

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY, N. Y.
August 28th, 2016**

Revised Version - Voted and Approved on August 28, 2016

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I – NAME	1
ARTICLE II - PURPOSE	1
ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE	1
Section 1 - Of the Scriptures:	1
Section 2 – Of the True God.....	1
Section 3 – Of the Father	2
Section 4 – Of Jesus Christ:	2
Section 5 – Of the Holy Spirit	2
Section 6 – Of Angels.....	2
Section 7 – Of Creation.....	3
Section 8 – Of Man and Sin.....	3
Section 9 – Of Salvation	3
Section 10 – Of Christian Deportment.....	4
Section 11 – Of the Chruch.....	4
Section 12 – Of Last Things.....	5
Section 13 – Of Civil Government.....	5
Section 14 – Marriage and Family.....	5
Section 15 – Of Human Sexuality.....	5
ARTICLE IV – COVENANT	5
ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATIONS	6
ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP	6
Section 1 – Reception of Members.....	7
Section 2 – Duties of Members	7
Section 3 – Voting Qualifications.....	7
Section 4 – Dismissal from Membership	8
Section 5 - Discipline of Members:	8
Section 6 – Marriage of Members.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
ARTCILE VII - OFFICERS	9
Section 1 – Pastor: Duties and Qualifications	9
Section 2 – Pastor, The Call of:	10
Section 3 – Pastor, The Support of:.....	10
Section 4 – Deacons: Duties and Qualifications:	10
Section 5 – Trusties: Duties.....	12
ARTCILE VIII – RULES FOR OTHER THAN OFFICERS	12
Section 1 – Treasurer	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Section 2 – Financial Secretary	12
Section 3 – Church Clerk	13
Section 4 – Sunday School Superintendent.....	13
Section 5 – Sunday School Teachers	13
Section 6 – Youth Leaders.....	13
Section 7 – Others.....	13
Section 8 – General Requirements	13
ARTICLE IX – INNER ORGANIZATIONS	14

Article X – Meetings	14
Section 1 – Business Meetings.....	14
Section 2 – Worship Meetings	15
ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS.....	15
ARTICLE XII - GENERAL.....	15

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK DATED APRIL 2005

The following is a revision of the original Constitution and Bylaws of the Faith Baptist Church of Montgomery, New York, dated 2005.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Faith Baptist Church of the Town of Montgomery, New York, duly incorporated under New York State Law in 1959.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be to maintain the public worship of God in accordance with the historic Baptist principles of fidelity to Christ and His Work and to further the propagation of the Gospel at home and abroad.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE

The Doctrine of this Church shall be those expressed in the following Statement of Doctrine and as generally accepted by Baptist churches:

Section 1 - Of the Scriptures:

Par. A - We believe the Bible, as originally written, to be divinely inspired of God, the totality of the 66 books being the result of the movement of the Spirit of God upon sovereignly selected men, with direction resulting in being verbal inerrant.

Par. B - We, the body of Faith Baptist Church of Montgomery, New York, proclaim that the KJV Bible is the only inspired translation of the original Greek and Hebrew Word of God, and that for the purposes of our Church ministries it will be the only English text used. No speakers, teachers, or preachers from or visiting our Church shall use any other text in place of the KJV. As for support from our church, no financial support will be given to organizations, missionaries, or ministries that do not hold the KJV as their sole source of Gods Word. (II Tim. 3: 16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Cor. 14:37; Luke 24:27; 44: Acts 1:16).

Section 2 – Of the True God

Par. A - We believe that there is only one living true God, and infinite and Intelligent Spirit, Who is the Creator, Preserver, and Sovereign Ruler of all things. He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love.

Par. B - We further believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are Three Persons, eternally co-existing, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in essence and attributes yet distinct in office and activity, executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

(Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; 1 Tim. 1:17; Roms. 11:33; Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; John 16:7-15; John 1:1-4; John 17:5).

Section 3 – Of the Father

We believe in God the Father, not as being the One God, but one distinction of the True God. God the Father is the Father of creation, Israel, Jesus Christ and the believers. (Mal 2: 10; Exod. 4:22; John 20:17; Rom. 8: 15-16).

Section 4 – Of Jesus Christ:

We believe in the absolute deity and perfect humanity of Jesus Christ, that He is the only begotten Son of God, His supernatural conception and virgin birth, His incapability to sin, His miracles, His substitutionary atoning death on the cross for the remission of our sins, that His death upon the cross was vicarious, His bodily resurrection from the grave, His ascension to heaven at the right hand of the-Father where He carries on His high-priestly ministry for the believers, and His personal, visible, glorious, imminent, pre-millennial return to the earth to set up His earthly kingdom. (John 3:16; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; John 8:46; John 2:11; Roms. 5:8-10; 8:11; I Cor. 15:20-24; Hebrews 7:25; Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Peter 1:18-19; 11 Cor. 5:21; Rev 20:4).

Section 5 – Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature, Who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgement, bears witness to the truth, is the Agent of the New birth, and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God. (Gen. 1:2; Matt. 28:19; John 3:5; 6:63; 16:8-13; Acts 5:3-4; Gal. 4:6; Rom. 5:5; II Thess. 2:7; Titus 3:5; I Cor. 6:11; 11 Cor. 3:18; I Jn 5:6).

Section 6 – Of Angels

Par. A - We believe that angels are created, spirit-beings of various ranks and orders. This company of everlasting beings are superhuman in intelligence and strength. There are two classes of angelic beings: (1) the un-fallen angels, who are the "ministering spirits" (Heb. 1:14) who kept their first estate and are therefore designated as the "holy angels" (Matt. 25:31) (2) The fallen angels, who have been divided into two classes: (a) those that are free, and who aid Satan in all his undertakings and share his doom (Rev. 12:7-9; 20:10; Matt. 25:4); (b) those that are bound and reserved in chains unto judgement (I Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6). It is probable that when Satan fell (John 8:44) he drew after him these angels who are designated as the fallen angels (Rev. 12:2-3; Psa. 148:2,5; Col. 1:16-17; Isa. 14; Ezek., 28; Hebrews 1:14).

Par. B - We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, who fell from a favored position with God because of his sin in desiring to be as God and Opposing his own will against the will of God. (Isa. 14:14; Ezek. 28:11-18). Satan is now the prince of the power of the air, of the power of darkness, the head of the fallen angels and demons, the unholy god of this age, and is destined

to the judgement of eternal condemnation in the lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Matt. 4: 1-3; Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:3-4; I John 5:19; Rev. 20:1-10; Matt. 25:41).

Section 7 – Of Creation

Par. A - We accept the Biblical account of the origin of the heavens and the earth, together with all forms of life.

Par. B - We believe that man came by a direct creative act of God Who made man in His own image and likeness.

Par. C - We therefore reject the idea of evolution in all its forms. (Genesis 1,2; Col 1:16-17; John 1:3; Isa. 43: 1,7).

Section 8 – Of Man and Sin

Par. A - We believe that man was created in innocense under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, is totally depraved, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Par. B - We believe that man naturally is at enmity with God; that man naturally is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins; that man is wholly unrighteous; that man is totally incapable of saving himself. (Gen. 2:16-17; 3; Rom. 3:9-19; 5:12; 19; 1:18-32; 8:7; John 3:18-20, 36; Rom. 5:10; Isa. 64:6-7; Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:1-9).

Section 9 – Of Salvation

Par. A - We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin which is everlasting separation from God and eternal and conscious punishment in hell is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Himself a human body and nature, yet completely apart from sin, and by His death upon the cross made a full and vicarious atonement sufficient for all sinners and all sin; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's room and stead, the Just dying for the unjust. (Phil 2:5-8; Heb. 4:15; I John 2:2; I Pet. 3:18).

Par. B - We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must possess faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, this constituting the only grounds and condition of salvation. This faith is not worked for, or obtained by human effort, but by the in-working of the Holy Spirit revealing to man his lost condition and his inability to save himself apart from God's free and sovereign grace.

Par. C - We believe that faith in Christ makes possible the new birth and that this new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that the new birth is instantaneous; that in the new birth the one

dead in trespasses and sins is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and receives eternal life, the free gift of God and is eternally secure in Christ. The new birth is brought about solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Word of God, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that the proper evidence of the new birth appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life in conformity with the Word of God. (John 3:3-8; 16; 5:24-26; Rom. 3:24-26; 8:28-39; I John 5:10-13; 11 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:28-10; I Peter 1:22-23; I Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:5).

Section 10 – Of Christian Deportment

We believe that the child of God, in order to be judged of God as obedient to His Work, must govern his life, both private and public, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, by means of clear Biblical principles. 'Whereas the Bible does not list all of present-day evils, it does specify that the child of God should align all that he does with the glory of Jesus Christ and His testimony. Therefore, we believe, that the child of God must abstain even from the appearance of evil, and that he is to be transformed into an instrument of the will of God, rather than to be conformed to the course of this world in any form. (II Tim. 2:15; Titus 2:11-13; II Cor. 6,7; Rom. 12:1-2).

Section 11 – Of the Church

Par. A - We believe that the true Spiritual Church is a New Testament institution, unknown to the Old Testament prophets, established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head, empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; it is His "Body" for service, and His "Bride" for glory. It began at Pentecost following the ascension of Christ, and will be complete at the coming of Christ in the air to receive the Church into glory. (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1,2; Acts 1,2; I Cor. 12:12-28; I Thess. 4:13-18).

Par. B - We believe that the church is a local organized assembly of believers.. The congregation is associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges vested in them by God's Word. Its officers are Pastor and Deacons, whose qualifications, authority and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the mission of the church is to worship and glorify God and the faithful witness of Christ to all men. We hold that the local church has the absolute right under Christ of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and the one and only superintendent is Christ. The local church is the only benevolence and fellowship. We believe that it is Scriptural for New Testament local churches to fellowship and cooperate one with another, and regarding this matter the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Tim. 2:5; Eph. 5:23-27; Acts 15; 20:17-28; Eph 4:11; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 2:5-9; 5:1-6; Col. 1:18, 28).

Par. C - We believe that Christ left two ordinances for His church to practice, namely, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the total immersion of the believer in water and is only to be administered to the believer in Christ. Baptism sets forth our union by faith with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, with the effects of that faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life. The Lord's Supper is the symbolic memorial feast by which we remember our Lord's death and the cleansing blood of His atonement, and with which we mark our continual fellowship with Him ever looking for His promised return. The Lord's Supper

should be observed by baptized believers, and should always be preceded by careful self-examination. (Matt. 26:26-30; 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-47; 4:31-34; 1 Cor. 11:23-28).

Section 12 – Of Last Things

Par. A - We believe in the bodily, personal and pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He will appear in the air before the Great Tribulation to transport His Church to be with Him forever; that He will come with His church at the close of the Great Tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His reign upon the earth to last one thousand years. (Acts. 1 :4-1 1; John 14: 1-3; Rev. 19:11-20; 10; Rev. 3: 10, 1 Thess. 5:9; Matt. 25:31-46).

Section 13 – Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society, and the guarantee of liberty of conscience. This guarantee consists of absolute limitation of the government to the civil realm, not interfering with or influencing in the spiritual realm of the Church. Believers are to pray for, honor, and obey civil governments except in things contrary to the will of God, who is Sovereign of all. (Romans 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; 1 Timothy 2: 1-4).

Section 14 – Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage was designed and instituted by Almighty God and consists of One Male and One Female. It is Holy and Consecrated by God. We hold the Family to be pure and blessed by God, placing the Husband as the head of the family as Christ is the Head of the Church, The Husband is to Love his wife and give himself for his wife as Christ loved and gave Himself for the church. Wives are commanded to submit themselves unto their own Husbands and love them, as children are to obey their parents. (Gen. 3:16; Roms. 7:2; Eph. 5:23-33; Eph. 6:1-4)

Section 15 – Of Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of perversion such as; homosexuality, lesbianism, bi-sexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We fully understand that God hates sin but loved and died for sinners so anyone who repents and turns away from their sin and turns to God will be forgiven. (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).

ARTICLE IV – COVENANT

As a bond of unity among us this church accepts for its members the following covenant:

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

We promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the Spirit of brotherly love, that we will remember one another in our prayers, and that we will aid each other in sickness and distress.

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

We further covenant to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ; and to strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, that amidst evil and good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

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 V - ASSOCIATIONS

We recognize the autonomy of the local church and that Christ is the whole Head over the church. Therefore, we believe that to concur with these principles we cannot associate ourselves with, nor fellowship with those churches and groups which Operate in contradiction to these principles. Further, we believe that fellowship with any church or group not in concurrence with the above statement of doctrine is beyond the limits of Biblical basis. However, we do believe that there is the need to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship and stand together in these days of apostasy with those whose doctrine and practice are concurrent with Biblical teaching, as related in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of immersed believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who cheerfully subscribe to the statement of Doctrine and Covenant as contained in Articles III and IV.

Section 1 – Reception of Members

Par. A - By baptism - Upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and upon baptism, new converts shall be received into membership

Par. B - By letter - After thorough consultation with the Pastor and/or Deacons, Christians who are in good standing in a church of like faith and practice may upon approval from the Pastor be admitted into the membership, by a majority vote of the church.

Par. C - By statement - Having already professed Jesus Christ as Saviour and having been scripturally baptized (immersed) by another church of like faith and practice and upon the approval of the Pastor and/ or Deacons, A Christian may be admitted into the membership by a majority vote of the church.

Par. D - By restoration - Excluded members may be restored into the membership upon confession of their error and giving evidence of repentance, and by a majority vote of the church.

Section 2 – Duties of Members

Par. A - To themselves. It is each member's responsibility to grow in grace and the knowledge of God's Word and to live an exemplary Christian life in every respect, abstaining from worldly practices and associations.

Par. B - To the Church. It will be expected of each member that he will abide by the Constitution of the church and to support the church as far as possible by faithfully attending all the regular services and business sessions, by making regular contributions toward the expenses and missionary interests, and by supporting the church as far as possible in all its fields of Christian endeavor by his attendance and by his assistance, both spiritually and materially.

Par. C - To the Pastor. Members should honor, esteem and love their Pastor; pray regularly for him and manifest a tender regard for his reputation; and contribute toward his support in to their ability.

Section 3 – Voting Qualifications

Only those members eighteen (18) years of age and above, whose names appear on the active list, before the announcement of any particular business meeting, are qualified voters in all church matters including finances at that business meeting.

Section 4 – Dismissal from Membership

Par. A - By death

Par. B - By transfer - A member leaving this church for good and proper reasons may be granted a letter of transfer to unite with another church of like faith and practice.

Par. C - By discipline - Discipline is that procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition, and rebuke, both private and public, with the view of helping the individual to grow in grace, mature in the faith, break off from worldliness, and live wholly for the Lord. At such time a member shall refuse to receive such help, it shall be necessary for the church to exclude him/her from the membership. Matters of formal accusation shall be:

1. Public sins or sins known by the church.
2. Holding and persistently propagating false doctrine.
3. Failure to abide by the church covenant.
4. Repeated trouble making (Titus 3: 10).
5. Refusal to work (II Thess. 3:6-16; I Tim 5:8)
6. Failure to be reconciled to another member.

Section 5 - Discipline of Members:

Par. A - Concerning differences between individuals, the party shall follow Matthew 18:15-17. A person bringing a matter into the public or into the church before following this scripture shall be subject to rebuke.

Par. B - Church discipline shall be exercised by the Pastor and Deacons under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, or by the Deacons if the Pastor is considered to be the offender.

Par. C - If an offender is found guilty, the entire membership must discontinue any further contact with offender. (2 Thess. 3:6-16; 2 Tim. 2:16; Romans 16:17, 18; 2 John 9-11).

Par. D - Members who choose not to attend any of the services for a period of three months are considered inactive. After being contacted by letter, if the situation continues, they will be automatically dropped from the membership roll.

Section 6 – Marriage and facility Usage

Par. A – The church’s policy is that the Pastor, or his designee, will conduct marriages only if both or either one of the couple is a member of Faith Baptist Church or there is record that the couple has gone through marriage counseling at Faith Baptist Church. Weddings are considered religious ceremonies and are subject to the doctrine and beliefs laid out in Article III.

Par. B – Use of the facility for weddings or any other function is limited to church members, with the express written consent of the Pastor, and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor. Exceptions to this policy will only be granted by the Pastor, and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor, based on the requesting party’s compliant observance or belief of Article III of this Consitution. The church will not charge for use of the facility (electricity, heating etc.).

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1 – Pastor: Duties and Qualifications

Par. A - The word Pastor means, shepherd or spiritual overseer. The following scriptures refer to the office commonly called Pastor (also called elder or bishop); I Tim. 3:1-5; I Thess. 5:12, 13; Heb. 13:7; I Pet. 5:21-4; I Tim. 5: 17. The Pastor is to oversee and supervise the affairs of the church. He shall not only be responsible for the general supervision of the church, but he shall also be responsible for presenting any matter necessary to the church for its consideration and instruction.

Par. B - It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach regularly at the church, to administer the ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) and to perform the various duties incumbent to his office.

Par. C - He shall be moderator of the church and shall preside at all business meetings. All committees shall answer to the Pastor. He shall have the right to vote as a member of any committee. He is in charge of the pulpit and he is responsible for the supply of speakers. In legal matters he shall act as the president.

Par. D - The qualifications of the Pastor are found in the following verses I Tim. 3: 1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5: 1-4. The Pastor must be:

1. Above reproach in his marriage.
2. One who rules his home well.
3. One who is given to hospitality.
4. One who is not given to wine.
5. One who is not overbearing or who is arbitrary in his decisions, or desires to lord his way over God's flock; one who is not of a stubborn self-will.
6. One who is an example for the flock to imitate.
7. One who is just and honest in business matters, not a lover of money.
8. One of a blameless life, of dignified bearing, who is upright and Christ-like.
9. One who is able to instruct others.
10. One who is sound in doctrine.
11. Not a new convert, for such an one' could become r blinded with pride and fall into the condemnation of the Devil.

Par. E - Because of his office the Pastor shall be counted worthy of double honor (I Tim. 5:17). No accusation shall be accepted against him without two (2) or three (3) witnesses (I Tim. 5:19).

Par. F - No person shall be considered for this office nor serve as Pastor of this church whose beliefs and teachings are not in accordance with the Doctrine of this church.

Par. G - No woman shall be considered for, nor serve as, Pastor of this church.

Par. H - The term of time Pastor shall be for an undetermined period and shall be left in the hands of the Pastor whether so stated in the call to the office or not, unless dismissed by the church for sinful conduct or unscriptural teaching. If the Pastor resigns, he must submit a formal letter of resignation to be read at the next church service. The termination of duties shall be when the new Pastor assumes the responsibilities or before that time if designated by either the Pastor

or the Deacons.

Section 2 – Pastor, The Call of:

Par. A - Whenever it is necessary, by the resignation, incapacitation, death or dismissal of the Pastor, the church shall begin the process of securing a new Pastor, within three (3) weeks of resignation, incapacitation, death or dismissal. If the Pastor is physically able, the Pastor shall contact and invite to the church pulpit a minister who is in accordance with the Doctrine of this church. If the Pastor is dismissed, deceased, unable, or unwilling to contact and invite candidates to the church, the Deacons, with the aide of a pulpit committee of their selection, will conduct meetings and regularly inform the church body of their progress every 4 weeks. The members of the pulpit committee must meet together for prayer at least once a week. The Deacons shall select one man from among themselves, or an outside minister to contact possible candidates for the church.

Par. B - Only one (1) candidate may be considered at a time.

Par. C - An invitation to extend a call to a minister may be voted upon at an announced special meeting following each candidacy. Voting shall be by secret ballot and a three fourths (3/4) majority vote of those members eligible, present, and voting shall be required to call a Pastor.

Section 3 – Pastor, The Support of:

Par. A - The church members are expected to care for the Pastor and his family by praying for them daily and by supporting them financially.

Par. B - The Pastor's salary, benefits, and vacation time shall be determined by the church and will be reviewed at least each year in conjunction with the church budget.

Par. C - The Pastor shall be granted the privilege of conducting revival meetings, Bible conferences, and missionary tours in other areas based upon a mutual agreement of Pastor and Deacons.

Section 4 – Deacons: Duties and Qualifications:

Par. A - The word in the King James Version which is translated Deacon, according to the Greek dictionary of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, means servant, attendant, aid, waiter, etc. The meaning given for the Greek word translated Deacons in Phil. 1:1 and I Tim. 3:8-12, is given to mean: to run errands, an attendant, a waiter. In Acts 6: 1-6, the first servants were chosen by the church and were appointed to those tasks which would free those in charge of the services for prayer and ministry of the Word of God. Therefore, because this church accepts the scriptures rather than tradition as final authority, the office of Deacon shall not in any way be taken to mean authority over the church or Pastor.

Par. B - It shall be the duty of the Deacons aside from appointed tasks, to assist the Pastor in building up the church numerically, financially, and spiritually, to visit the sick, the sorrowing, and the needy, and to personally strive to win the lost to Christ, to guard and protect the reputation of the church and Pastor against gossip, lies, and false accusation, to cooperate with the Pastor in the care, Operation and repair of the physical property of the church. Duties toward

the Pastor shall be to pray for him earnestly and continually, to act as a host and friend in behalf of the church, to see that his material and physical needs are taken care of, to strive in every way to help him in the performance of scriptural duties.

Par. C - The qualifications of a Deacon are given in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. He must be:

1. A man of serious demeanor, trustworthy, not given to wine, not greedy of money.
2. Sound in the faith.
3. Not a new convert, but one who has been proved.
4. A man of honest report.
5. Full of the Holy Spirit.
6. Husband of one wife only.
7. One who rules his own home well.

Par. D - Each Deacon shall be elected for a term of three (3) years at which time he may be reelected.

Par. E - The number of Deacons needed shall be determined by the Pastor.

Par. F - No one shall be considered for, nor serve as, Deacon who is not in accordance with the Doctrine of this church.

Par. G - No woman shall be considered for, nor serve, as a Deacon.

Par. H - Nominations to fill the positions available may be submitted by any member to the Pastor for approval. Those nominated shall be given opportunity to decline if they feel they are unqualified or unwilling. Those approved and willing shall be voted upon at the annual business meeting.

Par. I - If a vacancy should occur between elections, the position may be filled immediately.

Par. J - If there are no men qualified for the position, it shall remain vacant until such a time that a qualified person is presented as a candidate. The candidate may be accepted by following the same procedure as the annual election.

Par. K - The Deacons shall meet, when necessary, as stated by the Pastor

Par. L - A Deacon is to be faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:10,11) therefore absenteeism from three (3) weeks of church attendance without a legitimate excuse shall disqualify the Deacon and his office shall be declared vacant.

Par. M - A Deacon may be dismissed by: (1) Death; (2) Signed written request; (3) Discipline; (4) Having moved from the area.

Par. N - The Deacon may also be Trustees

Section 5 – Trustees: Duties

Par. A - The Duties of the Trustees are to the care and oversight of all church property.

Par. B - The Trustees shall be men of spirituality and concern for the House of God and its properties. Membership in this church must be for one year before being considered for this office.

Par. C - The term of office for a Trustee shall be for one, two, or three years, One-third of the Trustee shall be elected each year.

Par D - The number of trustees shall be at least three in accordance with the laws of the State of New York. More Trustees may be added when deemed necessary by the existing Trustees and Pastors, upon approval of the church. Pastors shall serve as Trustees for the full term of their ministries.

Par. E - The Trustees shall meet at least once quarterly. The Pastor or Head Trustee shall be the moderator of the meeting. The Trustees shall elect from their own number each year a Head Trustee. A majority of the Trustees at any of their meetings shall constitute a quorum.

Par. F - Any organization or individuals apart from this church must receive permission from the Pastors or the Deacons or the Trustees for the use of church properties or equipment

ARTICLE VIII – RULES FOR OTHER THAN OFFICERS

The people filling the following positions shall be members of this church and faithful stewards as found in 1 Cor.4:2.

Section 1 – Treasurer

Par. A - The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Pastor or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The treasurer duties are to organize and manage the financial matters of the church with oversight of the Pastor; and to work with the Financial Secretary to furnish quarterly and annual reports of all income and disbursements.

Section 2 – Financial Secretary

Par. A - The Financial Secretary shall be appointed by the Pastor or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The duties of the Financial Secretary shall be to work with the Treasurer to record all money transactions, and to pay by check all bills by order of the church and/or Pastor. The Financial Secretary shall deposit all monies with the bank and keep systematic accounts of monies received and disbursed. The Financial Secretary shall make a monthly financial statement and when otherwise directed to do so by the church.

Section 3 – Church Clerk

Par. A - The Church Clerk shall be appointed by the Pastor or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The duties of the Church Clerk are to record the minutes of all business meetings and to maintain an up-to-date membership role.

Section 4 – Sunday School Superintendent

Par. A - The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the Pastor and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The duties of the Sunday School Superintendent are to direct the administration and promotion of the church Sunday School in close cooperation with the Pastor, and to appoint such officers and teachers-as are necessary for the work of the school, subject to the approval of the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 5 – Sunday School Teachers

Par. A - Sunday School Teachers shall be appointed by the Sunday School Superintendent with the approval of the Pastor and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The duties of the Sunday School Teachers are to teach a designated class each Sunday morning. He/she shall also visit regularly for his/her class.

Section 6 – Youth Leaders

Par. A - The Youth Leaders shall be appointed by the Pastor and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - The duties of the Youth Leaders shall be to teach the youth and to plan and carry out a program of Christ-centered activities for them.

Section 7 – Others

Par. A - Other areas of service deemed necessary shall be appointed by the Pastor and/or Deacons in the case of no Pastor.

Par. B - To add church staff, the church shall approve the position and the amount of salary. The Pastor or Deacons in the case of no Pastor, shall appoint the individual for the position, and the individual shall be accountable to the Pastor.

Section 8 – General Requirements

Par. A - We believe that those in leadership positions in this church have been given a great privilege and also a greater responsibility to protect the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we require that all officers and teachers be faithful in attendance to the services of the church unless providentially hindered; be faithful in the support of the Pastors and leaders; and be faithful in support of the programs of the church with tithes, testimony, and attitudes. (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4: 1-3; 1 Tim. 4:12-16; James 3:1)

Par. B - Any officer not performing the duties of his or her office or whose life is not found to be consistent with the Word of God may be removed following the guidelines in the articles on discipline.

Par. C - We also believe that any person or persons involved with leadership in worship should present themselves in neat and appropriate attire as deemed by the Pastor at the time of service. (Deacons, ushers, singers, teachers, speakers, musicians, etc.)

ARTICLE IX – INNER ORGANIZATIONS

Every organization within this church shall be an integral part of the church and not an entity to itself. They shall, therefore, have as their aims and objectives that of assisting the church in discharging the obligations and responsibilities which it has imposed upon itself. They must have the approval of the Pastor and he may preside over all such organizations.

Article X – Meetings

Section 1 – Business Meetings

Par. A - Annual Meeting: The annual business meeting of the Church for the election of officers, the presentation and approval of an annual budget and the transaction of any other applicable business shall be held at some point before the beginning of the calendar year. The annual meeting must be announced from the pulpit on each of two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting date.

Par. B - Special Meetings: Special Meetings may be called by the Pastor, the Deacons, or any seven (7) members (requested in writing) qualified to vote in such meetings. Advance notice of such meetings shall be given from the pulpit for at least one Sunday in advance. A warrant stating the specific nature of the business to be transacted shall be publicly posted by the clerk at least one week before said meeting. No other business shall be transacted except that specifically stated in the call. Regular Quarterly Business Meetings will be held.

Par. C - Quorum: Thirteen (13) voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Par. D - Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all business proceedings.

Par. E - All business meetings shall be opened by prayer.

Par. F - Refer to Article VI, Section 3, for Voting Qualifications.

Section 2 – Worship Meetings

Par. A - The regular public worship is to be observed morning and evening every Lord's Day.

Par. B - At least one night each week the members shall meet for prayer and praise, and Bible study and such other meetings may be called by the Pastor or Deacons at any time as the interests of the Lord's work may demand.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws may be altered, amended, annulled, or new Bylaws adopted at any annual or special meeting of the Church by a three-fourths vote of the eligible voting members present, provided a notice of the proposed change shall have been read from the pulpit, and made public, two weeks preceding the meeting of the church, when the proposed amendment shall be read and acted upon by the church membership present. Any proposed change to the Constitution or the Bylaws may be initiated by any member.

The Doctrine of the church, Article 3, shall not be changed or amended in any way, except to address clarification as may be needed in an ever changing society.

ARTICLE XII - GENERAL

This church accepts and adopts the "Dr. Edward Hiscox Standard Manual for Baptist Churches" as final authority in any question of government except where other provision is made in these bylaws.