

# ARTICLES OF FAITH, CHURCH COVENANT, AND BYLAWS

2018

Adopted by Church vote

April 15, 2018

Last Amended

June 28, 2023



# Contents

PREAMBLE	4
ARTICLES OF FAITH	4
CHURCH COVENANT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, DOTHAN, ALABAMA	4
Article I NAME	5
Article II STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	5
Article III RELATIONSHIPS	5
Article IV STATEMENT OF FAITH	5
Section 1 STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY	5
Section 2 STATEMENT ON GENDER	5
Section 3 STATEMENT ON SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE	5
Section 4 STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL MARRIAGE	6
Article V MEMBERSHIP	6
Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS	6
Section 2 DUTIES	6
Section 3 RIGHTS	6
Section 4 QUORUM	6
Section 5 TERMINATION	6
Section 6 DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION	7
Section 7 MINISTER LICENSING	7
Section 8 MINISTER ORDINATION	8
Section 9 WATCHCARE	8
Article VI CHURCH OFFICERS	8
Section 1 GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS	8
Section 2 SENIOR PASTOR	8
Section 3 COUNCIL OF ELDERS	9
Section 4 DEACONS	11
Section 5 CHURCH CLERK	12
Section 6 TREASURER	13
Section 7 MODERATOR	13
Section 8 CORPORATE TRUSTEES	14
Article VII OFFICERS OF CHURCH MINISTRIES	14
Article VIII CHURCH STAFF	14

Section 1	RESPONSIBILITY	14
Section 2	DEFINED	14
Section 3	PASTORAL STAFF	15
Section 4	DIRECTORS OF MINISTRY	15
Section 5	SUPPORT STAFF	15
Section 6	GOVERNANCE	15
Article IX	STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL COMMITTEES, AND MINISTRY TEAMS	15
Section 1	DEFINED	15
Section 2	TERMS	16
Section 3	SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT	16
Section 4	ELECTION	16
Section 5	REPORTING	16
Section 6	STANDING COMMITTEES	16
Section 7	SPECIAL COMMITTEES	20
Section 8	REPORTING BY COMMITTEES	20
Section 9	MINISTRY TEAMS	21
Article X	USE OF CHURCH RESOURCES	21
Article XI	ORDINANCES	21
Section 1	PURPOSE	21
Section 2	BAPTISM	21
Section 3	THE LORD’S SUPPER	21
Article XII	CHURCH BUSINESS PROCEDURE	22
Section 1	ORDERLINESS	22
Section 2	RECEPTION OF MEMBERS	22
Section 3	CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING	22
Article XIII	ADOPTION, GOVERNANCE, SEVERANCE, AMENDMENTS, AND DEFINITIONS	22
Section 1	ADOPTION	22
Section 2	GOVERNANCE	23
Section 3	SEVERANCE	23
Section 4	AMENDMENTS	23
Section 5	DEFINITIONS	23
Appendices		

## PREAMBLE

We declare and establish these Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Bylaws to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern the body in an orderly manner. These Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Bylaws will preserve the liberties of each individual Church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches. Our foundation, our guidance, and our priority are anchored in the following three truths:

The foundation of this Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our code of guidance in all its affairs is the Word of God.

We exist to glorify God in all that we do.

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith for Calvary Baptist Church, Dothan, Alabama (this Church, the Church) are:

The Baptist Faith and Message, A Statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000. See Appendix 1.

The New Hampshire Confession of Faith, 1833, revised by Calvary Baptist Church and adopted June 28, 2023. See Appendix 2.

### CHURCH COVENANT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, DOTHAN, ALABAMA

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

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and discipleship; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to support of the ministry, the expense of the Church, the relief of the needy, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotion; to disciple our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk above reproach in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments; and exemplary in our behavior to avoid gossiping, slandering, or bitterness and excessive anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith; and be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

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

We, moreover, engage that when we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with a Church where we can carry out these articles of faith and the spirit of this covenant.

## Article I NAME

This body shall be known as Calvary Baptist Church, located in Dothan, Alabama, hereafter known in this document as the “Church”. It is a congregationally controlled body led by an Incorporated Board of Elders to be known as the Council of Elders.

## Article II STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Our purpose is to glorify God by making disciples who will transform our city and our world.

## Article III RELATIONSHIPS

The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other church governing body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as it is practical, this Church will cooperate with and support the Southeast Alabama Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and the Southern Baptist Convention or their successors.

## Article IV STATEMENT OF FAITH

In every age, significant forces both outside of the church and from within work to undermine the authority and relevancy of Scripture. For matters of faith and conduct, we affirm the lifestyle and worldview taught by Scripture and endeavor as a church to live according to the principles taught in the whole of Scripture. We intend to live both publicly and privately according to these principles with love, grace and understanding.

- Ministers licensed and/or employed by Calvary Baptist Church (Church) will not sanction any ceremonies incompatible with the Church’s statement of faith, whether on or off Church-owned or -controlled properties. Doing so would result in immediate termination of employment and loss of all benefits.
- If a minister licensed by the Church is not employed by the Church when the event occurs, the Church will immediately revoke the license of the minister and notify them by certified correspondence.

### Section 1 STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. In faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline; this Church’s Council of Elders is Calvary Baptist Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application. The Elders shall ensure adherence of these bylaws to Scripture in policy and practice.

### Section 2 STATEMENT ON GENDER

We affirm, “...in the beginning God created them male and female,” that God created men biologically male, and women biologically female. (Gen 1:26-28, Matt 19:4-6).

### Section 3 STATEMENT ON SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

## **Section 4 STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL MARRIAGE**

We believe that marriage is a union between one man and one woman, following Biblical principles (Gen. 2:19-24, Lev. 18:22, Matt. 19:4-6, Rom. 1:18-27, Eph. 5:22-23, Heb. 13:4). We believe that God sanctions only the union of one man (who is biologically male) to one woman (who is biologically female), including civil unions or the like, regardless of the terminology used.

## **Article V MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS**

The membership of this Church shall consist of persons who confess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior, who submit to His will in their lives, and who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Persons may present themselves as candidates for membership by profession of faith, transfer of letter from church of like faith, or statement of faith. New candidates for membership shall attend and complete a membership class. The leadership of this Church, defined as the Senior Pastor, the Council of Elders, or their designee, shall examine for recommendation each new candidate regarding their Christian experience and their willingness to live according to this Church Covenant. All recommended candidates shall be presented to this Church for membership vote. If a prospective member is coming from another church of like faith, Calvary's Church Clerk or the Church Clerk's designee will contact that church and request commendation and verification of current membership. All candidates for membership, who have not experienced baptism by immersion, following their acceptance of Jesus as their Lord and Savior, shall be baptized by immersion. See also Article XI, Section 2 on Baptism.

### **Section 2 DUTIES**

Members are expected to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life, to attend regularly the services of this church, to give regularly, tithing and otherwise, for its support and its causes, and to share in its organized work.

### **Section 3 RIGHTS**

Members who are in full and regular standing and who do not hold letters of dismissal may act and vote in transacting the business of this Church.

### **Section 4 QUORUM**

A minimum of 100 members present at any regular business meeting or a special or called business meeting held after reasonable notice thereof shall constitute a quorum. A majority will be greater than 50% of eligible members present and voting. Proxy voting is not permitted.

### **Section 5 TERMINATION**

Continuation of membership shall be subject to the principles and general usages of Baptist churches and especially the following:

- 1 A letter of dismissal and recommendation may be granted for any member in good and regular standing to unite with another church of like faith and order when requested by such church.
- 2 If a member in good standing requests release from his covenant obligations to this Church for reason which may finally deem satisfactory after it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his continuance in its fellowship, such request may be granted, and his membership terminated.

- 3 The Church may terminate the membership of persons who have been non-resident for one year except person in military service, academic pursuit or providentially hindered. After due notice and kindly efforts to make such action unnecessary it may also terminate the membership of resident members who have regularly failed to worship with the Church for a period of at least one year. The names of persons whose membership has been terminated in accordance with this subsection shall be kept on file under supervision of Church administration in a file separate from the records of the membership not terminated under this sub-section, and on request for a letter of dismissal there shall be given a letter of explanation only.

## **Section 6 DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION**

As members of this Church we covenant with one another as one body in Christ, and as we love Him we endeavor to keep His commandments and to care for His bride the Church. We believe Scripture teaches clearly that Christ has instructed the Church to glorify God by maintaining her purity with love and patience, equipping and encouraging her members to continually return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct. 1 Corinthians 5:6, 1 Timothy 5:20, Galatians 6:1, 1 John 2:9-17

- 1 DISCIPLINE Matthew 18:15-18
  - a. Should a member become an offense to this Church and to its good name due to immoral or unchristian conduct or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, the Church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and after faithful efforts by the Council of Elders have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment.
  - b. No termination of membership, except by granting of letter of dismissal, shall be made sooner than thirty days after the meeting at which recommendation for termination was made.
  - c. All requests or recommendations for termination or action suggesting such, except by granting letter dismissal, shall first be considered by the Council of Elders who shall make recommendations to the Church. Recommendation from the Council of Elders shall be presented to Church at a properly called or regular business meeting. The vote to terminate shall be by a two-thirds vote of eligible members present and voting.
  - d. The members of this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of their dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation on church discipline.
- 2 RESTORATION - Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense or reason may be gladly restored by approval of the Council of Elders and a subsequent vote of the Church upon evidence of his repentance and reformation.

## **Section 7 MINISTER LICENSING**

Calvary considers licensing a tentative approval for ministry for a man who makes public that God is specifically calling him to ministry. The Council of Elders shall thoroughly examine the candidate regarding his doctrinal soundness, moral and spiritual qualifications, and personal fitness for the ministry. The Council of Elders, after satisfactory examination, shall recommend the candidate to the Church for licensure. The candidate's licensure shall require ratification by the members of the Church.

## Section 8 MINISTER ORDINATION

Any man giving evidence of a Divine call to the Gospel ministry and manifesting the gifts and grace belonging to the ministry may be ordained. He must first state that he accepts without reservation our Church Covenant and Articles of Faith. The Council of Elders shall thoroughly examine the candidate regarding his doctrinal soundness, moral and spiritual qualifications, and personal fitness for the ministry. The Council of Elders, after satisfactory examination, shall recommend the candidate to the Church for ordination. The candidate's ordination shall require ratification by the members of the Church.

## Section 9 WATCHCARE

From time to time a temporary resident of the Dothan area, for example a college student or a military member, may desire a relationship with Calvary but also want to remain a member of their home church. This is referred to as Watchcare. Any person desiring Watchcare status with this Church should submit a letter from the pastor of their home church stating the good standing of membership in that Southern Baptist Church. The person will then be received under Watchcare using the same procedure as membership. Individuals under Watchcare cannot vote in the business of the Church.

## Article VI CHURCH OFFICERS

### Section 1 GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS

- 1 Officers of the Church are elected by the Church Body as outlined in these bylaws, each of whom shall be a member in good standing. An elder may not serve as deacon, clerk or treasurer. The officers of the Church are: 1. Senior Pastor, 2. Elders, 3. Deacons, 4. Church Clerk, 5. Treasurer, 6. Moderator.
- 2 The Church officers shall be covered under the Church's Directors and Officers Liability and Insurance Policy.
- 3 Removal of Officer
  - a. An Officer may be removed from office by a recommendation from the Council of Elders to the Church. In a special called business meeting, 75% of the ballots cast to approve the recommendation from the Elders is required to take this action. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21, Deuteronomy 19:15.
  - b. A member of the congregation can address concerns of an Officer's conduct as required in Scripture directly to the Council of Elders at their next meeting. The Elders will meet to address their concern in keeping with applicable scripture, these Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2.1 and 2.3. The Council of Elders will apprise the member of steps taken to address their concern within 2 weeks.
  - c. Resignation – An Officer may resign by giving a written resignation to the Council of Elders who shall inform the Church at the next regular business meeting.

### Section 2 SENIOR PASTOR

- 1 Duties of the Senior Pastor are:
  - a. preach the gospel.
  - b. lead the congregation and staff.
  - c. provide direction to the work of the Church.



- d. serve the people as unto the Lord.
  - e. serve as a voting member of the Council of Elders.
- 2 The Church may call the Senior Pastor with the recommendation of the Senior Pastor Search Committee and Council of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall become a member of Calvary Baptist Church on the first Sunday of his tenure. The Senior Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period. Upon employment, the Senior Pastor shall become subject to the Church Personnel Manual.
  - 3 The Senior Pastor Search Committee shall provide initial compensation and benefits offer and other agreements for the Senior Pastor candidate in writing to the Council of Elders, and the Personnel Committee, in accordance with the Church Personnel Manual and Church budget. With the approval of these committees, the Senior Pastor Search Committee may submit the offer to the Senior Pastor candidate. Subsequent compensation and benefits shall be approved by the Church as part of the annual Church budgeting process upon recommendation by the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee.
  - 4 The relationship shall only be terminated by one of the following:
    - a. Death.
    - b. Resignation. The Senior Pastor shall give thirty (30) days written notice to the Church, after which the Senior Pastor and the Church shall have no further obligation to the other.
    - c. Vacancy. The Church may terminate the Senior Pastor upon recommendation of the Council of Elders. In a specially called business meeting, 75% of the ballots cast to approve the recommendation from the Elders is required to take this action. After such vote, the office of Senior Pastor will be immediately vacant.
  - 5 The Senior Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees, organizations, and ministry teams.
  - 6 The Senior Pastor shall be a member of the Council of Elders, is not subject to term limits or reaffirmation, but shall not function as a legal trustee for the Church.
  - 7 The Interim Senior Pastor shall become an employee and follow the policies and procedures as set forth by these Bylaws for Church staff and be accountable to the Personnel Committee in the same manner as the office of Senior Pastor. The Council of Elders will recommend responsibilities, compensation and benefits to the Personnel Committee for approval.

### Section 3 COUNCIL OF ELDERS

- 1 Responsibilities of Elders:
  - a. Provide spiritual protection for the Church and are accountable to Christ and the Church membership.
  - b. Set an example for the Church by their obedience to the mission of Christ and His Church. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 20:28-31, 1 Corinthians 4:16, Hebrews 13:7)
  - c. Oversee the ministry and resources of the Church.
  - d. Shall devote their time to prayer, ministry of the Word through teaching and encouraging sound doctrine.
  - e. Shepherd the Church, God's flock, as described in Acts 6:1-6, 1 Peter 5:1-5, and James 5:14.
  - f. Oversee the ordinances of the Church including Baptism and Lords Supper.
  - g. Assure sound doctrine, practice, and worship.
  - h. Oversee church discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.

- i. In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor, the Council of Elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated by the Council of Elders-including but not limited to the selection of an Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor shall be filled by and/or selected by the Council of Elders as they deem necessary.
  - j. Serve as the board of trustees as termed in the original Certificate of Incorporation of the Church.
  - k. Upon approval by the Church authorizing such action (budgeted items have prior Church approval), the signatures of two of the Council of Elders must be affixed to documents that are binding to the Church, involving the sale, transfer, gifting, mortgage, purchase, receiving, or rental of real property, or to sign promissory notes. The Church agrees to indemnify the Council of Elders for any liability they may incur in their official capacity performing actions directed by the Church.
  - l. Hold such meetings as deemed necessary by the Council of Elders. Two thirds of the current Council of Elders shall constitute a quorum. The Council of Elders shall appoint a chairman and a secretary at the beginning of each Council of Elders meeting.
  - m. A summary of the Council of Elders meetings shall be maintained in the Church office in a fireproof cabinet and in a secure offsite electronic medium.
  - n. Provide guidance to the Nominating Committee and review nominations.
  - o. Men who have yet to be ordained as elders shall be ordained as soon as possible after their selection.
- 2 Composition of the Council of Elders
- a. The Council of Elders shall consist of as many men as deemed necessary by the sitting Council of Elders.
  - b. Less than 4 men including the senior pastor shall immediately trigger the Elder training and selection process to begin, as outlined below.
  - c. The words, "Pastor" and "Elder", are synonymous and used interchangeably in scripture. Therefore, the Council of Elders may consist of lay elders and staff pastors.
  - d. The Council of Elders will consist of a majority of lay elders. Less than a majority shall immediately trigger the Elder training and selection process to begin, as outlined below.
- 3 Requirements, Selection, and Confirmation of the members of the Council of Elders
- a. Requirements
    - i. Elders must meet the requirements and qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:12, and Titus 1:6-9.
    - ii. Must be a member of the Church for at least two years.
    - iii. A man shall not be available for selection as elder for a period of 12 months following the end of his second term as Elder.
    - iv. Required training and syllabus for new elders shall be at the discretion of the Council of Elders.
    - v. In accordance with legal requirement for duties as trustee, must be at least 21 years of age.
  - b. Selection of the Council of Elders
    - i. The church will solicit nominations for the Council of Elders during the month of August each year. Church members may submit nominations for the Council of Elders at any time.
    - ii. Only men who have completed elder training will be eligible for selection for the Council of Elders.

- iii. The Council of Elders will interview and assess the nominations and present the congregation with the candidates at a regular members meeting.
  - iv. Council of Elders shall solicit written, signed comments relating to the list of candidates for 30 days following the members meeting where the candidate(s) are presented. The Council of Elders shall present the final list of candidates to the congregation after the 30-day comment period.
  - v. After prayerful consideration, the congregation will vote on the candidates at the next regular members meeting. Only members of the Church may vote.
  - vi. The vote shall be yea or nay by written ballot on each of the nominees separately. Congregational approval of each candidate shall be at least 75% of all ballots cast.
  - vii. Following congregational approval, an elder will immediately join the Council of Elders.
  - viii. The Council of Elders have the authority to replace vacancies during the year using section 3b as a framework.
- c. Reaffirmation of Elders
- i. A Lay Elder may serve 2 consecutive 3-year terms but must be reaffirmed by written ballot of the Church before starting their second 3-year term.

## Section 4 DEACONS

- 1 Responsibility of Deacons:
  - a. Serve under the direction of the Council of Elders.
  - b. Identify, create, maintain, and remove ministries under their charge based on the logistical, administrative and physical needs of the Church and its members.
  - c. Serve the congregation as defined in the Deacon Handbook.
  - d. Be alert to benevolence needs of the congregation.
  - e. Meet at least once each quarter for the consideration of their specific duties.
  - f. Promote unity within the membership of the Church.
  - g. Facilitate the spread of the gospel.
  - h. Take on long-term and short-term needs of the Church as directed by the Council of Elders.
    - i. The deacons shall choose their chair in coordination with the Council of Elders.
- 2 Composition of Deacons
  - a. The number of Deacons shall be set by the Council of Elders, with a minimum of 10.
  - b. If a deacon is appointed to the Council of Elders, he will automatically be removed from the office of deacon.
- 3 Selection, Qualification and Confirmation of Deacons:
  - a. Qualifications
    - i. A deacon must meet the scriptural qualifications set forth in scripture outlined in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
    - ii. A deacon must indicate a willingness to accept the office and faithfully perform therein as outlined in the Deacon Handbook.
    - iii. A deacon must be committed to the Church Covenant.

- iv. Acceptable completion of an oral review of qualifications through personal examination as prescribed by the Deacon Handbook.
- v. Must have at least fifty percent attendance in Calvary's weekly Bible Study during the preceding twelve months.
- vi. Must be a resident Church member for at least two years.
- b. The deacons, like the Elders, shall hold each other accountable.
- c. Deacons shall serve a term of three years from the beginning of the Church year, July 1, following their election at a regular or duly called business meeting. Any Deacon who has served a three-year term shall be ineligible to serve before expiration of one Church year.
- d. Vacancies among deacons shall be filled through a nominating process by the Church and a Church vote. Nominations from the church membership will be accepted in the church office from April 15 through May 15. Nomination cards will be available at public access points around the campus during that time period.
- e. The completed deacon nomination cards shall be collected by the church office during the week following May 15.
- f. The elders and the current Chairman of Deacons shall review, vet, and present to the church by recommendation a list of additional deacons to be voted on by the church not later than the last Sunday in June each year.
- g. The selection process shall be based on the qualifications of deacons as found in Article VI, Section 4-3a, of these bylaws. The selection process shall be further defined by the deacons in their Deacon Handbook.
- h. Men who have yet to be ordained shall be ordained as soon as possible after their election.
- i. If there is a conflict between the Bylaws and the Deacon Handbook, then these Bylaws will be the governing document. The Deacon Handbook may be revised by the deacon body by a two-thirds vote, and must be approved by the Elders.
- j. The Council of Elders may add deacons from the two most previous lists of deacon nominations throughout the year using section (4.3.f) as a framework in presenting the names to the church for church vote at a regular members meeting.

## Section 5 CHURCH CLERK

- 1 The duties of the Church Clerk shall be:
  - a. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for the maintenance of a suitable record of all the actions of the Church except as otherwise provided herein.
  - b. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate register of the names of the members with dates of admission and dismissal or death, together with a record of baptisms.
  - c. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for keeping files of the Church roll with a current record of service and activity of each member and shall submit a summary of such member to any sister church when a request for letter is received. A request for a summary statement of service and faithfulness shall be made when requesting a letter of transfer from a sister church for one who has come under Watchcare.
  - d. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for notifying all officers, members of committees, and messengers of their election or appointment except as otherwise herein provided.

- e. The Church Clerk shall be responsible for issuing letters of dismissal voted by the Church, for preserving on file all communications and written official reports, and for giving legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary as provided for herein.
  - f. The Associate Church Clerk will serve in the place of the Church Clerk when the Church Clerk is unavailable.
- 2 The Church shall elect annually a Church Clerk and an associate Church Clerk.
  - 3 The Church Clerk shall be permitted to delegate the recording of minutes and record keeping of the Church records as the Church Clerk deems appropriate but must retain fiduciary responsibility.
  - 4 The official Church Clerk's reports shall be maintained at the Church in a fireproof cabinet and in an offsite electronic medium.

## **Section 6      TREASURER**

- 1 The Duties of the Church Treasurer shall be:
  - a. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out upon proper authorization, all money or things of value paid or given to the Church, being responsible for maintaining always an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements.
  - b. All payments shall be made by the treasurer and based on the adherence of the Church's purchasing policies approved by the finance committee.
  - c. Payment of bills for properly authorized local work and expenses shall be made promptly and all funds received for denominational causes and as designated gifts shall be remitted at least monthly.
  - d. A financial report shall be submitted to the Council of Elders monthly, and to the Church in regular quarterly business meetings by the Treasurer or his designee.
  - e. Within ninety days after the end of each fiscal year the treasurer shall submit to the Church an annual financial report.
  - f. All books, records, and accounts kept by the treasurer shall be the property of the Church. The books shall be open to inspection by the Church membership at any reasonable time. A confidentiality agreement will be required in personnel related matters.
- 2 The Church shall elect annually a Church Treasurer who shall be a deacon and a member of the finance committee. The Church will also elect an Associate Church Treasurer who will serve in the absence of the Treasurer.
- 3 The Church Treasurer shall be permitted to delegate the financial administration of the Church as the Church Treasurer deems appropriate but must retain fiduciary responsibility.
- 4 Upon Finance Committee approval, the Church Treasurer or his Church staff designee shall be considered the authorized signatory of the Church for all contractual agreements except those contained in these Bylaws requiring the signatures of the Council of Elders.
- 5 The official Treasurer's reports shall be maintained at the Church in a fireproof cabinet and in an offsite electronic medium.
- 6 The Treasurer shall be limited to five (5) consecutive years of service.

## **Section 7      MODERATOR**

- 1 It shall be the duty of the moderator to moderate regular and special business meetings of the Church.

- 2 The moderator shall be an elder designated by the Council of Elders.
- 3 In the absence of these, the Church Clerk shall call the Church to order, fifteen minutes after the pre-published meeting start time, and a temporary moderator shall be elected in order from those present:
  - a. past members of the Council of Elders, then
  - b. the deacon chair, then
  - c. past deacon chairs.

## **Section 8 CORPORATE TRUSTEES**

- 1 The legal function of trustees for the Church shall be fulfilled by:
  - a. The Council of Elders
  - b. If the number of Elders falls below a minimum of 4, the function of corporate trustee shall be provided by the remaining Elders, plus as many of the following as necessary to reach 4. In order of succession:
    - i. The Elders recently rotated off starting with the most recent and going back up to 3 years
    - ii. Chairman of deacons starting with the current, then chairman elect, then starting with the most recent, prior chairmen going back up to 3 years
- 2 For the purposes of this section, the function of trustees shall be limited as follows:

Upon approval by the Church authorizing such action (budgeted items have prior Church approval), the Trustees shall be empowered to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, transfer, gifting, mortgage, purchase, or rental of real property, or to sign promissory notes. At least two signatures of Trustees must be affixed to documents that are binding to the Church.

## **Article VII OFFICERS OF CHURCH MINISTRIES**

All ministries of the Church shall be under Church control, and all leaders and volunteers of all ministries shall be responsible to the designated staff members. The designated staff member shall have accountability to the Senior Pastor and the Council of Elders in concurrence with the Church Personnel Committee. A Church ministry is defined as an activity or service, on or off the Church premises, performed by the membership of the Church to carry out the purpose of the Church on behalf of the Church.

## **Article VIII CHURCH STAFF**

### **Section 1 RESPONSIBILITY**

Members of the Church staff, including pastoral and non-pastoral employees of the Church, shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor in concurrence with the Personnel Committee (see Personnel Committee section of these bylaws) and shall function in accordance with their job description, these bylaws, and the approved Personnel Manual. The Senior Pastor is responsible to the requirements of the Personnel Manual and the Church as outlined in these bylaws.

### **Section 2 DEFINED**

The Church staff shall be composed of such pastoral and non-pastoral assistants to the Senior Pastor and other full or part-time personnel as may be authorized by the Church.

### **Section 3 PASTORAL STAFF**

- 1 The Church will call a pastoral staff member upon recommendation from the Personnel Committee and the Council of Elders.
- 2 After approval from the Council of Elders, the Senior Pastor may remove a pastoral staff member and he may dissolve, create, or realign pastoral staff positions as he deems necessary and appropriate within the personnel committee's budget allocations.
- 3 The words, "Pastor" and "Elder", are synonymous and used interchangeably in scripture. Therefore, the Council of Elders may consist of lay elders and staff pastors.
- 4 Pastoral Staff members may be added to or removed from the Council of Elders during a normal business meeting where lay elders are being selected. The Council of Elders will recommend the additions and/or removals to the congregation for a vote of affirmation.
- 5 Pastoral Staff shall not function as a legal trustee for the Church.
- 6 Pastoral Staff with the least Calvary Baptist Church employment tenure will be automatically removed from the Council of Elders until a majority of Lay Elders exists.

### **Section 4 DIRECTORS OF MINISTRY**

After approval from the Personnel Committee and the Council of Elders, the Senior Pastor may hire, remove, replace, or realign budgeted directors of ministry staff positions.

### **Section 5 SUPPORT STAFF**

The Senior Pastor or his designated church staff member, after supervisory approval, may hire, remove, replace or realign budgeted non-pastoral staff positions.

### **Section 6 GOVERNANCE**

The Church staff shall be governed by the Church Personnel Manual.

## **Article IX STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL COMMITTEES, AND MINISTRY TEAMS**

### **Section 1 DEFINED**

- 1 A committee is a group of Church members voted on by the Church for administering the work of the Church; meeting the needs of its members; caring for, improving or enlarging its scope of services or facilities; and the conducting of business as may be directed by the Church, its officers or the organization thereof concerned with the work of the committee.
- 2 There shall be standing and special committees of the Church.
  - a. All committees shall have a minimum of three members, which must be members of the Church in good standing.
  - b. The members of the committees shall, at their first meeting of the Church year, elect a chair and vice chair.
  - c. The first meeting shall be called within the first quarter of the Church year by the staff liaison to the committee who will also serve as the secretary of the respective committee.

- 3 A ministry team is a group of Church members voted on by the Church for performing a ministry task sanctioned by the Church body.

## **Section 2 TERMS**

- 1 All standing committees, special committees, and ministry teams shall serve for the Church year.
- 2 No person shall serve on two Standing Committees simultaneously.
- 3 No person shall serve, rotate or resign from one Standing Committee and serve on another without a minimum absence of one year on a Standing Committee.
- 4 The Council of Elders by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  affirmative vote may remove any person from a standing committee, special committee, or ministry team as part of church discipline. The Council of Elders shall inform the Church of the removal at the next regular or properly called business meeting.

## **Section 3 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT**

Special Committees may be appointed at any time for a specific function by the Church. The Special Committee in association with the Nominating Committee, as noted in these bylaws, shall submit a description of the duties and responsibilities of a proposed special committee for approval at a regular or properly called business meeting.

## **Section 4 ELECTION**

The members of standing committees, special committees, and ministry teams shall be recommended to the Church by the Nominating Committee; however, additional nominations may be made from the floor, during a regular or called Church business meeting where the Nominating Committee makes recommendations, by any member in good standing. The vice-chairman of the respective committee shall serve in the absence of the chairman, responsible to ensure that all responsibilities are faithfully discharged.

## **Section 5 REPORTING**

The staff liaison of each standing and special committee shall file a written report after each meeting of the committee to the Church Clerk or Church Clerk designated representative. The Church Clerk will be responsible for the report being made available to be reviewed by a Church member.

## **Section 6 STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing committees shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1 FINANCE COMMITTEE
  - a. The Finance Committee shall be composed of six elected members, one of which shall be a deacon, plus the Treasurer. Two members shall be elected annually for three-year terms except those elected to fill vacancies of unexpired terms. It is expected that members who are nominated to serve on this committee be faithful members, tithers and regular participants in the services and organizations of the Church and be knowledgeable of financial matters. No person who has an immediate family member employed by the Church shall serve as a voting member of the Finance Committee.
  - b. A principal function of the Finance Committee shall be the promotion and development of biblical stewardship throughout the Church; which is the Church's plan of financing her work through tithes and offerings by its members.



- c. It shall be the duty of the committee to maintain oversight of all offerings to and expenditures of the Church. As a vital portion of its function, the Finance Committee shall prepare and present the annual budget for consideration of the Council of Elders who will review and then present to Church at a regular business meeting prior to the beginning of the Church fiscal year.
- d. Requests for approval of the purchase of budgeted and non-budgeted items shall be made in accordance with approved Church purchasing policies.
- e. Functioning as a purchasing committee, the Finance Committee shall consider requests for all purchases of items made in the name of the Church and which are to be paid from church funds per church purchasing policies.
- f. Signatures of two finance committee members shall be required on each check issued. Revised bank signature cards shall be executed annually or more frequently if necessary to keep authorized signatures current.
- g. The Finance Committee chair with concurrence of at least 1 other Finance Committee member may authorize expenditure of funds. This expenditure will be reviewed by the Finance Committee at its next monthly meeting for appropriate actions taken.
- h. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for maintenance of a balanced budget which shall not allow expenditures to exceed budgeted receipts. This includes the inherit authority to prorate committee and other functions' allotments, not to include employee compensation. Any matter of employee compensation or reduction in force is a function of the Personnel Committee.
- i. No member shall serve more than three years consecutively plus any unexpired term for which he or she shall have been elected except the Treasurer who is governed separately in these Bylaws or other exception noted above.
- j. The Finance Committee shall establish Church purchasing policies to be adhered to by anyone purchasing on behalf of the Church.
- k. The Finance Committee shall procure an accounting firm not associated with the Finance Committee or Treasurer to perform some form of audit at least every three years.
- l. The Finance Committee shall be responsible to give approval in instances where the Church Treasurer or his Church staff designee becomes the authorized signatory of the Church.

## 2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- a. The Personnel Committee shall be composed of six elected members, one of which shall be a deacon. Two members shall be elected annually for three-year terms except those elected to fill vacancies of unexpired terms. It is expected that members who are nominated to serve on this committee be faithful members, tithers and regular participants in the services and organizations of the Church and be knowledgeable of personnel matters. No person who has an immediate family member either employed by the Church, or under consideration for employment shall serve as a voting member of the Personnel Committee.
- b. The committee, when called upon by the Senior Pastor, shall seek out and employ persons to fill vacancies which occur in the Church staff (except the office of Senior Pastor) and any newly created position. The committee in cooperation with the Senior Pastor shall see that sufficient and adequate staff, in keeping with financial and budgeting provisions, is maintained to meet the needs of the program of the Church. The calling of all pastoral staff shall be affirmed by the congregation.

- c. The Church empowers the Personnel Committee to execute all terms of employment and contracts of termination.
- d. The committee shall act as advisor to Church staff members in staff-Church relations.
- e. The committee shall act as a mediator for any staff member upon who excessive demands may be made by members, committees or organizations of the Church.
- f. The personnel committee shall review, at least annually, the job description of each staff member and make needed revisions. The committee shall keep current copy of job descriptions in its files always.
- g. No member shall serve more than three years consecutively plus any unexpired term for which he or she shall have been elected except as noted above.
- h. The Personnel Committee shall develop and maintain a Personnel Manual.
  - i. . The day to day operation of Personnel shall be governed by the approved Personnel Manual.
  - j. The Personnel Committee shall develop an annual personnel budget and set the compensation and benefits for all employees of the Church that fits within the approved General Fund budget.
  - k. The Personnel Committee shall be responsible for obtaining compensation data to ensure staffing compensation is in line with like ministries in the region.
  - l. The Personnel Committee, when called upon by the Senior Pastor, shall be responsible for disciplinary actions of all staff members except the Senior Pastor.
- m. The Council of Elders shall be responsible for disciplinary actions of the Senior Pastor as it relates to the Standards of Conduct in the Church Personnel Manual as a function of these Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2.1.j.

### 3 BYLAWS COMMITTEE

- a. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of six elected members, one of which shall be a deacon. Two members shall be elected annually for three-year terms except those elected to fill vacancies of unexpired terms. It is expected that members who are nominated to serve on this committee be faithful members, tithers and regular participants in the services and organizations of the Church and be knowledgeable of Church matters.
- b. The Bylaws Committee shall study the existing Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Bylaws considering current Church practice and needs. With approval of the Council of Elders, the committee shall prepare and present proposals for amendments or changes to the Bylaws to the Church at a regular or properly called Church business meeting.
- c. The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for adherence of the Church to the Bylaws.
- d. The Bylaws Committee shall review all Church ministries to determine if a special committee is needed and/or required and make such recommendations to the Committee on Committees.
- e. No member shall serve more than three years consecutively plus any unexpired term for which he or she shall have been elected except as noted above.

### 4 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of six elected members, one of which shall be a deacon. Two members shall be elected annually for three-year terms except those elected to fill vacancies of unexpired terms and except as noted above. It is expected that members who are nominated to serve on this committee be faithful members, tithers and regular participants in the services and organizations of the Church and be knowledgeable of Church matters. In addition to the six elected, the other members of the committee, with all rights and privileges of the other members, shall include the Chair of the Deacons and an elder chosen by the Council of Elders who shall chair the committee.
- b. The Nominating Committee coordinates the collection of persons to serve on Standing Committees, Special Committees, and Ministry Teams from the existing Standing Committees, Special Committees, Ministry Teams and Council of Elders. The names will be submitted by Chair of the Standing Committees, Special Committees, and Ministry Teams. The names will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee with the Council of Elders and staff liaison for any potential conflicts or concerns. If the Council of Elders or staff liaison expresses a concern, the name will be returned to the respective committee or team for further review and, if needed, an alternate name will be submitted. If a committee or team has not submitted names by the time for the vote of the Church, the Nominating Committee will present nominations during the annual Church Business Meeting.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall solicit and recommend election of all volunteer workers as Officers of the Church including Church Clerk, Associate Church Clerk, Treasurer, and such other persons who may be used in a volunteer capacity in the various offices of the Church not otherwise noted in these bylaws. The Nominating Committee is responsible for notifying all nominees which are to be presented to the Church for election.
- d. The Nominating Committee shall review the need for all special committees and ministry teams on an annual basis to meet the needs of Church life and propose the addition or deletion of special committees and ministry teams.
- e. The Nominating Committee shall submit a description of the duties and responsibilities of a proposed special committee or ministry team for approval at a regular or properly called business meeting.
- f. Upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor, the Church may extend the term of a member of any committee an additional one year. If this provision is invoked, then the number of nominations for that committee, including the extended term, shall not exceed the maximum number required for that committee.
- g. No member shall serve more than three years consecutively plus any unexpired term for which he or she shall have been elected except as noted above.
- h. Vacancies in all Standing Committees, Special Committees, and Ministry Teams shall be presented as above to the Church at the next business meeting.

#### 5 CALVARY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The Calvary Foundation Committee is necessary for any activities the Church undertakes as a 501(c)(3).

- a. The Calvary Foundation Committee shall be composed of six elected members, one of which shall be a deacon. Two members shall be elected annually for three-year terms except those elected to fill vacancies of unexpired terms. It is expected that members who are nominated to serve on this committee be faithful members, tithers and regular participants in the services and organizations of the Church and be knowledgeable of Church matters.

- b. Duties of the committee shall be as defined in the “Objects and Purposes of Corporation” section of the foundation’s Articles of Incorporation.
- c. No member shall serve more than three years consecutively plus any unexpired term for which he or she shall have been elected.

## **Section 7 SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### **1 DEFINED**

- a. Special Committees may be formed by the nominating committee, with the approval of the elders, and elected by the congregation from time to time as the need arises. Such committees shall be composed of an appropriate number of members, interested in and familiar with the purpose of the committee, to insure orderly and adequate performance of duties.

### **b. DUTIES**

- i. Performance of the task to which assigned
- ii. Submission of findings and recommendations, as may be requested in the charge, to the appointing body.
- iii. Dissolution upon completion and reporting of assignment unless charged with continuance for a specific purpose and time period.
- c. A ministry will come under the direction of a Special Committee when it meets the following criteria:
  - i. Incurs expenses
  - ii. Requires paid staffing not already approved in the Church budget,
  - iii. Receives revenue from sources other than the Church or as deemed needed by the Nominating Committee or other Standing Committee.

### **2 SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

- a. In the event of a vacancy of Senior Pastor, the Council of Elders will request nominations from the congregation and appoint a pastor search committee with members that reflect the Church body and are consistent with the Church membership responsibilities (as stated in article V section 1). The Council of Elders will present the Senior Pastor Search Committee membership to the congregation for approval. The Senior Pastor Search Committee shall be formed within 30 days of the announcement of vacancy.
- b. The Senior Pastor Search Committee shall consist of up to 7 members of at least 25 years of age. The committee shall include at least 2 members of each gender and one elder.
- c. The Senior Pastor Search Committee shall cease to exist in any capacity by a vote of the Church or will automatically cease to exist after six months from the date the Senior Pastor begins his duties.

### **3 INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR**

The interim Pastor shall be filled by and/or selected by the Council of Elders as they deem necessary.

## **Section 8 REPORTING BY COMMITTEES**

All committee chairs or committee secretaries are expected to submit written minutes to the Church Clerk or designee for permanent records. Minutes are to be submitted after each meeting to include agenda, date, time, persons in attendance, decisions, and actions.

## **Section 9      MINISTRY TEAMS**

Ministry Teams may be established from time to time as the need arises. Such teams shall be composed of an appropriate number of members, interested in and familiar with the purpose of the ministry team, to insure orderly and adequate performance of duties. The Ministry Team will be responsible to the respective pastoral staff member.

## **Article X    USE OF CHURCH RESOURCES**

All non-Church organizations must be authorized to use Church resources by the Church administration and must always be subject to its supervision.

- 1    No individual or group shall hold meetings in or use any room or assembly area of the Church building without Church administration approval.
- 2    Any organization using facilities of the Church shall not conflict with the beliefs, principles, mission of the Church, or the Christian faith.
- 3    Due to our belief in the Biblical teachings about marriage as stated in Article IV of these bylaws, same sex couples will not be married in any facilities owned or controlled by the Church, nor will the facilities be used for any celebrations, fellowships, etc., of such event.

## **Article XI    ORDINANCES**

### **Section 1      PURPOSE**

The Scripturally directed ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed by this Church in accordance with Bible teaching.

### **Section 2      BAPTISM**

- 1    1. In accordance with the teaching and example of Christ Jesus during his ministry on earth and as given in the Great Commission, the believer's baptism of repentance by immersion will be administered to candidates only after an open and public profession of faith in Jesus Christ and a stated intent and desire to live, not for self, but for and in the Holy Spirit.
- 2    The ordinance of Baptism may be administered only after affirmation and acceptance by the Church of the candidate's confession of faith, repentance and request to be baptized.
- 3    The baptism may be performed by a Christian minister or lay person approved by the Senior Pastor. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Council of Elders shall give approval of a lay person to baptize.

### **Section 3      THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- 1    The Lord's Supper, as instituted by Christ as an observance under the New Covenant replacing the Passover Feast under the Old Covenant, is to be observed reverently by this Church at least once each quarter. Solemn attention, at each observance, shall be directed to a reverential remembrance of Christ, the spotless Lamb slain for the sin of the believer and attention shall be called to each participant that he should search his own heart with the penetrating light of God's Holy Word.
- 2    It is intended that participation be for those holding membership, in good standing, with this Church; however, those worshipping with us at the time of the ordinance, which are of like faith will be invited to participate.

- 3 An Elder or their designee shall officiate at the observance.

## Article XII CHURCH BUSINESS PROCEDURE

### Section 1 ORDERLINESS

- 1 Amendments to any sections of the Church covenant, Articles of Faith and/or Bylaws may be considered after the Bylaws Committee has given notice, in writing, to the Church at least two weeks in advance of the business meeting in which the amendment is to be considered for modification or change. Such notice shall include the nature and intent of the proposed amendment or change.
- 2 Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the transaction of business. If there is a conflict between the Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order, then these Bylaws will be the governing document.
- 3 All called business meetings must be conducted after the notification of members as noted in section 3, below on Church business meetings.

### Section 2 RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

- 1 Persons applying for membership either upon profession of faith or upon transfer of letter shall be examined at the time of application. (see also Article IV of these Bylaws)
- 2 No one shall be received into membership without the unanimous vote of members present unless the Church, after sufficient inquiry, is satisfied that the member or members objecting do not have just ground or are unreasonable in their attitude.
- 3 A candidate for membership by baptism must give evidence of conversion and assent to the Baptist faith and practice.

### Section 3 CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

- 1 The regular Church business meeting shall be held at least once each calendar quarter.
- 2 Business Meetings will be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, latest edition.
- 3 The Church shall be given at least one week printed (written or electronic) notice including agenda prior to the quarterly Church business meeting.
- 4 Special called business meetings for the sole purpose of accepting new members and/or recommending students to institutions of higher learning shall be called by the Senior Pastor **without notice**.
- 5 Special called business meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor or Council of Elders. Special called business meetings, excepting in 12.3.4. above, must follow the protocol in 12.3.3. above.

## Article XIII ADOPTION, GOVERNANCE, SEVERANCE, AMENDMENTS, AND DEFINITIONS

### Section 1 ADOPTION

This Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Bylaws, when duly adopted by the Church shall, upon its passage, render null and void any other Constitution, Covenants, Articles of Faith, and/or Bylaws in effect or thought to be in effect and shall take priority over custom or precedent.

## **Section 2 GOVERNANCE**

All manuals and handbooks referenced herein and in use by the Church at the time of this document's adoption shall be considered approved and are subservient to these Bylaws. If there is a conflict between these Bylaws and any other manual, procedural document, or other guiding document, then these Bylaws will be the governing document.

## **Section 3 SEVERANCE**

If any article, section, paragraph, or subsection is declared null or void, the other sections are still considered valid and in force.

## **Section 4 AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to any sections of the Church covenant, Articles of Faith and/or Bylaws may be considered after the bylaws committees has given notice, in writing, to the Church at least two weeks in advance of the Church business meeting in which the amendment is to be considered for modification or change. Such notice shall include the nature and intent of the proposed amendment or change.

## **Section 5 DEFINITIONS**

Immediate Family is defined as Someone's spouse, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, mother-in-law and father-in-law, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law and sons-in-law. Adopted, half, and step members are also included in immediate family. Church Administration is defined as the members of the Council of Elders, Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, or a person designated by the Senior Pastor.

# Appendix 1

## Baptist Faith & Message 2000

### I. The Scriptures

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

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

### II. God

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

#### A. God the Father

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

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

#### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right



hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

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

### C. God the Holy Spirit

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

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

### III. Man

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

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

22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

#### IV. Salvation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### V. God's Purpose of Grace

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

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

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-

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

## VI. The Church

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

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

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

**\*\*Note: This article was amended June 14, 2023, by action of the 2023 Southern Baptist Convention\*\***

## VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

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

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

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

## VIII. The Lord's Day

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

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

## IX. The Kingdom

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

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

#### X. Last Things

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

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

#### XI. Evangelism and Missions

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

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

#### XII. Education

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

program for Christ's people.

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

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

### XIII. Stewardship

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

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

### XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

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

### XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism,

every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

#### XVI. Peace and War

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

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

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

#### XVII. Religious Liberty

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

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

#### XVIII. The Family

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

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

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

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

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

## Appendix 2

### NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFESSION OF FAITH (1853)

#### I. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

#### II. Of The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

#### III. Of The Fall Of Man

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

#### IV. Of The Way Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

#### V. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

#### VI. Of The Freeness Of Salvation

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

#### VII. Of Grace In Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration



consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

#### VIII. Of Repentance And Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.

#### IX. Of God's Purpose Of Grace

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

#### X. Of Sanctification

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, – especially, the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

#### XI. Of The Perseverance Of Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

#### XII. Of The Harmony Of The Law And The Gospel

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin: to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

#### XIII. Of A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

#### XIV. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father,

and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

#### XV. Of The Christian Sabbath

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

\*Article XV was revised by Calvary Baptist Church

#### XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

#### XVII. Of The Righteous And The Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

#### XVIII. Of The World To Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.