

Introduction

We believe that the local Church is a democratic body, and that it is to do all things decently and in order. This constitution is a humanly devised guide to assist the church. We believe the Bible to be our sole source of faith and practice.

Article I - Name

The name of the Corporation is SOLID ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church."

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36- 40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

1. Reach Up (Worship) – "To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions." (John 4:24)
2. Reach Out (Evangelism) - "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world." (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9)
3. Reach In
 - a. (Education) - "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching." (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, Timothy 2:2)
 - b. (Fellowship) – "To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together." (I John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35)
 - c. (Ministry) - "To serve unselfishly in Jesus' name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, our community, and the world." (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13)

The Church seeks to benefit the people of the Genesee County Area by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, and cultural development. (Luke 2:52)

The Church is a charitable organization making distribution of food and clothing to its widows, orphans, and less fortunate as laid out in God's Holy Word.

Article III – Affiliation

This Church shall be an independent and autonomous organization that is self-governing. It shall never be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, and no denominational or associational representatives shall ever sit in judgment over its affairs.

The Church may fellowship and cooperate with other churches locally, nationally and internationally for the furtherance of the gospel in accordance with the scriptures.

Article IV – Membership

Section I – General

Membership in the Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

Section II - Qualifications for Membership

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class.
4. A commitment to abide by the membership covenant.

Section III – Reception of Member

1. Baptism in this Church – A person expressing their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior and obeying the Lord by following Him in baptism by immersion.
2. Letter of Transfer – A person desiring membership from another church of like faith and practice.
3. Statement of faith – A person coming to this Church and not able to receive a letter from a former church for various reasons, but having been saved and scripturally baptized in a church of like faith and practice.

Section IV – Status of Membership

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls shall be maintained. These rolls shall be updated periodically.

1. Active Members:
 - a. All members who reside within the Church's ministry area and are currently active in the Church.
 - b. All members who adhere to the membership covenant.
 - c. All members who have attended at least 50% of the weekend services during the previous six (6) months.
 - d. All members who are seasonal residents of the Church's ministry area shall become active members upon one (1) month of consistent attendance upon return.
2. Non Active Members:
 - a. Those who reside within the Church's ministry area but do not meet the above guidelines for Active membership.
3. Nonresident Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of moving out of the Church's ministry area and have not joined another church.

Section V – Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership covenant.

Section VI – Voting Rights of Membership

Every Active Member shall have the right to vote at the Annual Business Meeting and all Specially Called Business Meetings. Each Active Member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Section VII – Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. Personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

Section VIII – Restoration of Members

Members dismissed by the Senior Pastor and Deacon Board shall be restored by the Pastor and Deacon Board according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their lifestyles are judged to be in accordance with the membership covenant.

Article V – Membership Meetings

Section I – General Meetings

A general meeting of the members shall be held in January of each year at such time as determined by the Senior Pastor. This general meeting shall be the Annual Business Meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and to elect the Deacons. Subject to Section III of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

Section II – Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor for any purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section III of this Article. In the absence of the pastor, the Chairman of the Deacon Board may call a special meeting subject to Section III.

Section III – Notice Requirements for special meetings.

1. General Requirements. Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than one (1) week prior to a meeting. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter
 - c. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service
 - d. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll

2. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. Approval by the members of any of the following proposals is valid only if the notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:
 - a. Calling or removing the Senior Pastor
 - b. Amending the Articles of Incorporation
 - c. Adopting, amending or repealing Bylaws
 - d. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets
 - e. Adopting or amending a merger agreement
 - f. Approving the election to dissolve the Church
 - g. Approving the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness

Section IV – Presiding Officer

The Senior Pastor shall preside over all membership meetings, both general and special. In the event of the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor shall preside. In the event both the Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor are absent, the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall preside.

Section V – Records

Minutes will be taken during each membership meeting by a designated individual. All records may be reviewed upon request by active membership.

Section VI – Quorum

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

A 75% approval must be met by the quorum to pass any vote.

Article VI – Government

The government of this Church shall be vested in the Active Membership and executed through duly elected officers in accord with all the provisions of this Constitution.

Section I – Offices

The offices of this Church shall be Pastor and Deacon.

Section II - Qualifications of Officers

1. Pastor

The Pastor shall be a man who gives evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel and adherence to the Scriptural principles governing Church leadership. He shall be recognized as the God-appointed leader of the congregation.

The qualifications for a Pastor are found in I Timothy 3:1-8

2. Deacon

A Deacon shall be a servant to servants. He should display loyalty to both the church and to the Pastor.

The qualifications for a Deacon are found in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3

3. Special Note

These qualifications refer to a man's present life and in no way refer to past sins. If he has confessed all past sins they are forgiven and in no way disqualify him from holding office. This also refers to divorce. We do not hold divorce against a man anymore than lying, stealing, murder, or taking God's name in vain. All sins are forgiven and therefore in no way disqualify an individual from serving Christ.

Those who serve Christ as Deacon or Pastor must now be living a Christian life as is set forth in the scripture. The expression "The husband of one wife" in I Timothy 3:2 and 3:12 was dealing with the problem of polygamy that was prevalent in the New Testament days, and shall therefore not be understood as dealing with divorce in a person's past life.

Section III – Appointing of Officers

1. Pastor

The Church Deacon Board shall act as a Pulpit Committee to investigate possible candidates and arrange for them to speak at Sunday services. Investigation of a candidate shall include a questionnaire regarding training, pastoral experience, and qualifications mentioned above.

After the investigation process the Pulpit Committee will give a recommendation to the church for a potential candidate.

2. Deacon

A Deacon shall be recommended to the Pastor and Existing Deacons by the membership of the Church. The Senior Pastor and Existing Deacons will narrow down the recommendations to the number of open spots. The Senior Pastor will approach the final number of recommendations to see if they are willing. The Senior Pastor and Existing Deacon Board will then recommend to the church these men. The Church will then vote to approve these men individually by a secret ballot.

There shall be a minimum of three (3) deacons at any one time.

Section IV – Tenure of Officers

1. Pastor

The Senior Pastor's term of office shall be indefinite. He shall only be removed for scriptural reasons. A notice of sixty (60) days shall be given to terminate, with remuneration and services continuing through this period, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

In this case alone, the Deacon Board may call a special meeting of Deacons, with the notice of the Pastor, to discuss the termination of the Pastor.

Upon recommendation from the Deacon Board at a specially called business meeting in accordance with Article V Section III the Church may vote to terminate the Pastor's services.

2. Deacon

The term of a Deacon shall be three (3) years. After one (1) year off, they may be appointed again.

In the event of an office being vacated after the Annual Meeting, the Pastor and remaining members of the Board of Deacons may appoint a man to fill this office until the next Annual Meeting of the Church.

The Senior Pastor may terminate the services of a Deacon for scriptural reasons.

Section V – Responsibilities of Officers

1. Pastor

The Pastor, by virtue of his office of spiritual leader and shepherd of the flock, becomes a member of this Church, and his duties become those generally associated with his office, including the ministry of the Word, administration of the ordinances, and the care of the spiritual welfare of the members. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations of the Church.

The Pastor shall have the authority to hire and fire all paid staff.

The Pastor shall have the authority to select all ministry leadership positions.

The Pastor shall have the authority to call all Deacons meetings.

2. Deacon

The Deacons shall assist the Pastor in the spiritual work of the Church and act as advisors to the Pastor.

The Board of Deacons shall function for the Pastor in emergencies or when the Church has no Pastor.

The Deacons shall administer all business matters of the Church, shall function as Trustees in all legal transactions, and shall be responsible for all maintenance of all Church property.

They shall, with the Pastor, minister to the needy and supervise the benevolent funds of the Church.

Article VII - Ordinances

We recognize two ordinances of the Church for this age – the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism. They are not to be regarded, however, as a means of salvation, or as a means of grace by which special merit is obtained.

Section A – The Lord's Supper

This ordinance shall be observed as often as the Pastor shall decide. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are walking in fellowship with the Lord shall be welcome to join in this service.

Section B – Water Baptism

When administered by this Church, baptism shall be by immersion at the request of those who have personally acknowledged Christ as Savior. This ordinance shall be a requirement for membership in this Church (Acts 8:36-39; 10:47-48; I Corinthians 1:14-17).

Article VIII – Finances/Property

Section A - Expenditures

Expenditures in excess of \$1,000.00 must have congregational approval.

Section B – Designated Funds

Any temporary use of funds for purposes other than designated must have approval of the Deacon Board.

If the purpose for which funds have been previously designated is to be changed, it must be done with congregational approval.

Gifts designated through the Church for a specific purpose or person shall be so used, unless the donor approves a change. Otherwise, the gift shall be returned.

Section C - Title

The title to all property of this Church, both real and personal, shall be and remain vested in the corporation for the original purpose stated in Articles II and III of this Constitution.

Section D – Acquisition and Sale of Property

The Church shall have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purpose of the Church. All property so acquired shall be in the name of the Corporation.

Any sale, mortgage or transfer of real and personal property valued in excess of \$1,000.00 shall be approved by the Church at a scheduled membership meeting in accordance with Article V Section III.

Section E – Use of Property

All properties belonging to the Church shall be subject to regulation by the Pastor and available to the membership for purposes consistent with the ministry of the Church.

The Pastor or other representatives of the Deacon Board shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all properties owned by the Church.

Section D – Dissolution

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or officer of the corporation or to any private individual, and no donor, member, director, officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets. Upon dissolution any assets of the corporation must be distributed to a fundamental, Bible believing Baptist Church, by Church vote.

Article IX – Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws shall not be used to violate the spirit of love or the letter of the scripture. These are only so that the business of the Church may be conducted in an honorable and orderly way.

Amendment may be made to these, when it is deemed necessary by the Pastor and Deacons together, and must be approved by the Church a called business meeting according to Article V Section 3.

Article X – Articles of Faith

Section I – The Scriptures

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

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89,105,130,160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; Luke 16:31; 24:25-27,44-45; John 5:39,45-47; 12:48; 17:17; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Romans 3:4; 15:4; Ephesians 6:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; I Peter 1:23; II Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:19

Section II - The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; 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.

Genesis 17:1; Exodus 20:2-3; 15:11; Psalm 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:23; I Corinthians 12:10-11; 8:6; 12:4-6; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:6; Philippians 2:5-6; I Timothy 1:17; I John 5:7; Revelation 4:11

Section III - The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Genesis 1:13; Matthew 3:11; 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 3:16; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17,26; 15:26-27; 16:8-11,13; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans 8:14,16,26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; II Thessalonians 2:7,13; Hebrews 9:14; I Peter 1:2

Section IV - The Devil, Or Satan

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

Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 4:1-3; 13:25; 25:41; 27:39; Mark 13:21-22; Luke 22:3-4; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 11:13-15; I Thessalonians 3:5; II Thessalonians 2:8-11; I Peter 5:8; II Peter 2:4; I John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; II John 7; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11,16,20; 20:1-3,10

Section V - The Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 1:1,11,24,26-27; 2:21-23; Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 17:23-26; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6

Section VI - The Fall Of Man

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

Genesis 3:1-6,24; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:18,20,28,32; 3:10-19; 5:12,19; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1,3

Section VII - The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthews 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; I Corinthians 15:47; I John 5:20

Section VIII - The Atonement For Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the editorial offices of the Son of God, Who by 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 and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all sufficient Savior.

Isaiah 53:4-7,11-12; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; 10:18; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 9:12-15; 12:2

Section IX - Grace In The New Creation

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

Luke 5:27; John 1:12-13; 3:3,6-7; Acts 2:41; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5:17,19; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:1; 5:9; Colossians 2:13; I John 5:1

Section X - The Freeness Of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and 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.

Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28; John 3:15-18,36; 5:40; 6:37; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:29-30; 10:13; I Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Colossians 3:12; I Thessalonians 1:4; I Timothy 1:15; Titus 1:1; I Peter 1:2; Revelation 22:17

Section XI - 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 gift 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, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Isaiah 53:11; Habakkuk 2:4; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 4:1; 5:1-9; 8:1; Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 10:38

Section XII - Repentance And Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted 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 and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Psalms 51:1-4,7; Isaiah 55:6-7; Mark 1:15; Luke 12:8; 18:13; Acts 2:37-38; 20:21; Romans 10:9-11,13

Section XIII - The Church

We believe that a Baptist church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the divine and eternal grace; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures.

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions of men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the

leader of the home and men are to hold the leadership positions (pastors and deacons) in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible of licensure and ordination for pastor by the church.

We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Leviticus 27:31; Malachi 3:10; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; I Corinthians 5:11-13; 6:1-3; 11:2; 12:4,8-11; 16:1-2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-13

Section XIV - Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, 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 the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 3:6; 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12

Section XV - The Perseverance Of The 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 that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

Psalm 121:3; Matthew 6:20; 13:19-21; John 8:31-32; 10:28-29; 16:8; Romans 8:28,35-39; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 1:14; I Peter 1:5; I John 2:19

Section XVI - 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, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 11:31; 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:34; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21; 12:25; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 1:17; 6:16-18,23; 7:6; I Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 3:10; I Peter 4:18; I John 2:7,29; 5:19

Section XVII - Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; 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 coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Exodus 18:21-22; II Samuel 23:3; Psalm 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-14,17

Section XVIII - The Resurrection And Return Of Christ And Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "The third day according to the Scriptures"; that He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God"; "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," bodily, personally, and visibly; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first"; that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Psalm 72:8; Isaiah 11:4-5; Matthew 24:27,42; Matthew 28:6-7; Mark 16:6,19; Luke 1:32; Luke 24:2,4-6,39,51; John 14:3; John 20:27; Acts 1:9,11; I Corinthians 15:4; Philippians 4:20; I Thessalonians 4:16; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9; 8:1; 9:28; 12:2

Section XIX - Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15

Section XX - The Grace Of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Faith.

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe

- "Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils," and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the new Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "these ought ye to have done",.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

II Corinthians 8:7; I Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 7:2,4; Matthew 23:23; Leviticus 27:30; Malachi 3:10; Acts 4:34,35,37