

# CONSTITUTION OF EBENEZER BIBLE CHAPEL

## PREAMBLE

We, the members of Ebenezer Bible Chapel, Elverson, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in order to establish rules and procedures with which to administer this independent local assembly, do ordain and establish the following Constitution and Bylaws to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

## ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be Ebenezer Bible Chapel, hereinafter referred to as "this Church" in this Constitution and Bylaws.

## ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be: to establish and strengthen the Christian life of each member of the congregation through providing opportunities for worship, instruction, fellowship, service, mutual aid, brotherly counsel and evangelism.

## ARTICLE 3 - DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

### SECTION 1 - THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; three functional Persons in one eternal Godhead. These three are one in being, essence, and equal in power and glory. *Isaiah 45:5-6, 18-22; Genesis 1:1, 26; Matthew 3:16-17; John 5:17-27; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 1:1-3*

### SECTION 2 - THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration and the authority of the Old and New Testament scriptures, which make them the final and only guide in matters of faith and consideration. *2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14*

### SECTION 3 - JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He is the very God, the express image of the person of God the Father, by whom all things were created. *Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 1:5*

### SECTION 4 - THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and is therefore the incarnate Son of God, "Immanuel, God with us." *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35*

### SECTION 5 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He alone brings new life to those who are spiritually dead; that He baptizes (or places) all believers into the one true Church, which is the Body of Christ; that He indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon them, and fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him to empower for Christian life and service. As the Divine Teacher, He guides believers into all truth. *John 3:3-8; 14:16-17; 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 3:16; 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23*

We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit are permanent and are to be used throughout the entire Church Age. Other gifts were temporary and were given in the Apostolic Age for the purpose of founding the Church. Having fulfilled their purpose, they are not necessary and thus are not given today. These include the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues, and interpretations of tongues. *1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 28-30; 13:8; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12*

#### SECTION 6 - THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, the god of this age, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, the accuser of the brethren, whose end is the eternal lake of fire. *Isaiah 14:12-25; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 25:41; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:10*

#### SECTION 7 - THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved, and that they must be born again to be accepted of God. *John 3:1-21; Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12*

#### SECTION 8 - SALVATION BY DIVINE SACRIFICE

We believe that salvation was accomplished solely by the finished work of Christ shedding His blood on the cross, and that nothing on the part of man can avail for salvation. We believe that salvation was provided for the whole world, and that whoever believes in Jesus Christ receives the new birth, becomes a partaker of the divine nature, and thus becomes a child of God, once for all, forever. *John 3:16; 10:27-30; Ephesians 2:8-9*

#### SECTION 9 - SONSHIP

We believe in the sonship of truly born again believers with God, and their sanctification, victory and assurance through faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ, under the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 8:35-39; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 1 Peter 1:18-23*

#### SECTION 10 - RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

We believe in the physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and in His glorified bodily presence at the right hand of God as our only High Priest and Advocate; we accept the establishment of the Lord's Day (Sunday) worship as a memorial of His resurrection. *John 20:21-31; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 4:8-13; Hebrews 4:14-16*

#### SECTION 11 - RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the blessed hope, which is the imminent, personal, pre-tribulation coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Church, the body of Christ, at which time the dead in Christ will be raised and the living saints will be translated to meet the Lord in the air. *John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10*

We further believe in the personal, premillennial, visible and glorious return of Jesus Christ to the earth with His saints at the end of the Great Tribulation. When He comes with His saints, we believe that Jesus Christ will establish His Millennial Kingdom, and will reign on earth for one thousand years. *Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6*

#### SECTION 12 - RESURRECTION OF MEN

We believe in the physical resurrection of all men, each in his own order as in 1 Corinthians 15:22-24; the saints to everlasting joy and bliss, the wicked to conscious and eternal torment. *Luke 16:23-31; Hebrews 9:27-28; 1 John 3:1-3*

#### SECTION 13 - MISSION OF THE CHURCH

We believe in the Great Commission, and that the ministry of the "gospel of the grace of God" is the primary mission of the believing Church. *Matthew 28:19-20*

#### SECTION 14 - ORDINANCES

We believe that Christians are commanded to observe two ordinances; water baptism and the Lord's Supper. While recognizing that water baptism has no saving merit, it is our conviction that after one is saved, baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. The mode of baptism practiced shall be baptism by immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes. We further believe that baptism is a sign of identification, and a testimony to newness of life; but the Lord's Supper is commemorative, and is to be observed often as a memorial of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19; Acts 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 11:23-33*

#### SECTION 15 – HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. *Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*

#### SECTION 16 – ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being with an eternal soul. Abortion is the unjustifiable and ungodly murder of an innocent child. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. *Psalms 51:5; Psalm 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 18:1-5*

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. *Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28*

#### **ARTICLE 4 - AFFILIATION**

This congregation desires to work with Bible-believing churches of like faith, which are in accord with the doctrinal position of this Church as stated in Article 3 of this Constitution. This Church shall function as an autonomous local congregation, and shall not be under the jurisdiction or authority of any other ecclesiastical or sectarian organization or person. Never shall the properties or assets of this Church become the properties or assets of another organization except for what is stated in the dissolution clause of the Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE 5 - GOVERNMENT**

This Church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its Head and Sovereign Lord, and the authority of God's Word the Bible as its sole rule and guide for faith and practice. Under the Lordship of Christ, the church family recognizes the authority granted to spiritually qualified, duly selected Pastors, Elders, and Deacons.

#### **ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERSHIP**

Any person who has professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his or her own personal Savior, giving evidence of regeneration, and who meets the stated requirement of the Bylaws of this Church shall be eligible to become a member.

#### **ARTICLE 7 - DISSOLUTION**

“Dissolution” means the complete disbanding of this Church so that it no longer functions as a corporate entity. In the event of a dissolution of this corporation and after paying or making full provision for the payment of all the debts and liabilities of the corporation, the net assets and holdings shall be distributed as determined by the Board of Trustees to such other existing non-profit religious corporations as would be in agreement with the statement of faith contained herein, which is exempt under Sec. 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (or any future corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code). The Board of Trustees shall be constituted of the Elders of this Church or, in the absence of Elders, biblically qualified men from outside this Church. In no event shall any of the assets of the corporation be distributed to the individual directors, officers or members of this Church.

#### **ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended or revised at any time at any regular or special business meeting. The proposed amendment or revision must be announced and submitted in writing either in person or through the mail to every member of the congregation in good standing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. A quorum shall consist of members who are in good standing and present at the meeting. Members from the age of eighteen (18) years and upward shall be permitted to cast a ballot. Passage of the amendment shall require a 90% majority of those present voting in favor of the amendment.

#### **ARTICLE 9 - ADOPTION**

This Constitution was adopted on May 22, 2011 by a unanimous (100%) vote of the members present and voting at a properly-called meeting of this Church in which a quorum was present. This Constitution supersedes any other previous Constitution of this Church.