all light fixtures as needed.
8. Remove spider webs/cob webs from walls, corners, etc.
9. Clean/disinfect water fountain.
10. Spot check each restroom and water fountain after each church service.
11. Set heating/cooling thermostat before services.
12. Sweep front entrance way under canopy.

Restrooms

1. Clean/disinfect commodes and flush handles, sinks and faucets.
2. Clean mirrors and vanities.
3. Clean stalls.
4. Restock soap, towels, and toilet paper as needed.

Auditorium

1. Clean out pew racks
2. Put song books in each book rack as needed.
3. Water plants as needed.

Baptistry and storage area

1. Clean as needed the room, mop closet, hallway, and steps.
2. Thoroughly clean/sanitize the rooms/baptistry pool after each baptism.

State/county code: All cleaning supplies must be labeled and stored out of reach of children.

Communication

1. Notify church treasurer of need to order cleaning materials/supplies as needed.
2. Notify deacon/trustee of any need for damage/major repairs to church facilities.

Conduct

1. If grounds keeping position is filled by a church member, they are required to keep an active membership status.
2. Dress appropriately in modest apparel as a Christian ought to representing the church.

**NEW ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
GROUNDSKEEPER**

DUTIES

Church Grounds and Planting Area

1. Landscapes and maintains church grounds.
2. Performs scheduled lawn mowing, trimming, weeding, and fertilizing, tree and shrub pruning, repair and reseeding of damaged lawn areas.
3. Applies herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides using safe techniques and maintains HAZMAT files.
4. Upon request of church, plants and maintains trees, shrubs, and flowers.
5. Waters lawn, trees, and plants.
6. Rakes and disposes of leaves and other yard waste.
7. Keeps grounds free of litter.

Parking area and walkways

1. Ensure that parking areas, patios and walkways are clean and well-maintained.
2. Remove snow/ice from driveways, walkways, and parking lots (applying salt when necessary).

Exterior of Building

1. Keep exterior of building clean (free of cobwebs, insect and bird nests, debris, etc.) as needed. This will include brick, siding, gutters, porch canopy.
2. Clean exterior windows and side doors as needed.

Tools, equipment

- Maintains tools and equipment.

State/county code: All cleaning supplies, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers must be labeled and stored out of reach of children.

Communication

1. Notify church treasurer of need to order cleaning materials, yard supplies (seed, fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides, etc.), and any tools/equipment as needed.
2. Notify deacon/trustee of any need for damage/major repairs to church facilities.

Conduct

1. If grounds keeping position is filled by a church member, they are required to keep an active membership status.
2. Dress appropriately in modest apparel as a Christian ought to representing the church.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION 1 – MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the pastor, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship both morning and evening and at least once during the week for Bible study and prayer. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on a minimum of **one (1)** service per year or as the pastor deems appropriate.

SECTION 2 – SPECIAL MEETINGS

Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

SECTION 3 – FISCAL YEAR

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

ARTICLE VII – ORDINATION

SECTION 1 – ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any male member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in **1Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:6-9**, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 2 – ORDINATION PROCEDURE

- (A)** Upon a conference with pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of the ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- (B)** If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.
- (C)** The pastor shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE VIII – INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 1 – ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The Church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be or may be a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigate, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the Church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the Church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of action, suit, or in proceeding by judgment, order settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 2 – EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

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

SECTION 3 – LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this **Article**, may be made by the Church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in **Section 1 of this Article**. The determination shall be made **(a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to, or threatened with, the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable, or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.**

SECTION 4 – TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

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

SECTION 5 – EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

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

SECTION 6 – INSURANCE

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

ARTICLE IX – TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 – PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings on the church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in **Article I, Section 2** hereof.

SECTION 2 – POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 3 – DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under **Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)**, as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed on to organizations which agree with the church's statement of faith.

SECTION 4 – RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

SECTION 5 – LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the church shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in **Article I, Section 2**.

ARTICLE X – BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 1 – SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

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

SECTION 2 – NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these Bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith, and recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of **sixty (60)** days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in **Section 1**, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to the following two sections.

SECTION 3 – LIMITATIONS OF ARBITRATION DECISIONS

- (A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under **Article III, Section 4**, were followed.
- (B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in **Article III, Section 4**, were followed.

SECTION 4 – ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

The procedures for arbitration shall be as adopted by the Pastor and the deacons.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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

ADOPTION

This Constitution and Bylaws was adopted by a **two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.**

This Constitution and Bylaws supersede any other Constitution and Bylaws of New Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Corryton, Tennessee.

Date

Director of Records

ARTICLES OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

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

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

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

We believe the Authorized (King James) Version Old and New Testaments are the Word of God kept intact for English-speaking peoples by way of God's divine providence and work of preservation; and that the Authorized Version translators were not "inspired", but were merely God's instruments used to preserve His words for English-speaking peoples.

(A) By "Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written and providentially preserved, does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the very Word of God.

(B) By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

(C) By "providentially preserved" we mean that God through the ages has, in His divine providence, preserved the very words that He inspired; that the Hebrew Old Testament text, as found in the Traditional Masoretic Text, and the Greek New Testament text as found in the Textus Receptus, are indeed the products of God's providential preservation, and are together the complete, preserved, inerrant Word of God.

Dt 4:2; Ps 12:6-7; Ps 19:7-11; Ps 119:89,105,130,160; Isa 8:20; Isa 40:8; Jer 23:29; Ezk 12:25; Mt 5:17-18; Mt 22:29; Lk 24:44-45; Jn 12:48; Jn 17:17; Jn 20:30-31; Rom 3:4; Rom 15:4; Eph 6:17; II Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12; I Pt 1:23-25; II Pt 1:19-21; Rev 22:18-19.

II. OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; and 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; Ex 15:11; II Sam 7:22; Ps 83:18; Ps 90:2; Ps 147:5; Isa 40:28; Isa 45:5-6; Jer 10:10; Mt 28:18; Mk 12:30; Jn 1:1-2,14; Jn 4:24; Jn 14:7-11; Jn 17:5; Rom 11:33; I Cor 8:6; I Cor 12:4-6; Phlp 2:5-6; Col 2:9; I Tim 1:17; I Tim 3:16; I Tim 6:13-16; I Jn 5:7; Rev 1:8.

III. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, the Holy Spirit restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He is the witness of and guide into all truth; that He shall not speak of nor exalt Himself, but will glorify the Son of God; that the Holy Spirit is the agent in the New Birth; and that He seals, endues, comforts, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

Gen 1:1-3; II Chr 7:1-3; Neh 9:20,30; Job 33:4; Ps 139:7; Isa 11:1-2; Isa 59:19; Ezk 36:26-27; Zec 4:6; Mt 12:31; Lk 1:35; Lk 24:49; Jn 3:5-6; Jn 14:16-17,26; Jn 15:26; Jn 16:7-11,13-14; Acts 1:8; Acts 5:30-32;

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Acts 6:5; Acts 13:2; Rom 8:9,14-16,26-27; I Cor 3:16; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 3:16; Eph 4:30; I Pt 1:2; I Jn 4:13; Rev 22:17.

IV. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew after him a host of angels; that Satan is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world; that he is mankind's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy; and that he is the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness - destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Gen 3:14-15; Job 2:2; Isa 14:12-17; Ezk 28:14-19; Zec 3:1; Mt 4:1-11; Mt 13:19,38-39; Mt 25:41; Jn 8:44; Jn 13:2; Jn 14:30; II Cor 4:3-4; II Cor 11:13-15; Eph 2:2; Eph 6:11-12; I Ths 3:5; II Ths 2:7-10; Heb 2:14; I Pt 5:8; II Pt 2:4; I Jn 2:22; Jn 4:3; II Jn 7; Jude 6; Rev 9:11; Rev 12:7-10; Rev 20:1-3,7-10.

V. OF CREATION

We believe the Genesis account of creation; that the Genesis creation record is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that by God's own handiwork, in the space of six twenty-four hour days, were all things created that are in heaven and that are in the earth, visible and invisible; that creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; and that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only after their kind.

Gen 1:1-2:3; Gen 2:21-23; Gen 5:1-2; Ex 20:11; I Chr 16:26; Neh 9:6; Job 12:7-9; Job 38:4-11; Ps 8:3-6; Ps 19:1; Ps 100:3; Ps 102:25; Prov 30:4; Isa 42:5; Isa 45:11-12,18; Jer 10:12; Jer 32:17; Jn 1:1-3; Acts 4:24; Acts 17:24-26; Rom 1:20; Col 1:16-17; Heb 11:3; Rev 4:11; Rev 10:5-6.

VI. OF THE FALL OF MAN

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

Gen 3:1-13,16-24; Job 15:16; Ps 14:2-3; Ps 51:5; Prov 20:9; Eccl 7:20; Isa 53:6; Jer 16:12; Jer 17:9; Ezk 18:4; Mt 7:21-23; Mt 23:28; Rom 1:18-20,28-32; Rom 2:1; Rom 3:10-19,23; Rom 5:12; I Cor 15:21-22; Gal 3:22; Eph 2:1-3; I Tim 2:13-14; Jms 1:13-15.

VII. OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe Jesus Christ, Who was preexistent in the Godhead from eternity-past, was made flesh when He was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner: born of a virgin woman, Mary, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman; and that Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, both the Son of God and God the Son.

Gen 3:15; Ps 2:7; Isa 7:14; Isa 9:6-7; Mt 1:18-25; Mt 16:16; Mk 1:1; Lk 1:30-35; Jn 1:1-2,14; Jn 8:58; Jn 12:45; Jn 17:5; Rom 8:3; I Cor 15:47; Gal 4:4; Phlp 2:5-8; Col 2:9; I Tim 3:16; Heb 5:5; Heb 7:3; II Pt 1:16-18; I Jn 4:2; I Jn 5:9,20.

VIII. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN

We believe the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself the nature of man yet without sin, Who honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and Who by His death made a full and vicarious

ARTICLES OF FAITH

atonement for the sins of mankind, providing redemption through His blood; that without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin, therefore, the shed blood of Jesus Christ, that cleanseth man from all sin, was presented in heaven, was sprinkled on the true mercy seat, and was accepted by God the Father as the atonement for the sins of the whole world, only becoming efficacious through man's individual repentance, confession, and faith; that Christ's atonement consisted not in setting man an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing the sins of man in His own body on the tree; and that after having given Himself for man, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour, and having, in turn, risen from the dead, Christ Jesus is now seated on the right hand of God, becoming in every way a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

Isa 53:4-7,10-12; Lk 19:10; Jn 3:16-17; Acts 15:11; Rom 3:24-25; Rom 5:6-8; I Cor 15:3; II Cor 5:15,21; Gal 1:4; Eph 5:2; Phlp 2:7-8; Tit 2:14; Heb 1:3; Heb 2:14-17; Heb 7:25; Heb 8:1-2; Heb 9:12-15,22-26; Heb 10:10-12; Heb 12:2; I Pt 1:18-19; I Pt 2:24; I Pt 3:18; I Jn 2:1-2; I Jn 3:5; Rev 1:5.

IX. OF THE RESURRECTION

We believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead bodily the third day, according to the Scriptures; that the Lord's resurrection was attested to by many infallible proofs; and that forty days thereafter, He physically ascended back to heaven assuming His place as man's Advocate with the Father: the faithful High Priest Who ever liveth to make intercession for mankind.

Mt 16:21; Mt 28:1-15; Mk 16:1-13,19; Lk 24:1-51; Jn 2:19; Jn 20:1-20,24-29; Acts 1:1-3; Acts 2:22-27,29-33; Acts 3:14-15; Acts 4:33; Acts 10:39-41; Acts 13:29-31; Acts 17:2-3,31; Acts 26:22-23; Rom 1:4; Rom 6:9-10; Rom 8:34; Rom 10:9; I Cor 15:3-8; II Cor 4:14; Eph 1:20; Phlp 3:10-11; II Tim 2:8; I Pt 3:21-22; Rev 1:18

X. OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION

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

Jer 17:7-8; Jn 1:12-13; Jn 3:3,6-7; Jn 5:24; Jn 6:63; Rom 3:24; Rom 5:15; Rom 8:11,32; I Cor 6:9-11; II Cor 5:17-19; II Cor 9:15; Gal 2:20; Gal 4:29; Gal 5:22-24; Gal 6:15; Eph 2:1,5-8,15; Eph 4:24; Eph 5:9-10; Col 2:13; Col 3:1,9-10; II Tim 2:1; Tit 3:5; Jms 1:18; I Pt 1:23; II Pt 1:4; I Jn 2:29; I Jn 3:8-10; I Jn 4:7; I Jn 5:1,4,10-12,18,21.

XI. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

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

Isa 55:1; Ezk 33:11; Mt 11:28; Lk 11:10; Jn 3:14-20,36; Jn 4:10; Jn 6:37; Jn 15:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:20-21; Acts 10:34-35; Acts 17:29-31; Rom 5:18; Rom 6:23; Rom 8:29-30; Rom 10:12-13; Eph 2:7-9; Tit 1:1-2; II Pt 3:9; Rev 3:20; Rev 22:17.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

XII. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; and that justification and its benefits are bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which man has done, but rather, God's righteousness is imputed to man solely through faith in the Redeemer's vicarious shed blood.

Gen 15:6; Job 9:20; Ps 40:2; Isa 53:11; Hbk 2:4; Lk 16:15; Jn 5:24; Acts 13:39; Rom 1:17; Rom 2:13; Rom 3:24-28; Rom 4:1-9,23-25; Rom 5:1,9; Rom 8:1; I Cor 6:11; Gal 2:16; Gal 3:8-11,24; Phlp 3:9; Tit 3:5-7; Heb 10:38; Heb 11:4; Rev 1:5-6.

XIII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe repentance and faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in the soul of man by the quickening Holy Spirit of God; that being deeply convicted of his own guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, man must turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy, while at the same time heartily believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, openly confessing Him as the only true and all-sufficient Saviour.

Ps 34:18; Ps 51:1-4; Prov 28:13; Isa 55:6-7; Isa 66:7; Ezk 18:31; Joel 2:12-13; Mk 1:14-15; Mk 6:12; Lk 12:8; Lk 13:3; Lk 18:13-14; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 3:19; Acts 8:22-23; Acts 17:29-30; Acts 20:21; Acts 26:18-20; Rom 10:9-11; II Cor 7:10; I Jn 1:8-9.

XIV. OF THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE SAINTS

We believe all the Redeemed are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, and are, therefore, secure in Christ; and that eternal security is synonymous to eternal life, and is a work of God which insures that the gift of salvation, once received, cannot be lost by any true believer.

Ps 31:23; Ps 37:28; Ps 121:3; Prov 2:8; Isa 46:4; Mt 7:24-25; Jn 3:16; Jn 5:24; Jn 10:27-29; Jn 17:11; Rom 4:21; Rom 8:15-16,33-39; II Cor 1:21-22; II Cor 5:5; Eph 1:13-14; Phlp 1:6; II Tim 1:12; II Tim 4:18; I Pt 1:3-5; I Jn 2:19,25; I Jn 3:2; I Jn 4:13; I Jn 5:11-13; Jude 24.

XV. OF THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

We believe Jesus Christ will physically return to the earth in like manner as He was seen to go into heaven: bodily, personally and visibly; that His Second Coming will be preceded by a chronology of Last Days' events - literal events, beginning with a pre-tribulational, pre-millennial calling out of all the redeemed: the Rapture; that the Rapture will terminate the dispensation of the New Testament Church, and will induce the time of Jacob's Trouble: a seven-year Tribulation Period and reign of antichrist; that the Tribulation will culminate with Armageddon: the final terrible event in world history when the Lord Jesus, with heaven's host, returns victoriously making the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; that upon the Second Coming of Christ, the Lord shall reign in righteousness on the earth for one thousand years, climaxing with the final condemnation of Satan and the last judgment of Revelation Chapter Twenty; and that, eternally thereafter, the Lord Jesus Christ shall reign forever and ever.

Gen 18:25; Isa 11:4-10; Jer 23:5-6; Jer 30:6-10; Dan 7:23-27; Dan 9:24; Dan 12:1; Zech 14:9-11; Mt 24:3-31,36-51; Mt 25:31-33; Mt 26:64; Jn 5:22; Jn 14:2-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Cor 15:22-26,48-54; Phlp 3:20-21; I Ths 4:15-17; I Ths 5:1-9; II Tim 4:1; Tit 2:13; Heb 9:28; Heb 10:37; II Pt 3:10-13; Jude 14-15; Rev 1:17; Rev 16:16; Rev 20:1-15; Rev 22:20.

XVI. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only such as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of

ARTICLES OF FAITH

God, are truly righteous in His esteem, and that all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in God's sight wicked and under the curse; and that among men both in and after death there exists this great eternal distinction: the everlasting bliss of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious suffering of the lost.

Gen 18:23,25; Ps 11:5-7; Prov 10:6-7,10; Prov 11:31; Prov 14:32; Mal 4:1-2; Mt 7:13-14; Mt 13:38,47-48; Mt 25:32-34,41; Lk 16:25; Jn 3:18-21,36; Jn 12:25; Rom 1:17-18; Rom 2:9-11; Rom 5:18; Rom 6:16-18; Rom 7:5-6; I Cor 6:9-11; I Cor 15:22; Gal 3:10-11; II Pt 3:7; I Jn 2:29; I Jn 3:7-10; I Jn 5:10-12,18-19.

XVII. OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God purposely created mankind as male (man) and female (woman); that God blessed and charged man and woman to fulfill the design of their sexuality (intimacy and progeny) strictly in the confines of a marriage relationship between one man and one woman for one lifetime; and that pornography, fornication, adultery, polygamy, incest, bisexuality, homosexuality, bestiality, and any other such aberrations are all perversions of God's design for mankind, and heinous transgressions of God's Law.

Gen 1:27-28; Gen 2:18,21-24; Lev 18:6-18,22-30; Deut 23:17; Deut 27:20-23; Prov 5:15,18-20; Prov 6:29; Prov 9:13-18; Prov 18:22; Eccl 9:9; Mt 19:3-8; Rom 1:18-32; I Cor 5:9; I Cor 6:9-10,18; I Cor 7:1-2,8-11; I Cor 10:8; Gal 5:19,21; Eph 5:5-6; Col 3:5-6; I Ths 4:4-5; Heb 13:4; Jude 7.

XVIII. OF SEPARATION

We believe one distinguishing mark of biblical Christianity is a separation from worldly conduct, interests, philosophies, and unions; that separation from the worldly unto the godly should be maintained in two primary realms: the personal and the ecclesiastical; that personal separation is the believer's responsibility to live circumspectly: denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world; and that ecclesiastical separation is a vigilant adherence to holiness in all matters related to the church.

Ezra 10:11-12; Ps 1:1; Prov 4:14; Prov 13:20; Prov 24:1; Isa 52:11; Ezek 44:23; Amos 3:3; Mt 5:13,16; Jn 15:19; Acts 2:40; Rom 8:1; I Cor 6:19-20; II Cor 5:17; II Cor 6:14-18; Gal 5:16; Eph 5:11,13-15; I Ths 4:3-5; I Ths 5:22; II Ths 3:6; Tit 2:11-12; Jms 4:4,8; I Pt 2:11-12; I Pt 4:1-4; I Jn 2:6,15-16.

XIX. OF THE CHURCH

We believe the New Testament church is a local, visible, autonomous assembly; that Jesus Christ established His Church during His earthly ministry, prior to the events of Acts Chapter Two and the Day of Pentecost; that a Baptist church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, said church being the citadel and propagator of the divine and eternal grace; that the church alone is authorized to administer and observe the ordinances of Christ; that all church members, ministries, and polities are to be subject to the Lordship of Christ, exercising the gifts, rights, disciplines, and privileges vested in them by His Word; and that church officers are pastors or elders, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures.

We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first, to make individual disciples; second, to baptize believers and add them to the church; and third, to teach and instruct as Christ commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order.

We believe the church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only superintendent of the church is Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation with others; and that in all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the church is final.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Mt 16:18-19; Mt 18:15-18; Mt 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42,46-47; Acts 6:2-6; Acts 11:25-26; Acts 20:17-21,27-28; Rom 16:1-5; I Cor 3:9-11; I Cor 6:1-3; I Cor 11:2; I Cor 12:12-27; I Cor 16:15-19; II Cor 1:1; II Cor 8:23-24; Eph 1:22-23; Eph 3:8-11,21; Eph 4:11-12; Eph 5:23-27; Col 1:18; I Tim 3:1-15; I Pt 5:1-4.

XX. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S TABLE

We believe baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by and under the authority of a New Testament Baptist church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem one's faith in and identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effects: death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that baptism is requisite to the place and privileges of a church membership and to the Lord's Table in which, after solemn self-examination, and by the use of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, the members only of a given Baptist church are to commemorate together the sacrificial love of Christ.

Mt 3:5-8,13-17; Mt 26:26-29; Mt 28:18-19; Mk 13:34; Lk 22:19-20; Jn 3:22-23; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 8:12,36-39; Acts 10:48; Acts 18:8; Rom 6:3-5; I Cor 10:21; I Cor 11:2,23-29; I Cor 12:12-13; Eph 4:4-5; Col 2:12; I Pt 3:21.

XXI. OF MISSIONS

We believe Missions, the endeavor to reach all the world with the gospel, is a charge to, and the responsibility of the church; that the church is debtor to those who have never heard the gospel; that the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the gospel to be preached at home and abroad -- to the uttermost part of the earth; and that the magnitude of the Great Commission constrains autonomous New Testament Baptist churches to cooperate together for the accomplishment of the task.

Ps 96:3; Prov 11:30; Isa 6:8; Dan 12:3; Mt 9:36-38; Mt 24:14; Mt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:45-47; Jn 4:35-38; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:1-4; Acts 16:9-10; Rom 1:14-16; Rom 9:22-26; Rom 10:13-15; II Cor 5:18-20; II Cor 10:13-16; Phlp 4:14-18; II Pt 3:9; Rev 14:6.

XXII. OF THE GRACE OF GIVING

We believe God's program for financing the execution of His Great Commission is the program by which every believer gives tithes and offerings to God in and through the New Testament storehouse: His Church; that the institution of tithing predates and is separate from the Law; and that cheerful, obedient, sacrificial giving presents for God opportunities to manifest His grace and His inexhaustible bounty of blessings.

Lev 27:30,32; I Chrn 29:3; II Chrn 31:10; Prov 3:9-10; Prov 11:25; Mal 3:8-11; Mt 6:1-4; Mt 23:23; Lk 6:38; Acts 4:33-35,37; Acts 11:29-30; Acts 20:35; I Cor 4:2; I Cor 16:2; II Cor 8:1-9; II Cor 9:6-7; I Tim 6:17-18; Heb 7:1-2,4; Heb 13:16.

XXIII. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe civil government is ordained of God for the interest and good order of society; that government's purpose is to punish evildoers and to support and defend the righteous; that believers are commanded to conscientiously honor, obey, and pray for all that are in authority, that men may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty; that civil government has no jurisdiction in respect to the free exercise of the church; and that civil disobedience is justified only in things opposed to Divine Law, which is supreme, and to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Ex 22:28; II Sam 23:3; II Chrn 19:6; Ps 72:11; Prov 16:12-15; Prov 19:12; Prov 24:21; Prov 29:2; Eccl 8:2; Isa 10:1; Dan 2:21; Mt 17:24-27; Mt 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; Acts 5:29; Rom 13:1-7; Eph 6:5-9; Phlp 2:10-11; Col 3:22-25; Col 4:1; I Tim 2:1-4; I Tim 6:1-2; Tit 3:1; I Pt 2:13-14,17-18.

