

MANUAL



*The Ohio Valley Association of
Christian Baptist
Church of God
2018*

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ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTIAN BAPTISTS

In the year of 1931, it pleased our Lord to awaken persons in the Ohio Valley to the fact that in these last days, the banner of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ needed to be held high and that the Gospel of Christ crucified was needed to be preached in its purity.

On January 3rd, 1931, the following ministers met at the North Moreland Church, Portsmouth, Ohio: Van B. Williams, William Williams, S.P. Creech, C.A. Wright, A.L. Baldrige, Hollie Conley, J.F. Sparks, Floyd See, H. H. Perkins, Robert Meenach and F. R. Kitchen. Rev. Van B. Williams was chosen as moderator pro tem and preceded to call the meeting to order. A presbytery was selected with Van B. Williams, moderator, J.F. Sparks, clerk: and Hollie Conley, assistant clerk.

Rev. John Kemper and Rev. James Upton of the Scioto Yearly Conference of Free Will Baptists and W. A. Hay of the Enterprise Association of Regular Baptist assisted in the work of the organization.

The Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum, which had been prepared, were read before the body and unanimously accepted. The moderator appointed J. F. Sparks and Hollie Conley as a committee on credentials, also S. P. Creech, William Williams and, C. A. Wright as a committee on arrangements.

Firebrick Chapel, Firebrick Kentucky; Westwood Mission, Ashland, Kentucky; Mabert Road Church, Portsmouth, Ohio and North Moreland Church, Portsmouth, Ohio were accepted into the organization. The association being now permanently organized, the following officers were elected: Van B. Williams, moderator; William Williams, assistant moderator; Hobart Day, clerk; and J.F. Sparks, assistant clerk.

The name of the association was the discussed and it was decided it would be known as the Ohio Valley Association of Christian Baptists.

CARDINAL PRINCIPLES

- 1) The Oneness of the Church of Christ.
- 2) Christ the only head.
- 3) The Bible the only rule of faith and practice.
- 4) Good fruits the only condition of fellowship.
- 5) Christian union without controversy.
- 6) Each local church is a permanent member and is governed by the general council.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article I

We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in essence, power, and glory.

Article II

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he was born of the Virgin Mary and that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God, and that the New Testament is our rule of faith and practice. The King James Bible is the only version to be read in our churches. Other versions are of no more value than a commentary on the scriptures.

Article III

We believe that by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life by which the grace of God became equally accessible to all men. Romans 15:18

Article IV

We believe that sinners are justified by the grace of God, received by repentance toward God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Article V

We believe that the church of Christ is composed only of those who are partakers of the Holy Ghost and the powers of the world to come.

Article VI

We believe that those only who have received remission of sins are subjects for baptism and that immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is the only mode.

Article VII

We believe that the Lord's Supper and the washing of one another's feet should be practiced by the saints of God until Jesus comes.

Article VIII

We believe that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that

believeth and that it is commanded to be preached too every creature: that all men are responsible for the manner in which they hear.

Article IX

We believe that there is but one true church and that every member thereof is an heir of God and joint heir with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together. Romans 8:17

Article X

We believe in the support of the ministry as set forth in the scriptures. I Corinthians 16:1-2, Acts 11: 29-30, Romans 15:28, II Corinthians 9: 6-11.

Article XI

We believe in the Doctrine of Salvation for sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ for a cleansing from all sin.

Article XII

We believe in Sanctification as taught in St. John 17; Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:11; 2 Timothy 2:21, to all believers in Christ as preparation for sacred service. It is the result of complete consecration and is a second work of Grace received after regeneration. Sanctification is wrought by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and is an increase of power, makes the Christian more able to stand against the wiles of Satan, better qualified for the service of the Lord, and brings increased joy to the Christian's heart. We do not believe in speaking in an unknown tongue as a witness of the baptism.

Article XIII

We believe in divine healing for the body as set forth in the fifth chapter of James.

Article XIV

We believe that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and that He is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but the sins of the world.

Article XV

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of the just and the unjust and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Article XVI

We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, and fellowship. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore, God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship. To follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding marriage and divorce. We affirm that sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful. We further affirm that heterosexual monogamy is God's plan for marriage. We believe that the grace of God is all-sufficient to overcome the desire for and practice of sexual immorality. "Sexual immorality" includes but is not limited to incest, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, fornication, pedophilia or lascivious activity such as the use of pornography in its varied forms. (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24, 19; Leviticus 18, 20; Deuteronomy 23:18; Judges 19-20; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

CONSTITUTION OF THE OHIO VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF GOD

Article I

This organization shall be known as “The Ohio Valley Association of Christian Baptist Church of God.

Article II

Its object is to spread the gospel of Christ in its entirety among all the people of the earth for the benefit of both saint and sinner. This is to embrace: the establishing and maintenance of churches, foreign and home missionary work, youth movements and Bible education.

Article III

All general officers shall constitute the general board of managers, which shall consist of general superintendent and assistant, general secretary and assistant, general treasurer and assistant, youth president, Faith Bible Institute chairman, Word for Christ Missions president, general Sunday School superintendent, home mission’s president, superintendents of each district and seven general trustees.

Article IV

The general board of managers shall be empowered:

1. To receive and hold in trust for the use, benefit and advancement of this corporation any moneys, grant or devise of lands or property for the advancement of its objects.
2. To make disposition of any lands or buildings held in trust by this corporation after all efforts have failed to make them succeed for the use for which they were intended.
3. To be vested with all the rights and privileges enjoyed by a party at law.
4. To make or take necessary loans.
5. To sit jointly with other officials or boards when necessary.
6. To act jointly as a grievance board.
7. To make the final decision in cases of grievances or local church matters which may come under its jurisdiction.
8. To intervene and take action in any local church which is failing or has failed to manage its local organization in temporal or spiritual matters.

9. Any or all the actions of the local church trustees or church boards may be appealed to the general board of managers.
10. A majority of general board members shall constitute a quorum.

Article V

General council shall consist of all general officers, all pastors of member churches, all ordained and licensed ministers and three delegates from each church. They shall meet annually for election of officers and transaction of such business as may come before it.

Article VI

This constitution may be amended by three-fourths (3/4) vote of any general council assembled, subject to ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the local churches.

Article VII

There shall be a ministerial conference held quarterly. All ordained and licensed ministers shall be members. They shall transact any business pertaining to ministers and their work.

Article VIII

The examination and ordination committee shall have power to grant license and ordination to anyone who qualifies under the rules and by-laws of this organization.

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The association shall be opened with prayer.
2. Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall rise and address the chairman, and shall not be interrupted until done speaking except by the chairman, and shall not reflect on the person who spoke before so as to make remarks on their failures or imperfections.
3. No person shall be allowed to rise and speak on any subject more than three times without permission from a majority of the delegation.
4. It shall be deemed a violation of good order to whisper or laugh during public speech.
5. The chairman shall be judge of order and shall have the right to call for order.
6. Any member can appeal a decision on the same day only.
7. The chairman shall not interrupt or prohibit any member from speaking until light is given on the subject unless the rules of decorum are broken.
8. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over as may be required.
9. The general superintendent shall have equal privilege with any other member if the chair was filled, but shall have no vote unless the delegation be equally divided.

RULES AND BY-LAWS

I. GENERAL OFFICERS

A. General Board of Managers

1. When any member is absent from three consecutive meetings without permission from the general superintendent, their office shall be vacated.
2. They shall be reimbursed for mileage while on official business at a rate set by the board.
3. Not more than six junior ministers who have been members of this organization less than seven years may serve on the board.
4. Any officer may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the board, for just cause after an appropriate hearing.
5. In case a vacancy occurs on the board, they shall appoint a replacement to fulfill the remainder of the term, except for the general superintendent and the general secretary whose assistants shall fill their offices.
6. Trustees shall be elected for 2, 3, or 4 year terms as set by the general secretary; all other general board members shall be elected for 2 year terms.
7. All treasurers of all existing and future arms of the conference shall be appointed for two year terms by the General Board of Managers from suggestions of the respective board.

B. General Superintendent

1. Qualifications
 - i. Shall be an ordained minister having all the qualifications and attributes stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and shall be rooted and grounded in the articles of faith.
 - ii. Shall be least 35 years old.
 - iii. Shall have been a pastor in the Christian Baptist churches for at least 4 years.
 - iv. Shall have been a standard bearer for our ministers and a progressive leader for our association.
2. Scope of authority and rules include:
 - v. Chairman of general council, general board and general trustees and advisory member of all other boards and committees.
 - vi. Shall fill by appointment all vacancies that may occur in the

- pastorates of our churches between elections.
- vii. Shall visit, advise and take necessary action in the local church when necessary.
- viii. Shall represent the general board and trustees with their consent in matters that require their attention.
- ix. Shall be vested with any other authority that shall be granted by the general council or the general board.
- x. The decisions of the general superintendent may be appealed to the general board.
- xi. Shall be paid a salary set by the general board and/or housing compensation.
- xii. Shall not serve as pastor, though if serving as a pastor when taking office, may continue to serve as a pastor.
- xiii. In a two-year term shall visit each church during one service and meeting.
- xiv. Shall pay $\frac{1}{2}$ of their tithes from their primary source of income to the association and $\frac{1}{2}$ to their local church.

C. Assistant General Superintendent

- 1. Shall possess all the qualifications and attributes of the general superintendent.
- 2. Shall be subject to the call of the general superintendent to perform any required service.
- 3. Shall be paid a salary and/or housing compensation set by the general board.

D. General Secretary

- 1. Shall record the minutes of general council and prepare them for publication.
- 2. Shall disburse all matters of information of a general nature to the churches when necessary.
- 3. Shall record business of ministerial conferences.

E. General Treasurer

- 1. Shall receive all general funds, disperse the same by proper authority and keep accurate records of all transactions.
- 2. Shall be paid a salary set by general board.
- 3. Treasurers of all boards of this association shall report in writing every quarter to the general treasurer. This report shall include an

itemized list of all receipts and disbursements and current balance in all funds.

F. General Missionary President

1. Shall serve as chairman of the World for Christ Missions Board.
2. Shall serve as advisory member of the local church missionary boards.
3. Shall receive inquiries from missionary personnel and relay to them information stemming from board decisions which affect them.
4. Shall visit the churches to promote foreign missions.

G. General Youth President

1. Shall call meetings of the youth board and chair those meetings.
2. Shall be at least 25 years old.

H. General Sunday School Superintendent

1. Shall advise and encourage Sunday School growth in the churches.

I. District Superintendent

1. Must be a member of a church in the state, or live in the state they will be serving.
2. Is responsible for visiting the churches in the district with the measure of authority as it is vested in the office of the general superintendent once each council year.
3. If not a pastor, shall pay tithes from primary source of income to their local church.
4. Shall be an ordained minister in the association having all the qualifications and attributes stated in I Timothy 3: 1-17, and shall be rooted and grounded in the Christian Baptist Articles of Faith.
5. Districts shall be composed of 5 or more churches in one state or combination of states.

J. General Trustees

1. They shall be responsible for upkeep and insuring of all real estate of the association.
2. A majority of the general trustees at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

II. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. General Foreign Missionary Board

1. This board shall be comprised of president, vice-president, treasurer, assistant treasurer, one superintendent from each district and the assistant general superintendent.
2. They shall be elected by general council and serve, two-year terms, which begin, and end with council year, except treasurer and assistant which shall be appointed for two year terms by the General Board of Managers from recommendations of the General Foreign Missions Board..
3. Their duties shall be:
 - a. To promote the interest of the general missionary work.
 - b. To supervise the missionary department's programs personnel and publications.
 - c. To appoint new missionaries or launch new missionary programs, which must be, approved by the general board.

B. General Council Credentials Committee

1. This three-member committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent at general council to serve at the next general council session.
2. Their duties shall be to register and extend eligibility to vote to proper members of general council, and report a list of voters to the general secretary. General Council Resolution Committee

C. General Council Resolutions Committee

1. This three-member commit shall be appointed by the general superintendent to serve at the next general council session.
2. Their duties shall be:
 - i. To receive all resolutions presented in writing no later than sixty days prior to the general session.
 - ii. To meet and report to each church in writing no later than thirty days prior to general council all resolutions which they will present to general session.
 - iii. To notify the legal advisory board of these resolutions for their consideration.

D. General Legal Advisory Board

1. This two-member committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent at general council to serve during the general council year.
2. Their duties shall be:
 - i. To review all resolutions which shall be offered to the general council and determine whether said legislation is in harmony with the constitution.
 - ii. To report to the general secretary their findings which may include:
 - a. Approval of the rule as written
 - b. Rejection of the rule as written.
 - c. Notification of appropriate placement in manual and requirements for passage by the general council and/or churches.

E. Board of Examination

1. This three-member committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent at general council to serve the entire year.
2. Their duties shall be:
 - i. To question for license all candidates recommended by local churches.
 - ii. To prescribe the necessary studies which must be completed prior to ordination. These requirements shall be at least twelve (12) hours, which must include the course on being a pastor, the Christian Baptist Manual and survey courses over the New and Old Testament.
 - iii. They shall examine all candidates for ordination and approve or postpone their ordination according to their findings.
 - iv. Guidelines for ordination are found in the ministerial section of this manual.
 - v. They shall issue license, identification credentials and certificates of ordination and shall conduct all ordination services.

F. Obituary Committee

1. This committee shall be composed of the general secretary and assistant who shall:

- i. Record the names of all deceased members during the past council year.
- ii. Publicly read all names at a memorial service during general council.
- iii. Record all names in the minutes.

G. Christian Baptist Youth Board

1. Members, duties and election shall be found in the youth constitution of this manual.
2. Five Percent (5%) of the revenue for the general fund each month shall be budgeted to the youth department. These funds will be used to cover operational expenses of the Christian Baptist Youth including the development and future maintenance of “Peace Valley”

H. Christian Baptist Messenger

1. This committee shall consist of editor and assistant editor elected by general council for two-year terms.
2. They shall publish a monthly magazine of articles and letters of interest to the denomination.
3. They shall promote the sale of subscriptions.
4. Subscriptions shall be \$10 per year: subscription rate shall be set by the General Board of Managers.
5. Each church shall send \$100.00 a year for its support.

I. Church Extension Fund

1. The general board shall act as a committee for this fund.
2. Their duties shall be:
 - i. To collect \$1.00 per member per church for this fund each year.
 - ii. To loan at their discretion, money to any church which applies to use in emergencies or to improve their buildings.

J. New Board and Committees

1. The General board shall be empowered to form any new boards or committees as needed.
2. The general council shall approve any new committee serving as a permanent part of this organization.
3. The general council through the rules committee shall approve new offices.

III. GENERAL COUNCIL

A. Limitation of Office

1. No person shall be elected or appointed to fill more than one general council office unless it is found necessary by a 2/3 vote of council.

B. Definition of General Council Year

1. General council year shall begin with the day following the close of camp meeting and end with the last day of camp meeting of the next year.

C. Definition of General Council Fiscal year

1. General council fiscal year begins the first day of July and ends the last day of June.

D. Business

1. Election of officers shall be conducted with the general board having one nomination and the general council allowed two nominations.
2. A majority is necessary to elect an officer, except in the case of the trustees when only a plurality is needed, if more than one is to be elected.
3. Business shall be conducted by the rules of parliamentary procedure.
4. Each council shall determine time and place of next session.
5. A vote of acclamation can only be used when there is only one nominee.

E. New Churches

1. To be admitted into general council a church:
 - i. Must be organized under the direction of proper council officials appointed by the general superintendent and this committee shall contain at least three ordained ministers.
 - ii. Must accept and abide by the by-laws and constitution of this organization.
 - iii. Must make a plea for acceptance by the general council.
 - iv. Must receive a majority vote of acceptance by the general council.
 - v. When an existing organized church desires to affiliate with the

Christian Baptists, it shall make a plea for acceptance at the general council.

- vi. After admission, they shall enjoy all the rights and privileges as long as they fully cooperate with general council.
- vii. Existing organized churches shall be exempt from complying with the church property rule in Section V.A.I.
- viii. No organization or group of individuals shall use the name “Christian Baptist” on any building until the general board organizes such a group.

IV. MINISTERS

A. License

1. All applicants for license shall be a member of a Christian Baptist church for six months and preached under the watch and care of the local church for one year prior to appearing before the board of examination.
2. After this year, the candidates may apply for license if:
 - i. They are recommended by a majority vote of the local church.
 - ii. They bring a letter of recommendation from the pastor and deacons.
 - iii. They furnish satisfactory reports of their ministry.
 - iv. They satisfy examining committee in question of doctrine and morals.
 - v. Any person seeking licensure, whether first time or as a minister transferring from another organization must take the course over the Articles of Faith.
3. The board of examination shall issue license.
 - i. This license includes only the right to preach and take charge of religious services for the purpose of proving their qualifications as a preacher of the gospel. Licensed ministers cannot pastor without the approval of the general superintendent.

B. Ordination

1. Applicants for ordination must:
 - i. Have carried license for two years.
 - ii. Have worked under a local pastor in training as an apprentice. Study to include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Baptisms, communion and feet washing services.
 - b. Weddings, funerals, child dedication, etc.
 - c. Church administration, business and care of the church.
 - d. Bible study and the articles of faith and the manual
 - e. Pastoral counseling, visitation and soul winning.
 - f. Any other topics the pastor feels helpful to the ministry.
 - iii. Finish courses of study outlined in this manual.
 - iv. Furnish satisfactory reports of ministry and doctrine.
 - v. Be recommended by local church and bring letter of recommendation signed by pastors and deacons.

2. Upon satisfactory completion of above-mentioned examination, candidate will be eligible for ordination.
3. No minister may hold credentials in this organization and in another at the same time.

C. Qualifications

1. Must feel the divine call, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel."
2. Must have good reports of those without, the same as those with whom they worship. "Whoever would be great among you, let them be you minister."
3. Must possess the spiritual qualifications of a minister.
4. Must abstain from heresy.
5. Must be a preacher of the whole word of God.
6. Must cooperate with the local church and the general council.
7. Must present an annual report to the general council to keep credentials active. The general secretary will furnish report forms. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates existing credentials.
8. Shall receive an identification card with the signature of the examining board and the general superintendent and the seal of the organization.
9. Shall practice and preach tithing and pay dues of \$100.00 per year if financially able.
10. Shall not affiliate with any secret society.
11. Shall not use or deal in tobacco, alcohol, or illegal narcotics.
12. No person shall be granted license or be ordained who has been divorced and remarried or is married to a divorced person whose previous spouse is still living.
13. Shall not be an active participant in same-sex relationships, be transexual, or transgender.

D. Miscellaneous Rules and Regulations

1. All ordained ministers are eligible to pastor.
2. All ministers shall attend all sessions of the ministerial conferences and general council unless excused by the general superintendent or general secretary.
 - a. Any minister missing three consecutive sessions of the ministerial conference or general conference unexcused shall have their license revoked for not showing enough interest in the Conference to attend said meetings or calling to be excused.
 - b. Upon missing two consecutive sessions of the ministerial conferences

or general council the general secretary of the conference shall make contact with the minister who missed in writing explaining the consequences of them missing a third meeting and asking them to respond in writing within 14 days.

3. Any pastor desiring to resign their pastorate must notify in writing the deacons, (who must immediately notify the congregation) the general superintendent, and the district superintendent at least thirty days before their resignation becomes effective.
4. No minister may pastor more than one church at a time.
5. Any violation of these rules shall subject the violator to call before the general board for whatever action they deem necessary.
6. Any minister who loses his credentials because of misconduct shall, after repenting, be required to begin again with license.
7. No local church shall give certificates of license or ordination, nor can annul them.
8. No person who opposes the doctrine of sanctification as a second work of grace shall be granted a license.
9. Any preacher found to preach or practice anything contrary to the Bible or the Christian Baptist Manual shall be brought before the general board to answer charges placed against him. Their decision shall stand.
10. In performing marriages, Christian Baptist ministers shall not unite in marriage persons of the same gender.

E. Ministers from other Organizations

1. Ministers holding credentials from other organizations and seeking to be admitted to this body shall be required to present their credentials of recommendation from their former organization to the board of examination. This board shall proceed to make full examination of their worthiness to hold credentials in this body. If found satisfactory, then soundness of doctrine and willingness to abide by the rules will be examined. If passed, they shall be accepted as ministers, if credentials from former organization are surrendered and they join a Christian Baptist Church.
2. They may be a pastor of a Christian Baptist Church only with the approval of the general board, and then only if no Christian Baptist minister is available and accepted by the congregation.
3. Shall take courses on the manual before transferring.
4. Any minister from another organization who is elected into the office of

pastor of one of our churches shall govern said church according to all the rules and regulations of the Ohio Valley Association of Christian Baptist Churches of God.

- a. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in General Board action up to and including removing said minister from the office of pastor after a fair and impartial hearing.

F. Severing Relationships

1. All ministers severing their relationship with the Christian Baptist Association shall surrender all credentials held in this organization.
2. Upon severing relationships, the general secretary shall be authorized to notify the appropriate government officials of their state.

V. THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. Church Property

1. All church property shall be deeded to the trustees of the Ohio Valley Association of Christian Baptist Churches of God, an Ohio corporation; and the trustees of the local church, jointly having the trustees of the local church as the first party and the association as the second party.
2. No local church shall borrow money without the approval of the general board, if it creates indebtedness greater than \$200.00 per member.
3. No weddings or receptions for those of the same gender shall be held on any property owned by a Christian Baptist church.

B. Obligations of General Interest

1. No rule shall be made by any local church, which shall interfere with or supersede the constitution or rules of this organization.
2. Each church shall pay 10% of its income to the general treasury.
3. Each church shall send an annual report to the general secretary of its officers, membership and finances on forms supplied by the general secretary.
4. Each church shall make provision for its pastor to attend the general council and each ministerial conference so that expenses are met and no loss of compensation is incurred.
5. Each church shall reimburse the pastor $\frac{1}{2}$ of any social security tax paid on the income from the church.
6. Each church is to send \$50.00 per year to the youth treasury to support youth camp.

C. Business Meetings

1. Congregational business meetings shall be publicly announced three or more times beginning at least two weeks prior to the time of the meeting, the only exception being if all members are notified by mail
2. No business meeting shall be held without the pastor's knowledge.
3. The pastor is the chairman of all business meeting. When absent a deacon, elected chairman, general superintendent of appointee may preside.
4. Order of business

- i. Meeting called to order.
- ii. Minutes of previous session read and approved.
- iii. Reports from committees or officers.
- iv. Old business
- v. New Business
5. Business to be transacted according to parliamentary procedure.
6. Each church shall have an annual business meeting for election of officers and other business.
 - i. Election of officers.
 - a. One nomination from church board and up to two from congregation.
 - b. Voting
 - 1) A candidate must receive majority of votes cast.
 - 2) Plurality is acceptable for election in cases of multiple offices such as trustees or delegates.

D. Recalling a Pastor

1. Recalling a present pastor
 - i. In April, the board should contact pastor to see if the pastor is willing to serve another term.
 - ii. If pastor will return, a special recall meeting is held the first week in May and a vote is taken whether to retain the current pastor.
 - iii. A majority vote is necessary; members must be 18 years old to vote.
2. Electing a different pastor.
 - i. The church board is responsible for contacting and presenting candidates to the church.
 - ii. The local church board submits to the church at the business meeting the first week in June its nomination, a majority of votes cast is necessary for election.
 - iii. When no pastor is elected by the time of general council, the church delegates shall meet with the general superintendent to make arrangements for a pastor.
3. Terms of office
 - i. Pastors may be elected for as many years as the church desires.
 - ii. Terms begin the first Sunday in July and end the last Sunday in June.
4. Membership of Pastor
 - i. A pastor automatically becomes a member of the church; the pastor's spouse may also be a member if spiritually qualified.

5. Any pastor who allows a double married preacher or one who uses tobacco in pulpits will be subject to discipline by the general board.
6. A Church may elect assistant or associate pastors provided.
 - i. They must hold credentials with the Christian Baptist or be approved by the general board.
 - ii. They may sit with the board at business meetings, but do not have a vote.
 - iii. Terms and salary to be set by local board.
 - iv. Election shall be by the congregation and they shall be subject to recall by the congregation at the end of each term.

E. Church Membership

1. Reception of members.

- i. All members shall be taken into the local church by the pastor only, unless the church is without a pastor, then a Deacon, the General Superintendent, or District Superintendent may take in members.
- ii. All applicants must answer yes to the following questions.

Dearly beloved, in as much as you present yourself for admission into this Christian Baptist Church of God, we rejoice with you that through the Grace of God you have been brought to a knowledge of the truth and have been made partakers of His great salvation. It is proper that you confess your faith and avow your purpose by answering the following questions:

- Do you believe the Bible to be the Word of God and that therein only is contained the knowledge of the way of salvation?
- Have you the assurance of all sins forgiven and do you publicly confess Jesus Christ as your personal savior?
- Are you determined by the grace of God to follow Jesus Christ in renouncing the world and all ungodliness seeking to live a life of holiness and devotion to God and his cause?
- Are you willing to be governed by the Word of God and the rules of the Ohio Valley Association of Christian Baptist Church of God?
- Whereas the Word of God teaches that tithes and offerings are God's methods of financing his work, will you contribute to the support of this local church and the gospel as God prospers you?
- Whereas, the Word of God teaches that the church is composed of many members being one body, will you by the help of God be loyal to this local church and be faithful in attendance at all services?

- Whereas, the scriptures teach, “Ye are my witnesses,” will you endeavor to witness and do personal work, seeking to win others to Christ and the church?
- Have you been baptized by immersion?

Applicants having answered all questions, the members of the church shall rise and the minister shall say. “I welcome you into this church, to its sacred fellowship, privileges and duties. May the Great Shepherd of the church bless and keep you, and give you strength to be faithful in all good works. Do you members of this church enter into covenant with these applicants, promising to pray for them and watch over, instruct, counsel, and cherish them, in all longsuffering, gentleness and Love? (Church to answer in unison) “By the grace of God, we will”.

2. Qualifications

- i. Must have a born again experience.
- ii. Must be baptized by immersion.
- iii. In view of the scriptural teaching contained in Romans 1 and related scriptural teaching concerning homosexuality, no person shall be granted membership who is a practicing homosexual.

3. Instructions for membership

- i. All pastors are to meet with the prospective candidates for membership to explain the qualifications, questions and rules of the association.

4. Inactive members

- i. Any member who has not attended or supported the church for a period of ninety days shall be placed on an inactive membership role and be ineligible to vote in church business.
- ii. Before this action is taken, a sincere effort should be made to contact the member in person or by letter to try to restore him to the fellowship of the church.

5. Exclusion of members

- i. Since the sole power of reception of members is vested in the church. Members may be excluded from membership for conduct unbecoming a Christian. No member shall be excluded without the privilege of a fair and impartial investigation and hearing conducted by deacons and pastor and reported to the church.

6. Transfer of membership.

- i. Any member of a local church who desires to change his membership to

- another Christian Baptist Church must present a letter of good standing from his former church, unless they have worshipped with the church sufficient time to prove their stewardship. This is in keeping with the fourth cardinal principle, “Good fruits the only condition of fellowship.”
- ii. A member, who would like to retain their membership in one church while working in another due to being a pastor, change of residence or any other reason, may do so with the following arrangements.
 - a. Both churches shall approve of the new arrangement.
 - b. Member is placed on inactive list of former church.
 - c. Member shall be called an associate member of the new church with full voting and office holding privileges.
 - d. Arrangement can be canceled by request from member and approval of both churches.
 - e. Statistical reports from churches should count only active and associate members.

7. Revision of Membership Roll

- i. The pastor and deacons according to the standards and rules of membership should revise membership roll annually.

F. The Official Board

1. The local church shall have a board comprised of the pastor, deacons, trustees, Sunday School Superintendent, clerk, treasurer, youth president and missionary president.
2. No one shall be elected to any office, which shall place him on the board that has divorced and remarried after making a profession of faith.
3. They shall meet regularly and as called by pastor, general superintendent, or other board member.
4. Their duties shall be
 - i. To care for the interest of the local church and its work not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the pastor.
 - ii. To cause careful accounting of all receipts and disbursement and see that all general assessments are met.
 - iii. To fill vacancies which occur in any church office between elections.
 - iv. Shall set salary and expenses for pastor, in case of dissatisfaction, the pastor or any church member can appeal to the church or general superintendent.
 - v. When the church needs to borrow money, they shall first secure approval of the majority of the board and the church membership, and then present

- the minutes of these meetings to the general board for their approval if necessary.
5. Retiring officers shall furnish successor with adequate and accurate information pertaining to his office and turn over all books and records to board.
 6. All officers shall take over their office the first Sunday in July. They shall vacate their office the Sunday in June, unless removed for cause.
 7. All officers must belong to the church they serve
 8. All officers must co-operate with the pastor, the board, and the denomination as long as they follow the rules of the organization.
 9. All officers shall practice and advocate tithing.
 10. No office shall oppose the doctrine of sanctification as a second work of grace.
 11. No officer shall use tobacco.
 12. Any violation of these rules shall subject the officer to call before the church board or general board when necessary for whatever action they determine necessary.

G. Deacons

1. They are the spiritual and administrative leader in the absence of the pastor according to the example found in Acts 6:1-7. The office was instituted to give the pastor more time to study and for prayer. Therefore, the primary ministry of the deacon is the care of the congregation that nominates them as deacon.
2. Election
 - i. Shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting.
 - ii. Shall be set aside one year to prove himself and if approved by the church the following year shall be ordained by the Ordaining Committee.
 - iii. Shall serve two-year term.
 - iv. No more than one member of a single-family unit may serve as deacon of the same church at one time.
 - v. Following the example of the earliest deacons, a preaching ministry is included (Acts 6:1-17 and Acts 8:5-40). Therefore, ministers may serve as deacons. In noting differences between ministers and deacons in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, ordination to preaching and pastoral ministry is transferable between churches, while the ordination to deaconship is non-transferable. The ordination of a minister is honored by all the Christian Baptist churches. The ordination of a deacon applies only to

the church that nominated them as a deacon.

H. Trustees

1. Duties

- i. Shall hold in trust and title the real estate of the church.
- ii. Shall see that all needed repairs are made properly and within the ability of the church treasury.
- iii. Shall see that all church property is properly insured.

2. Election

- i. Each church shall have 3 or 5 trustees.
- ii. Shall be elected in staggering terms of two years so that each year a partial board of trustees is elected.

I. Clerk

1. Shall keep minutes of all business meetings and keep a record of all church membership including active, associate and inactive members

J. Treasurer

1. Shall receive and disburse all funds keeping accurate records of all transactions.

K. Missionary President

1. Shall promote missionary work at the local church level. At least one missionary service shall be held each month, an offering taken and sent to the general missionary treasurer for the benefit of foreign missions.

L. Sunday School Superintendent

1. Shall direct the Sunday School and see that all classes are supplied with competent teachers when both teachers and assistants are absent.
2. Shall see that no one fills the office of a Sunday School teacher who is not a member of the church.
3. Shall see that the church approves all literature.
4. Must see that doctrines contrary to the articles of faith of the Christian Baptists are not taught.

5. Should actively promote the Sunday School and find ways and means of the Sunday School to grow, working with the general Sunday School superintendent.

M. Faith Bible Institute Representative

1. Shall advertise and promote on the local church level all activities of Faith Bible Institute.
2. Shall coordinate ways and means to support faith Bible Institute in the local church.
3. Shall be in charge of selecting and promoting the annual Master and Miss Faith, Mr. And Mrs. Faith Pageant of the Christian Workers Auxiliary.

N. Youth President

1. Shall promote the work of the Christian Baptist Youth in the local church.
2. Shall plan and lead youth meetings and activities.

O. Ordinances

1. The official ordinances of the Christian Baptists shall be water baptism, communion and feet washing.

VI. CHRISTIAN BAPTIST YOUTH

A. Constitution

1. Name

- i. The official youth organization of the Christian Baptist Association shall be known as “Christian Baptist Youth.”

2. Object

- i. To evangelize young people throughout the world seeking always to win others to Christ.
- ii. To build up its members in Christian experience and Holy character and instruct them in the doctrines of the Bible taught by the church.
- iii. To promote wholesome, Christ-centered studies and activities of young people to aid in the development of soul, mind and body.
- iv. To organize and maintain youth organizations of the general and local church levels.
- v. To make a sincere and persistent effort to bring all young people into the experience of salvation and sanctification as taught by the Scriptures and the church.
- vi. To encourage and promote higher education and special training for young people to better qualify them to serve Christ and the church.

3. Officers

- i. General Christian Baptist Youth Board.
 - a. Members shall be president, vice-president, secretary and assistant treasurer and assistant, publicity agent, advisory pastor and five-member camp ground committee.
 - b. Terms of office shall be two years unless removed for cause. President, vice-president and secretary shall be elected on different years than the rest to avoid an entirely new board, except treasurer and assistant which shall be appointed for two year terms by the General Board of Managers from recommendations of the youth board. Terms shall begin and end with general council year.
 - c. Duties
 - 1) The Board
 - i) Shall promote and supervise the work of the Christian Baptist Youth throughout the denomination.
 - ii) Shall give assistance to any local Christian Baptist Youth board.
 - iii) Shall be subject to the General Board of Managers, the general

superintendent shall fill all vacancies that occur during the term of office.

- iv) Shall develop, operate and maintain the Christian Baptist Youth Camp Ground, which heretofore will be called "Peace Valley". They shall see that Peace Valley will not be used for any purpose that will bring shame or discredit to the cause of Christianity or the Christian Baptist Association.
- 2) President
 - i) Shall have power to call meetings of the board of which is chairman and shall preside whenever possible.
- 3) Vice-president
 - i. Shall be responsible for the devotional period in each board meeting.
 - ii. Shall preside if the president is absent.
- 4) Executive Secretary
 - i) Shall give a written report of each board meeting and an oral report to the general youth council.
 - ii) Shall keep minutes of board meetings and business sessions and see that each board member is given a copy.
 - iii) Shall work with the local youth secretaries to promote an active youth group in each church.
 - iv) If this office is vacated, the assistant secretary shall fill office for remainder of term.
- 5) Treasurer
 - i) Shall receive funds and disperse it by proper authority and keep accurate records al all transactions.
 - ii) Shall submit a written report in each board meeting and an oral report at general council and general youth council.
- 6) Publicity Agent
 - i) Shall be responsible for mailing all announcements of youth activities to the local churches and contacting news media concerning any special events.
- 7) Advisory Pastor
 - i) They shall give all the assistance he can from his knowledge and experience to the board to promote its work.
- 8) Campground Committee
 - i) Five members shall be elected in June.
 - ii) Shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of Peace Valley.

- iii) Shall report to the board any major repairs necessary.
- iv) Shall see to the maintenance and repair of all mechanical equipment and advise board on any need to replace the equipment.
- v) They shall see that the grounds are operational to begin camping sessions.
- vi) They shall maintain rental property and make it ready for occupancy.
- vii) They shall be elected in staggering terms of two years so that no more than 3 members are elected in any one-year.

4. Business

- i. The Youth Board shall have the authority and power to transact all business of the Youth being answerable to God, the church and the general board.
- ii. If any member is absent from three consecutive board meetings without permission of the youth president, their office shall be vacated.

5. Youth Campground, "Peace Valley"

- i. Peace Valley shall be the official campsite of the youth camp.
- ii. It shall be administered and maintained by the youth board.
- iii. It shall be used to lead young people to God by drawing them closer to nature as almighty God created it.
- iv. If any time the youth board should be unable to operate and maintain Peace Valley, the general board of managers will automatically control it.

B. Rules and Bylaws of Christian Baptist Youth

1. Rallies

- i. Rallies are to be held on the fourth Saturday of each month except June, July and December.
- ii. Rallies shall begin at 6PM, unless changed by youth board.
- iii. Rallies shall be held in various churches throughout the conference as chosen by the youth board.
- iv. Point System
 - a. Each person shall count as point for his or her church.
 - b. The pastor shall count as ten points.
 - c. The Sunday School superintendent shall count as eight points.
 - d. The youth leader shall count as six points.
 - e. Each ten miles from the church to meeting is one point.
 - f. Total points determine winners.
 - g. Deadline for counting will be thirty minutes after starting time.
 - h. Youth under nineteen shall be counted for special trophy.

- i. Banners and trophies
 - a. First place receives a banner and trophy.
 - b. Second place receives a banner.
 - c. Third place receives the rotating praying hands.
 - d. Church with most youth under nineteen years old receives trophy.
 - i. An offering will be taken each month to purchase trophies, balance in youth treasury.
- 2. Youth Camp**
- i. Camp shall be held from the third Sunday in June through the following Friday.
 - ii. Board can change date or set multiple camps if number of campers warrant.
 - iii. Age of campers shall be at least nine years old by the first day of camp, no exceptions.
 - iv. Campers can be through the age of nineteen, older campers which are handicapped may attend with permission from youth board.
 - v. Trophies for campers of the week and other awards will be given as determined by youth board.
- 3. Annual Business**
- i. There will be annual general youth council session
 - ii. Time shall be 2 PM of the Friday of youth camp or as set by the youth board and notification made to all pastors
 - iii. Purpose will be to elect officers and transaction of any business which may come before it.
 - iv. Eligibility to vote.
 - a. All members of youth board.
 - b. Three delegates from each church who are at least 16 years old.
- 4. Miscellaneous**
- i. Seven youth board members shall constitute a quorum.
 - ii. The youth president shall be reimbursed for mileage from the youth treasury when on business for the youth board; rate shall be set by youth board.

VII. WORLD FOR CHRIST MISSIONS

A. Object

1. Our main object is to glorify God our heavenly Father and to exalt Jesus Christ our Savior and to honor the Holy Spirit. Secondly, to carry out the great commission of Jesus Christ our Lord as divinely stated in Matthew 26:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”
2. To send out workers into the field, called missionaries.
3. To preach the gospel to all men everywhere, teaching them to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, promoting holiness as a second work of grace and the doctrines taught in the articles of faith in this manual.

B. General Missionary Board

1. Members shall be president, vice-president, treasurer and assistant, each state representative and the assistant general superintendent.
2. Term of office shall be two years unless removed for cause.
3. General Superintendent is advisory member.
4. Duties
 - i. To promote the interest of general missionary work.
 - ii. To supervise the missionary personnel and publications.
 - iii. To correlate their plans with the general board of managers.
 - iv. To submit plans for appointment of new missionaries or launching of new programs to the general board of managers.

C. Foreign Missionaries

1. Qualifications and policies are found in the Missionary Rule Book.
2. All missionaries shall be issued credentials by the Ordination Committee
3. Credentials shall be issued and/withdrawn at request of the missionary board.
4. All missionaries shall be listed in the general council minutes and their credentials shall be automatically renewed as long as they are in active missionary service.

D. Financial Support

1. Monthly offerings from local churches.
2. Gifts and bequests from individuals.

3. Ways and means promoted by Missions Board and Willing Hearts.

E. Missionary Prayer Band

1. Name shall be Missionary Prayer Bands of the Christian Baptist Association.
2. Purpose
 - i. To promote the interests of the kingdom of God through the missionary work of the Christian Baptist Association by:
 - ii. Study of the fields
 - iii. Intercessory prayer
 - iv. Offerings
3. Prayer bands shall be organized in all local churches co-operating with pastor and church board concerning dates of meeting, speakers, and offerings. Offerings shall be turned over to the missionary treasurer for transfer to the General Missionary Treasurer.

VIII. HOME MISSION BOARD

A. Object is the growth of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ through the growth of the Christian Baptist Church by:

1. Establishing home mission work into those areas of the United States where God should lead.
2. Engaging home missions on a part time and/or full time basis to work in these missions.
3. Through the establishing of these missions into self supporting, conference supporting churches.

B. Organization

1. Home Mission board shall consist of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three field superintendents, the assistant general superintendent.
2. President and vice-president shall be elected by the general council for two year terms. All other officers shall be appointed by the general board of managers from the suggestions from the home missions board.

C. Duties

1. The president shall preside over board members and shall oversee all work and projects of the board and its missionaries.
2. The vice-president shall fill the chair in the president's absence.
3. The secretary shall record all business conducted by the board and be responsible for all correspondence.
4. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys by proper authority and make record of all transactions.
5. Field representative shall scout and investigate location of prospective missions.

D. Administrative Procedure

1. Board shall meet quarterly to discuss and take action on new locations, new missionaries and to oversee work of current missionaries.

E. Home Missionary

1. Shall be licensed or ordained Christian Baptist minister.
2. Shall be in good standing with the association and the local church.
3. Shall meet with the board at each meeting to give full report of the mission.

4. Salary shall be set by board, approved by missionary
5. Contract shall be drawn up between board and missionary. Contract to be subject to renewal annually until church is organized.
6. Missionaries serve at the will of the board. Contract may be canceled for cause of failure of missionary to fulfill his duties to the mission.

F. Finances

1. Each church shall receive one freewill offering each month for the support of Home Missions. Offerings should be mailed to the Home Missions treasurer.

IX. FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE

A. Doctrine:

1. The administration, faculty and curriculum of Faith Bible Institute shall reflect the doctrinal position of the Christian Baptist Churches, namely Arminianism with appropriate emphasis upon regeneration, and holy living made possible by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

B. Purpose:

1. To provide capable Christian teachers, to serve the individual by encouraging him to be Christ-like through constant communion with his Lord and to prepare him to be a pillar of established testimony at home and abroad.

C. Curriculum:

1. Information to be found in the Faith Bible Institute Catalog.

D. Board of Regents

1. Board shall consist of chairman, secretary, treasurer and four school board members.
2. Chairman shall be elected at general council for a two-year term; all other members shall be appointed by the general board of managers.

E. Administrator

1. An administrator shall be hired by the school board. Term and salary are to be set by school board; grievances shall be directed to the general board of managers.

F. Duties of Officers

1. Chairman
 - i. Shall call meetings and preside over all such meetings as moderator.
 - ii. Shall represent school in promotional meetings at local churches, denominational gatherings, public functions, and all other school business.
 - iii. Shall represent school board as voting member of the general board of managers.
2. Secretary

- i. Shall keep minutes of all board meetings
 - ii. Shall be corresponding clerk as necessary
 - iii. Shall report to “Messenger” news items for school
3. Treasurer
- i. Shall receive all moneys from offerings, donations and tuition.
 - ii. Shall keep record of scholarship fund receipts and disbursements.
 - iii. Shall pay all salaries and expenses of school as authorized.
4. Administrator
- i. Shall schedule all classes.
 - ii. Shall register all students
 - iii. Shall report to board all information concerning week by week school activities as they request.
 - iv. Shall employ faculty with approval of board.
 - v. Shall arrange all extra-curricular activities of school such as seminars, promotional meetings, Bible conferences, contests and any other activity.
 - vi. Other duties as requested by board

APPENDIX A: MINISTER HELPS

A. Questions for use of Examining Board.

1. Have you been married the second time while your first wife was living?
2. Do you use tobacco in any form?
3. Have you carefully studied the Articles of Faith of the Christian Baptist?
4. What do you believe about God?
5. What do you think of Jesus Christ?
6. What about the Bible?
7. Of what is the church composed?
8. Who is eligible for baptism?
9. How are sinners saved?
10. On the night of the Lord's Supper, what did Jesus command the Disciples to do?
11. What is the Gospel?
12. Do you believe in the support of the ministry?
13. Explain the doctrine of Sanctification?
14. Do you believe Christians live above willful sin?
15. Do you believe in divine healing for the body?
16. Explain the Resurrection of the dead? (Both the just and the unjust).
17. Will you teach tithing?
18. Will you work consistently as a minister of the Gospel for the salvation of souls, and work for up-building of the church of Jesus Christ as understood by the Christian Baptist denomination? Also, will you be obedient to its rulings as handed to you by those in authority?

B. Charge to be Given at Ordination of Ministers.

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and His kingdom; preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust will they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.” (2nd Tim. 4:1-5)

C. The Minister and Funeral Services

1. Pre-Death
 - a. Minister by presence
 - b. Convey love
 - c. DO NOT talk too much or negative about people, churches or other ministers.
2. Pre-Funeral
 - a. DO NOT stay while family discusses what to do for funeral unless you are the chosen minister.
 - b. Ask if there is others involved in the service, after you are asked to officiate. If there is another minister, be easy to work with. Discuss who will do what and when. Prefer one another.
 - c. Plan service with family, funeral director, and those helping in the service.
 - d. Ask if obituary, poems, eulogies are to be used.
 - e. Include songs and singers.
 - f. Schedule the church, get heat/air on, sound, meal following, etc as needed.
 - g. Encourage communication between significant family members.
 - h. Pray, read the Bible, ask Jesus to be very present.
3. At Visitation
 - a. DRESS PROFESSIONAL
 - b. Meet the family and other significant people.
 - c. Express sympathy and especially listen for the “through their eyes” views of other people.
 - d. Ask for things that people remember of the deceased.
 - e. Be honest but not crude and unrefined.
 - f. Make notes.
4. Day of Funeral
 - a. DRESS PROFESSIONAL
 - b. Check your notes, directions and order of service.
 - c. Arrive early
 - d. Park where directed to
 - e. Meet family and ask if there are last minute thoughts
5. At Grave
 - a. Scripture or Committal prayer ready.

6. Useful Scriptures for a Funeral

- a. Opening
 - i. Job 19:25-27
 - ii. Psalms 46:1-3
 - iii. Isa. 25:4
 - iv. Isa. 43:2
 - v. Jn. 5:25
 - vi. Jn. 6:40
 - vii. Jn. 6:51
 - viii. Jn. 11:25-26
 - ix. Jn. 16:33
 - x. 2 Cor. 1:3-4
 - xi. 2 Cor. 4:17-18
 - xii. 1 Jn. 3:1-2
- b. Child Funeral
 - i. Gen. 22:7-14
 - ii. Gen. 43:14
 - iii. 2 Sam. 12:15-23
 - iv. Isa. 40:9-11
 - v. Jer. 31:15-17
 - vi. Matt. 18:1-6
 - vii. Matt. 18:10-14
 - viii. Mark 10:13-16
- c. For a Young Man
 - i. Psa. 103:15-19
 - ii. Ecc. 12:1
 - iii. Ezek. 16:60
 - iv. Matt. 25:14-23
 - v. Luke 7:11-15
 - vi. Luke 15:1-24
 - vii. Luke 18:18-30
 - viii. Jn. 11:16-45
- d. For a Young Lady
 - i. Job 9:25-26
 - ii. Matt. 25:1-13
 - iii. Mark. 5:22-23, 35-43
 - iv. Jn. 14:1-3
- e. Middle Aged Adult
 - i. Job 14
 - ii. Ps. 39:4-5
 - iii. Ps. 49:6-20
 - iv. Ps. 103:15-16
 - v. Ecc. 9:10
 - vi. James 4:13-15
- f. Aged Person
 - i. Job 5:17-27
 - ii. Ps. 39
 - iii. Ps. 71:7-9, 15-21
 - iv. Ps. 90
 - v. Ecc. 12
 - vi. Rom. 8:35-39
 - vii. 2 Tim. 4:6-8
- g. Frailty of Life
 - i. Job 7:9-10
 - ii. Job 14:1-2
 - iii. Job 30:23
 - iv. Job 30:23
 - v. Ps. 89:47-48
 - vi. Ps. 90:3-6, 10
 - vii. Ecc. 8:8
 - viii. Ecc. 9:12
 - ix. 1 Cor. 15:22-26
 - x. 2 Cor. 5:10
 - xi. Gal. 6:7-9
 - xii. Heb 9:27
 - xiii. James 4:13-15
- h. Comfort
 - i. Ps. 23
 - ii. Isa. 40:25-31
 - iii. 2 Cor. 1:3-4
 - iv. 2 Cor. 4:8-18
 - v. 2 Cor. 12:7-10
 - vi. 1 Thess. 5:9-11
 - vii. Matt. 5:4
 - viii. Jn. 14:1-3
 - ix. Heb. 12:5-11

- x. 1 Pet. 1:22-25
 - i. Immortality
 - i. Job 19:25-27
 - ii. 2 Cor. 5:1-10
 - iii. 1 Thess. 4:13-18
 - iv. 1 Tim. 6:7
 - j. Holy Living
 - i. Prov. 4:1-13, 20-27
 - ii. Luke 12:35-44
 - iii. Rom. 12:1-2
 - iv. Col. 3:-14
 - v. 1 Thess. 5:1-11
 - vi. Eph. 6:10-18
 - k. Hope in Christ
 - i. Jn. 10:1-16
 - ii. Rom. 8:18-39
 - iii. 2 Cor. 4:6-18
 - iv. 2 Tim. 4:6-8
 - v. 1 Pet. 1:13-21
 - l. Resurrection
7. Committal Service
- a. “For as much as it has pleased Almighty God, in His wise providence, to take out of this world the soul of our deceased _____, we therefore commit _____ body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the resurrection of the just through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose second appearing the earth and sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and made like unto His glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto himself.”

D. The Minister and Weddings

1. Ministers should perform premarital counseling on couples before marriage. Premarital counseling is one of the only types of preventive counseling known to man.
2. The minister is the conscience of the wedding parties.
3. Scripture Readings (If Desired)

- a. Gen. 2:18, 21-24
- b. Prov. 18:22
- c. 1 Tim. 5:14
- d. Rom. 7:2-3
- e. 1 Cor. 7:10-11

4. Sample Ceremony 1

You both, in the sweet and quiet hours of you loving communion, have thought of the duties and obligations that grow out of this relation, and present yourselves before me, a minister of God's Holy Word, and an officer of the state of _____ to plight your troth and to take upon you wedlock holy vows. (Here the minister asks: Who gives this bride away? One appointed for this purpose answers, "I do." Then the minister shall continue.) If anyone here knows of any lawful reason why this ceremony should not go forward, let him speak now, or forever hold his peace. (The minister shall not ask.) Is there a token of this union? (And the bridegroom or one of the attendants shall hand the minister the ring and then the minister shall say) The golden circle, from time immemorial, has been a symbol of wedded love. It is made of pure gold, to symbolize pure love; it is one unbroken circle, to symbolize unending love. It is to be worn upon the third finger of the left hand. There is said to be a connection between this finger and the heart. As oft as you both shall see it, it will remind you of this holy moment when your two hearts yield to the one another in love. Take it, _____, and place it upon her finger, pronouncing after me the words I shall utter: With this ring I do thee wed, and with all my earthly goods and love, I do thee endow. (Repeat for the bride.) Join your right hands and receive the solemn vows. (Now addressing the groom.) Do you, _____, take _____ to be your lawful, wedded wife, promising before God, with your friends as witnesses, that you will be to her a faithful, loving and devoted husband; that you will provide for her and protect her; that you will honor her and love her, and remain with her in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others you will keep yourself to her, and to her only, until death shall separate you? (The bridegroom answers, I Do. Then addressing the bride, the minister shall say.) Do you _____, take _____ to be your lawful, wedded husband; promising before God, with your friends as witness, that you will love, honor, and obey him, and remain with him in sickness and in health in prosperity and in adversity, and that forsaking all others you will keep yourself to him, and to him only until death shall separate you? (Bride answers I do; then the minister shall say.) Then I, by virtue of the authority that is vested in me as a minister of God's Holy Word, and as an officer of the state of _____, in the presence of God and these your friends, as witnesses, pronounce you husband and wife – henceforth in life and interests, as in

affection one.

E. The Minister and Communion

This service is to be Holy. Jesus' last time with His disciples were spent showing what He would give on the Cross an example in serving communion and foot-washing. One should read all the Gospel accounts to understand all perspectives of this sacrament.

1. Jesus tells of His betrayal and forthcoming death.
 - a. Matthew 26:20
2. Jesus offers the bread, His body
 - a. Matthew 26:26
3. Jesus offers the fruit of the vine, His blood
 - a. Matthew 26:27-29
4. Jesus tells of washing of feet, between supper and leaving the upper room
 - a. John 13:2-10
5. We are told we OUGHT to wash one another's feet and we'll be HAPPY if we do these things
 - a. John 13:12-17
6. Paul teaches about honoring the Lord when we take the Last Supper
 - a. The Corinthians were taking their own supper, some hungry and some drunk. This is NOT why they were gathered on this occasion. They were to take of the body and blood, NOT eat for hunger's sake.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 11:20-22
 - c. They were next instructed to show the Lord's death in this service-however often they did it. Each man was to examine himself and discern the Lord's body. It is not food! It is the Lord's body and blood. Each need to receive it-knowingly accepting responsibility for sins committed.
 - d. They were to wait on one another. It is a sacred, Holy, prayerful time.
 - e. 1 Corinthians 11:26-34
 - f. Prayer is for SELF-EXAMINATION not requests.
7. They sing a hymn and go out
8. Matthew 26:30
9. The Service
 - a. Blessing is asked over the communion Service. 1 Co. 11:23-26
 - b. Blessing is asked before the bread is served. Matt. 26:26
 - c. Blessing is asked before the drink is served. Matt. 26:27

- d. Then the preparation of the table, pans, water for foot washing is made. Read John 13:4-5
- e. After the washing, dismiss by singing a joyful hymn.

F. The Minister and Baptism

1. Jesus was baptized
 - a. Matthew 3:13-17
2. Jesus' last words as He ascended are for us to Teach & Baptize
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20
 - b. Mark 16:15-16
3. Philip baptized the Eunuch after salvation
 - a. Acts 8:36-39
4. Paul was saved, then baptized
 - a. Acts 9:17-18
5. Typical of Death, Burial and Resurrection.
 - a. Romans 6:3-11
6. Cloud & Sea was baptism for Children of Israel
 - a. 1 Corinthians 10:2-4
7. Baptism Service
 - a. Candidates for baptism should already be explained and be able to understand the reasoning for baptism.
 - b. Each candidate for baptism should be allowed time to testify of their salvation.
 - c. Minister and a helper shall hold on the candidate and steady them. The Minister then prays a prayer of thanks and dedication and ends the prayer with, "We now Baptize, _____, in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the Name of the Holy Ghost, Amen."
 - d. After the prayer the candidate is fully immersed.
 - e. It is proper to sing a verse and chorus of hymn after each baptism.

G. Installation and Ordination of Deacons

1. When the Brethren to be ordained are seated before the minister, he shall say:

In the "ancient order," the congregation officers were elders and deacons. To the elders was committed the superintendence of all the affairs of the

community of believers. The deacons have been described as “the living bond of union between the congregation and its elders; taken from the bosom of the community; chosen entirely by the people themselves; intimately acquainted with their wants; and thus admirably qualified to assist the elders with counsel and action in all their official duties.” It was their business, under the supervision of the pastor to look after the outward service of the sanctuary, care for the poor and afflicted, and attend to the secular interest of the community, that those who labored in the word and doctrine might be relieved from such duties and enabled to devote themselves more exclusively to the instruction and spiritual edification of the church. The diaconate has been aptly termed the “office of help.” While in the case of Stephen and Philip, deacons gifted with speaking ability exercised the liberty of teaching and preached the gospel as opportunity offered. Their duty, as appears from the account given of their appointment, consisted primarily and mainly in providing for and superintending the meetings called “love feast” (which were held daily), serving the tables, giving alms, and an account of their appointment is given in the sixth chapter of Acts of the Apostles as follows: “And in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, it is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Phillip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon and Paremeas, and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch, whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed they laid their hands on them.”

Following the precedent thus established by the first churches, with the advice and sanction of the apostles, the brethren of the congregation wish to have men, “Of honest report, and full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom” chosen from among themselves, to serve as deacons, and we are gathered to formally install them in office.

- Congregation shall stand. The Minister shall pray. Here the congregation shall be seated, leaving those to be ordained standing before the minister, who shall ask the congregation:
- Do you members of this Christian Baptist Church, having sought divine guidance, choose the brethren standing before me to serve as deacons and promise to give them honor, encouragement and hearty support?
- The members shall answer: WE DO.

- The minister shall ask the deacons elect:
- Do you accept the office of deacon in this Christian Baptist Church, and promise that you will faithfully endeavor to discharge the duties thereof so as to promote the interest of the congregation and the cause of truth and righteousness?
- Each of the deacons elects shall answer: I DO.
- Then the deacons elect shall kneel and the minister laying his hands on their heads, shall say:
- Inasmuch as your brethren and sisters have elected you to the office, and you have declared your willingness to accept it and your sincere purpose to discharge its duties faithfully, you are now, by the imposition of hands, with earnest prayer for the attendant blessing of God, formally ordained and declared to be deacons of this congregation.
- May you show yourselves to be men of God, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. May the Spirit of Christ, who came “not to be ministered unto, but to minister,” dwell in you richly, make you always faithful in the performance of the duties you now assume, and cause you to be so diligent in wisely and lovingly ministering unto others that, when the Son of man shall come in his glory, “He shall say unto: Come ye blessed of my Father.”

H. A Short Service for Dedication of Buildings.

1. Congregation Singing
2. Welcome Address by Pastor
3. Special Singing
4. Dedicatory Address (Message)
5. Dedicatory Offering
6. Act of Dedication (All Standing)
 - i. Minister – We set this house apart for the service of the Lord and the Lord only.
 - ii. Congregation – We dedicate this building to God.
 - iii. Minister – We set this house apart for all the Christian Baptist ordinances; Baptizing by immersion; taking the communion; washing the saints’ feet; and a store house where we can bring our tithes and offerings.
 - iv. Congregation – We dedicate this building to God.
 - v. Minister – we set this house apart for the saving of souls and sanctifying of the believers.

- vi. Congregation – We dedicate this building.
- vii. Minister – We set this house apart that it might be a lighthouse to the world, and sorrowing men and women can find comfort in their sorrowing hour.
- viii. Congregation – We dedicate this building.
- ix. Minister – (Having the key to the front door, he in turn gives the key to the Trustees of the Church). The Minister shall say: This congregation has selected you out from among these other men, with the confidence that you will perform your duty as a trustee. Let nothing enter this house that would tend to mire the sweet spirit of God, without which no one will ever be saved or sanctified. Your job is to see that the house is warm in the winter time, comfortable in the summer, light well taken care of, house kept in good repair and the inside kept clean and song books in place. To the deacons: This congregation has selected you as deacons. Let nothing be preached behind this pulpit that is contrary to the Bible, and see that your Pastor holds to the Christian Baptist doctrine. See that this church has communion and feet washing as often as the Pastor deems necessary, or at least once a year. Let us pray.

I. Cornerstone Laying.

1. Minister – Read, Psalm 15, Psalm 171:1, Dearly beloved, we are assembled to lay the cornerstone of a new house for the worship of the God of our Fathers. Let us not doubt that he will favorably approve our Godly purpose. Let us now devoutly invoke his blessings on this our undertaking.
2. Read, Psalm 24, 1 Cor. 3:9-15, Isa 28:16, 1 Cor. 3:11.
3. Minister – Pray, and then lay the cornerstone of the church. Say, “For a building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, the pillar and ground of the truth.
4. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
5. Minister – For a building that shall stand as a symbol of the church universal, the cornerstone of which is truth, the creed of which is love, and its towers eternal hope.
6. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
7. Minister – For a building that shall stand as a symbol of the creed of

- authority, but a religion of saving grace of personal experience, and of spiritual power.
8. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 9. Minister – For a church which shall exalt the ministry of the open Bible, with its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, it's messages of warning, inspiration, comfort and hope.
 10. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 11. Minister – For a church that shall teach the Trinity of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
 12. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 13. Minister – For a church that shall be a renewing and a cleansing power in this community and that loves everyone, and every other church that exalts Christ in the service of men.
 14. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 15. Minister – For a church with open door for all people, rich or poor, homeless of desolate, who need the help of God through us.
 16. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 17. Minister – For a church that shall gather the children in its arms that hold them to Christ, that they may grow up in the church and never be lost from the fold.
 18. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 19. Minister – For a church with open doors for all people, truth: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 20. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone.
 21. Minister – For a church which takes hold on two worlds, and stands forth unseen and eternal, and which offers to men the abundant life which now is and which is to come.
 22. Congregation – We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God.
 23. Minister – In loving memory of those who have gone from us, whose heart and hands have served in this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts to make this house possible, for all who may share this spiritual adventure; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come. We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, unto the ages of ages, world with end. Amen.

J. Dedication of Infants

1. Scripture reading; Matt. 18:1-5
2. To the parents
 - i. Do you solemnly promise before God and these, your friends, that you will do the best of your ability, in bringing up this little one in the way of the Lord, making use of all the help that God has given you in family religion, in Church and in Sunday School?
3. To the Father
 - i. As I give you this red (flower, Bible, ribbon) as a symbol of the rich red blood of Christ with which you build and defend the home into which this little one has come. May your home be a home built firmly upon the word of God. Let nothing enter your home that will tend to destroy the faith, confidence and mutual love without which no home can long endure. Let nothing enter your home that will injure the soul of this little child, or crowd out the Master who said, "Whosoever shall receive one of such little children in my name receiveth me.
4. To you, mother.
 - i. I give you this white, (Flower, Bible, Ribbon) as a symbol of the purity of heart and purpose with which you should have to endow the home into which this little one has come. If this child grows up to know the Lord as his personal savior and have a personal experience with Him, it will be largely because you have awakened the little child's infant faith into its first consciousness. It is from you, the greatest object in the child's affection, that the child gets the first idea of God. It is from you with the little one at your knees that sense of awe and reverence is awakened in the little soul. From the purity of your eyes comes the idea that God is Holy, and from the gentleness of your voice the idea that God is Love.
5. To you (Baby's name)
 - i. I give you this small white (flower, Bible, ribbon) as a token of your innocence and purity of soul in the sight of God. My earnest prayer as I look in your sweet face, is that when you lose your innocence and your eyes and heart of understanding are opened, you will see Jesus, whom to see is life, and life

eternal.

- ii. This book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happenings of believers. Its doctrine is Holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be Holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

6. Let us pray.

K. Pulpit Decorum

1. The minister should come to the pulpit conscious that he is the ambassador of God to his people. It is in His name that he stands there. He should therefore take earnest heed to himself, his actions and his speech.
2. The Scripture rule for this office is that everything should be done “In decency and order.”
3. It is well to precede the service with a moment of communion with God.
4. Leading the congregation in worship is the first task we should do.
5. If there is a regular form of service accepted by the Pastor and congregation it is well to follow it, guarding against the danger of mere formalism. The pastor should know the form which would best please his congregation for an uplift in the Spirit.
6. Hymns should be announced distinctly. This can only be done by previous preparation. Song leaders should never wait until the time to start to select their songs. As a rule the whole service from opening hymn to the benediction should be built around a central theme.
7. Public prayer should be prayed right from the heart and not read out of a book.
8. Every minister should study the Word to show himself an approved workman of God.
9. Announcements (if not printed or posted) should be made as briefly as possible and be so placed as not to interfere with the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit.
10. The offering should be made a sacred and impressive part of divine worship, because it is for the Lord’s work – it is an act of devotion.

11. The sermon should be prepared before coming to the pulpit (if the Lord changes the thought after you get up to preach, He will take care of that). The sermon should be delivered “in the fear of the Lord.” It should edify, inspire and secure decisive action on the part of the hearer.

APPENDIX B: ARTICLES OF FAITH MADE PLAIN

Article 1

- i. We believe in one true and living God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, equal in essence, power, and Glory.
 1. The Bible teaches that the Godhead is made up of a trinity.
 - a. The Father –
 - i. “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)
 - b. The Son –
 - i. “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5
 - ii. “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24
 - iii. “And he is before all things and by him all things consist.” Colossians 1:17
 - c. The Holy Ghost –
 - i. “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2
 2. This places the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost together before the foundation of the world.

Article 2

- ii. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he was born of the Virgin Mary and that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired word of God, and that the New Testament is our rule of faith and practice. The King James Bible is the only version to be read in our churches. Other versions are of no more value than a commentary on the scriptures.
 1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that he was born of the Virgin Mary.

- a. “Then said Mary unto the angel, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, “the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall over shadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”
Luke 1:34-35
- b. “Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make three tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses and one for Elias. While he spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in which I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
Matthew 17:4-5
2. And that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God.
 - a. “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21
 - b. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16
3. And that the New Testament scripture is our rule of faith and practice.
 - a. “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
Matthew 26:27
 - b. “In that he saith, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” Hebrews 8:13
4. And that the King James Bible is the acceptable version to be read in our churches.
 - a. “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Revelations 22:18-19

Article 3

- iii. We believe that by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life by which the grace of God became equally accessible to all men. Romans 15:18
1. God created man and placed him in the garden of Eden and spoke to him thus:
 - a. “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:15-17
 2. After God had spoken this command to Adam He made the woman and we see Satan in the form of the serpent approach he to deceive her.
 - a. “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” Genesis 3:1-17
 3. Then when God came to walk in the garden in the cool of the day He found a man who hid himself among the trees of the garden and

who had to admit his guilt to God for the offense he had committed and receive the condemnation that had been promised him.

- a. “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Genesis 3:17-19
 - b. “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim’s, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” Genesis 3:22-24
4. Then God provided a way for the salvation of lost humanity.
 - a. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16
 - b. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23
 5. God made His grace equally accessible to all men.
 - a. “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelations 22:17

Article 4

- iv. We believe that sinners are justified by the grace of God, received by repentance toward God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. By justified we mean pronounced free of guilt or blame, every sin cleansed by the Blood of Christ, the heart made pure and holy with

nothing remaining to be or removed at a future time, a soul made ready for heaven.

- a. “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel.” Mark 1:14-15
- b. “I tell you, Nay, but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3
- c. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30
- d. “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16:31
- e. “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:16
- f. “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9
- g. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith unto this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2

Article 5

- v. We believe that the church of Christ is composed only of those who are partakers of the Holy Ghost and the powers of the world to come.
 1. To partake means to take or receive a part of: to take some of as to partake of food or drink. Therefore, to be a member of the Church of God one must be born again, be a partaker of or have the Holy Ghost abiding as an indweller in the heart.
 - a. “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.” John 3:5
 - b. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God well in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” Romans 8:9
 - c. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free;

and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1
Corinthians 12:13

Article 6

- vi. We believe that those only who have received remission of sins are subjects for baptism and that immersion in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is the only mode.
 - a. “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” Colossians 2:10-12
 - b. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.
- 2. Definitely this is spiritual baptism for Paul said...
 - a. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.” 1 Cor. 12:13
 - b. “There is one body and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of your calling, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.” Ephesians 4:4-5
 - c. “Therefore we are buried with him in baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4
- 3. Then if we are to be buried it leaves no doubt as to immersion being the only mode.
 - a. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19

Article 7

- vii. We believe that the Lord’s Supper and the washing of one another’s feet should be practiced by the saints of God until Jesus comes.
 - 1. On that eventful night in the land of Egypt when the lamb was

slain and the blood was applied and Israel was delivered, Exodus 12, typified the true Lamb of God which was to be slain for the sin of the world.

2. At the command of God through Moses the Passover was kept every year in commemoration of this event and their children were to be taught the reason for it, thus at the last Passover feast that Jesus ate with His disciples, He instituted the Lord's supper to take its place.
 - a. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:26-28
 - b. "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, what I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, if I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:4-17
 - c. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered

unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

3. Therefore when we eat the bread and drink the wine and wash our brother's feet we openly testify to the world that we are partaking of his sufferings, that His blood has been applied to our hearts and that we are taking the place of servants to our brother and not seeking to be his lord and master.

Article 8

- viii. We believe that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth and that it is commanded to be preached to every creature: that all men are responsible for the manner in which they hear.
 - a. "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16
 - b. "And he said unto them, God ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:15-16

Article 9

- ix. We believe that there is but one true church and that every member thereof is an heir of God and joint heir with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him that we may be also glorified together. Romans 8:17
 - a. "And if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:17

Article 10

- x. We believe in the support of the ministry as set forth in the scriptures. I Corinthians 16:1-2, Acts 11: 29-30, Romans 15:28, II Corinthians 9: 6-11.
- a. “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
 - b. “Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea: Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.” Acts 11:29-30
 - c. “It hath pleased them verily, and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.” Romans 15:17
 - d. “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
 - e. “Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.” 1 Corinthians 9:14
 - f. “For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the Labourer is worthy of his reward.” 1 Timothy 5:18

Article 11

2. We believe in the Doctrine of Salvation for sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ for a cleansing from all sin.
 - a. Read Article 4, for repentance.
 - b. Read Article 6, for the receiving of the spirit.
 - c. Here we will touch on the purpose and power of the Blood of Jesus Christ. First read Hebrews chapters 5-10.
 - i. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7
 - d. Now let us lift out a few verses from the 6 chapters which you have just read in Hebrews.
 - i. “But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.” Hebrews 7:24-28
 - ii. “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.” Hebrews 8:7
 - iii. “And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all.” Hebrews 9:3
 - iv. “But in the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people. “ Hebrews 9:7
 - v. “But Christ being come an high priest of good things

to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Hebrews 9:11-14

vi. "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:9-10

vii. "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus," Hebrews 10:17-19

e. Take notice to the fact in this last verse that we entered into the holiest by the blood of Christ and there is none holier than the holiest. Consequently we have done that which is spoken of in...

i. And that ye put on the new Man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Ephesians 4:24

Article 12

xi. We believe in Sanctification as taught in St. John 17; Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:11; Timothy 2:21, to all believers in Christ as preparation for sacred service. It is the result of complete consecration and is a second work of Grace received after regeneration. Sanctification is wrought by the baptism of the Holy Ghost and is an increase of power, makes the Christian more able to stand against the wiles of Satan, better qualified for the service of the Lord, and brings increased joy to the

Christian's heart. We do not believe in speaking in an unknown tongue as a witness of the baptism.

1. God's will and aim for a man is a wholly sanctified vessel. Let us read a few scriptures in regard to how it comes about before we go further.
 - a. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12
 - b. "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." John 17:17
 - c. "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the Gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."
2. First a man must be regenerated, cleansed and made holy by the blood of Christ. This has been covered in the previous articles. The Holy Ghost doing his ministration through the entire work. The Holy Ghost convicts and draws men to God through Christ, and as explained in Article 6, we are baptized by it into the body of Christ.
3. The First call is to the Soul.
4. Then as spirit led men we begin to "Study to shew ourselves approved unto God" and we find in the word some things that we are required to do ourselves by the help of God.
 - a. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:3-8
 - b. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for

- ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 3:18
- c. “If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21
 - d. “Lay hands suddenly on no man neither be partakers of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.” 1 Timothy 5:22
 - e. “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:12-23
5. These are a few of the many scriptures relating to our spiritual advancement and walk with God, and leave no doubt as to the Word’s part in our Sanctification. It is through walking in the light of God’s word that we are led by the Spirit of God’s second call which is to the body for service, or our complete consecration of which our entire sanctification is the result.
- a. “I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Romans 12:1
6. In making this consecration we present a sacrifice that has been made alive in Christ, cleansed and made holy by His blood, this is the only kind of sacrifice that is acceptable to God. Therefore the Holy Ghost witnesses this acceptance with that special anointing that makes us more powerful Christians, more able to stand against the wiles of Satan and to fulfill our calling. This second experience is entire sanctification, is the completion of the work

done in regeneration.

- a. “That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” Acts 10:37-38
7. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Ghost; but we do not believe in speaking in unknown tongues as a witness of the baptism. This article is clearly explained within itself and the baptism of the Holy Ghost has already been covered. The main purpose of this statement being to make plain our stand in regard to the speaking in unknown tongues.

Article 13

- xii. We believe in divine healing for the body as set forth in the fifth chapter of James.
- a. “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” James 15:13-15

Article 14

- xiii. We believe that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and that He is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but the sins of the world.
1. An advocate is one who pleads the cause of another, as an attorney or intercessor. Propitiation means atonement, or peacemaker.
 - a. “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if

we keep his commandments.” 1 John 2:1-3

Article 15

- xiv. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, of the just and the unjust and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.
- a. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2
 - b. “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” John 5:28-29
 - c. “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” Acts 24:15
 - d. “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Article 16

1. We believe that every person is created in the image of God, that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, and fellowship. God's Word makes use of the marriage relationship as the

supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people and for revealing the truth that that relationship is of one God with one people. Therefore, God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship. To follow the teachings of the Scriptures regarding marriage and divorce. We affirm that sexual relationships outside of marriage and sexual relationships between persons of the same sex are immoral and sinful. We further affirm that heterosexual monogamy is God's plan for marriage. We believe that the grace of God is all-sufficient to overcome the desire for and practice of sexual immorality. "Sexual immorality" includes but is not limited to incest, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, fornication, pedophilia or lascivious activity such as the use of pornography in its varied forms. (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24, 19; Leviticus 18, 20; Deuteronomy 23:18; Judges 19-20; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18| Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

- a. Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24, 19
- b. Leviticus 18, 20
- c. Deuteronomy 23:18
- d. Judges 19-20
- e. Mark 10:2-12
- f. Luke 16:18
- g. Romans 1:24-27
- h. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11