

THE

CONSTITUTION

OF

ALASKA BAPTIST CHURCH

PART ONE: WHO WE ARE
PART TWO: WHAT WE BELIEVE
PART THREE: HOW WE DO MINISTRY

Adopted: 04-19-2009

Alaska Baptist Church
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This material has been developed for the use of the Alaska Baptist Church and is intended to serve as a summary statement describing who we are, what we believe, and how we plan to conduct ministry.

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Preamble

We, the members of the Alaska Baptist Church, as a body of baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ adopt for our government the following Constitution, and rescind all previous action contrary thereto.

PART ONE:

WHO WE ARE

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PART ONE: WHO WE ARE

Article 1 – Name

This church shall be known as the *Alaska Baptist Church*, Caledonia Michigan. The current mailing address of the Alaska Baptist Church is 7240 68th Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316-9525.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by: worshiping Almighty God in accordance to Holy Scripture; by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in the world after the pattern of the Great Commission; by faithfully teaching and instructing believers, encouraging the development of consistent Christian character; by promoting missionary/evangelistic enterprises at home and abroad; and by contributing to the growth and development of Christian fellowship, within the church and with others of like precious faith.

Article 3 – Doctrine

This church accepts the Bible (the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments) as its sole basis for doctrine and practice. The doctrinal statement provided in this Constitution is intended to summarize but not exhaust the doctrinal position of this local assembly. We are in agreement with the doctrinal statement published by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Article 4 - Polity

The government of this local assembly is vested in the body of believers who compose it and shall be ordered and regulated in accordance with Holy Scripture. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation common among Baptist churches.

Article 5 – Denomination

The ecclesiastical denomination with which we share a common doctrinal and political heritage is Baptist.¹ Alaska Baptist Church has been duly recognized as a Baptist Church by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, with whom we freely affiliate.²

Article 6 - Incorporation

Alaska Baptist Church of Alaska is incorporated in the State of Michigan and is recognized as a non-profit ecclesiastical organization by both Federal and State authorities and is subject to all the rules and regulations consistent with being a Non-profit Ecclesiastical Organization pursuant Act 054-1899 since September 13, 1934 (EIN 38-2503286).

Article 7 – Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon 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, angels, 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 comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotion to Christ; to educate our children in the things of Christ; to seek the salvation of our families and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to 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 each other in prayer; to aid each other 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 remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. (See also Part Two: Article 21)

PART TWO:

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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PART TWO: WHAT WE BELIEVE

The following doctrinal statement is intended to act as a summarization of what we believe and teach as a local church. Scripture references are listed by article and superscript number as endnotes (pages 35-42) of this document.

Article 1 – The Holy Scriptures

We believe in the divine inspiration and therefore, the absolute authority¹ and sufficiency² of Holy Scripture, consisting of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament³ and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament⁴ as originally written; that all Scripture is verbally (each word)⁵ and plenary (sum total of all the words) inspired of God;⁶ that it is the very product (i.e. breath) of God, produced through the instrumentality of men superintended by the Holy Spirit,⁷ and is therefore infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.⁸ Furthermore, we believe that the Bible is the completed revelation of God.⁹ As our properly basic belief, we believe the Bible to be a “God-breathed word” and therefore, absolute truth, constituting the normative standard for ethics/morality, the standard by which all human philosophies, conduct, creeds and opinions must be tried.¹⁰

Article 2 – The Triune God

We believe there is only one living and true God.¹ God is self-revealing (self-disclosing)² and sovereign,³ an eternal,⁴ infinite,⁵ immutable,⁶ Spirit,⁷ who is omnipotent,⁸ omniscient⁹ and omnipresent,¹⁰ the Creator and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth;¹¹ inexpressibly glorious in holiness,¹² righteousness,¹³ love¹⁴ and justice,¹⁵ worthy of all possible worship (adoration),¹⁶ honor,¹⁷ confidence¹⁸ and praise;¹⁹ that in the unity of the Godhead there are three uncreated, divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;²⁰ who are coeternal,²¹ coexistent (sharing a common consciousness),²² and coequal in every divine perfection²³ while executing distinct but harmonious offices (different function) in the great work of redemption.²⁴

Article 3 – God the Father

We believe that God the Father is an infinite, eternal, divine person, having no beginning and no ending, equal in power and glory with God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and partakes of the same divine essence (being) and nature (deity);¹ that He was active in creation, though not the expressed Agent;² that in His relation to the Trinity He is the first Person:³ the eternal Father of Jesus Christ,⁴ and (along with God the Son) is the eternal source of the Holy Spirit;⁵ and in relation to believers He is their everlasting heavenly Father;⁶ to whom we address our prayers,⁷ and from whose hand we receive every good and perfect gift.⁸

Article 4 – God the Son: Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son: an infinite, eternal, divine person, having no beginning and no ending,¹ equal in power and glory with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, partaking of the same divine essence (being) and nature (deity);² that He was the divine Agent in creation;³ that in His relation to the Trinity He is the second Person: the eternal Son of God and God the Son;⁴ that God the Father and God the Son are the eternal source from which the Holy Spirit proceeds;⁵ that in His relation to man He is the only Mediator⁶ between God and man and the only Savior of mankind;⁷ that He is God incarnate;⁸ that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin;⁹ that He was without sin (incapable of sinning) and lived a sinless life;¹⁰ and that His death was vicarious (to substitute for another) and expiatory (to fully satisfy or atone) on behalf of man.¹¹ We believe that Jesus Christ rose bodily from the dead three days after being crucified and buried in a tomb,¹² that He demonstrated Himself to be alive being seen for forty days by many witnesses;¹³ and that He ascended into Heaven¹⁴ and is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father where He intercedes¹⁵ on behalf of the believer.

Article 5 – God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is an infinite, eternal, divine person, having no beginning and no ending, equal in power and glory with God the Father and God the Son, partaking of the same divine essence (being) and nature (deity),¹ that He was active in the creation, though not the expressed Agent;² that in His relation to the Trinity, He is the third Person; that He eternally proceeds from God the Father and God the Son;³ that in relation to Jesus Christ – He bears testimony to His person and work;⁴ that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains evil until God's purpose is fulfilled;⁵ that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and of judgment;⁶ that He bears witness to the written, completed truth of the gospel expressed in preaching and witness;⁷ that He is the Agent in the new birth,⁸ and constitutes the sphere into which the Church is corporately baptized (united together in Christ);⁹ that His works include sealing,¹⁰ indwelling,¹¹ empowering,¹² giving gifts,¹³ guiding and teaching,¹⁴ illumining,¹⁵ bearing witnesses,¹⁶ sanctifying,¹⁷ helping, comforting¹⁸ and interceding¹⁹ on behalf of believers. Furthermore, we believe that there is a difference between being *filled with the Spirit* and having the *fullness of the Spirit*; that every believer receives from God the Holy Spirit in His *fullness* at salvation (when regenerated);²⁰ that the command to *be filled with the Spirit* is the individual responsibility of believers to walk in obedience to God, yielding fully to Him whereby the Spirit is able to control and empower them for service.²¹

Article 6 – Spiritual Gifts

We believe the purpose of all *supernatural gifts* (1 Corinthians 12:1-12) was to credential and identify the Apostles during the time interval between the ascension of Christ and the completion of the New Testament Canon; that all of the *supernatural gifts* were limited to the Apostles and to the Apostolic Age (2 Corinthians 12:12) and therefore, are not needed, necessary nor operative today.¹

We believe that all of the *gifts* listed in Romans 12 are *natural abilities* in contrast to the Apostolic, *supernatural gifts*; that they are distributed among all believers throughout the Church Age; that their successful exercise is dependent upon personal discipline and development on behalf of the believer, and that their purpose is the edification of the body of believers in the local church.²

We believe that the gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11-12 are to be distinguished from those listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 in that these *gifts* are “entity gifts.” They are divinely called *individuals*, namely, Apostles, and Prophets, Missionaries (i.e., Evangelists) and Pastor-teachers (i.e., Pastors/Elders); that these gifts are individuals whom God has called to minister in the local church; that the Apostles and Prophets were of the Apostolic Age; and that Missionaries and Pastor-teachers (i.e. Bishops: Elders/Pastors) are individuals called by God to minister in the church throughout the Church Age.³

Article 7 – Creation

We believe the biblical account of the creation of the material universe; that the biblical account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God (*ex nihilo*) without any evolutionary process.¹ We believe that everything that exists, that is not God, was created by God for His purpose and pleasure; and that apart from Him nothing could come into existence, has come into existence, nor could continue to exist.²

Article 8 – Angels

We believe that God individually created all angels as immortal, extraterrestrial, spirit beings;¹ that they are personal,² powerful³ and highly organized;⁴ that they were all originally created in a state of holiness;⁵ that when Lucifer (Satan) rebelled against God,⁶ a great host of angels followed after him in his defection;⁷ that consequently all angels were confirmed in their condition whether holy or unholy;⁸ that unholy angels (demons) constitute the demonic emissaries of Satan assisting him in his opposition to God, His work, and His people;⁹ that believers are warned against the danger of Satan's relentless effort to destroy them;¹⁰ that believers are commanded to take up the full armor (panoply) of God;¹¹ that Satan may be resisted¹² and temptation overcome through personal submission to the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God;¹³

that holy angels are the servants and ministers of God performing God's will and providing special care for believers.¹⁴ Furthermore, we believe that Satan and his angels (demons), are under the sovereign authority of God;¹⁵ and having been judged by God in the cross (death) of Jesus Christ,¹⁶ will be eternally confined to the Lake of Fire.¹⁷

Article 9 – The Devil: Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil;¹ that he is a finite created spirit being;² that he was originally created as Lucifer,³ but through pride and rebellion fell from his original angelic state and became the enemy of his Creator and all who are His children;⁴ that he is the unholy god of this age⁵ and the ruler of all the powers of darkness,⁶ the prince and the power of the air,⁷ and is the spirit that is operative in the disobedient;⁸ that Jesus Christ was manifested in order to destroy the works of the Devil;⁹ that the death of Jesus Christ secured his eternal condemnation; therefore he is destined for divine retribution and will spend eternity confined in the Lake of Fire.¹⁰

Article 10 – Man

We believe that God created man and that man (mankind) is not the product of an evolutionary process;¹ and was created in a state of creaturely righteousness and perfection, and in a state of conditional immortality,² having been created in the unmarred image and likeness of his Creator;² that Adam and Eve were the progenitors of the entire human race;³ that life begins at conception;⁴ that human life is to be valued above all other created forms of life;⁵ that God alone has the sovereign right to give and or to take human life;⁶ that the sixth commandment prohibits anyone from taking the life of another without divine sanction;⁷ and therefore elective abortion, suicide and any form of assisted suicide is morally wrong.⁸ Furthermore, we believe that by voluntary transgression, Adam rebelled against his Maker and fell from his sinless and happy state;⁹ that all mankind participated in Adam's rebellion and transgression and consequently share in Adam's condemnation whereby, apart from saving grace and faith, are deserving of condemnation, without defense or excuse;¹⁰ and is totally incapable of remedying their sinful state or reconciling themselves to God.¹¹

Article 11 – Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage is an institution ordained of God;¹ that marriage is to be a heterosexual, monogamous, intentionally lifelong, covenant relationship between a man and a woman;² that the one-flesh relationship of husband and wife is one of unity with a difference;³ that the husband, is to occupy a place of headship and the wife a place of helper,⁴ that their individual value is the same – having been created in the image and likeness of God;⁵ that marriage is the proper context for raising children and that parents are to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord⁶ by teaching them the Word of God⁷ and by mentoring them in the Christian life;⁸ and that children are to honor and obey their parents.⁹ Furthermore, we believe that believers should not marry non-believers.¹⁰

Article 12 – Divorce

We believe that although God intended marriage to be a permanent, lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman,¹ that divorce is a moral option for those who suffer at the hands of an unrepentant spouse guilty of committing flagrant, marriage-covenant-breaking acts against them;² that in the sight of God, acts of sexual infidelity and unfaithfulness, physical and emotional abuse, and neglect and abandonment of one spouse against another are considered adulterous acts and therefore, may be considered as moral grounds for divorce.³ For divorce that resulted from the kinds of immoral acts listed above, the innocent person in the divorce has a moral right to remarry another morally eligible person. The person guilty of committing such adulterous acts is to be considered culpable for the divorce, and therefore, does not have the moral right to remarry.⁴ Furthermore, we believe that God is merciful, and abundant in His grace toward us and that those who for hardness of heart toward their spouse either divorced or were

divorced may upon sincere repentance, secure God's forgiveness⁵ and evidencing the fruits of repentance regain the moral right to remarry.⁶

Article 13 – The Plan of Salvation

We believe God created all things, including man, for His glory, purpose and pleasure;¹ that man was created with the emotional, intellectual and volitional ability² to live in fellowship with God, to walk with Him, serve Him faithfully, to enjoy Him and to be the special object of God's love.³ However, because of man's willful defection from God and his disobedience to the command of God, man lost (fell from) his original place of fellowship and communion with God, and sin now separated him from God.⁴ All the evil, pain and suffering, and all the injustice in the world today is predicated upon man's defection from God and the inevitable effect of sin and sinful beings in the world today.⁵ Though man defected from God, God nonetheless, has set His heart upon man, desiring that all men (mankind) be reconciled to Him.⁶ The heart and love of God for man was expressly demonstrated in Jesus Christ, who came into the world to redeem man, by paying the price for man's sin; making it possible for man to be restored to favor and fellowship with God.⁷ This divine act of love was demonstrated in the voluntary, substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross.⁸ God who is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus,⁹ has provided and offers eternal salvation for as many as will come to Him, repent of their sins and accept Him as their Savior and Lord.¹⁰

Article 14 - Grace and Salvation

We believe salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone;¹ that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial office of Jesus Christ;² that by His substitutionary death on the cross He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin;³ that repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation;⁴ that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith;⁵ and that saving faith is expressed by a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.⁶

Article 15 – Regeneration and the New Birth

We believe that in order to become a Christian (saved), sinners must be born again;¹ that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus;² that it is instantaneous and not a process;³ that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins receives everlasting life from God;⁴ that regeneration (new life) is brought about by the Holy Spirit the moment one believes in Jesus Christ;⁵ that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth.⁶ Furthermore, we believe that proper evidence of the new birth appears in the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit, faith, good works and newness of life.⁷

Article 16 – Justification and Security of the Believer

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God, whereby He declares the believer righteous in His sight, based upon the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ;¹ that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely by grace through faith in His substitutionary death on the cross;² that forgiveness of sins past, present and future is secured in and through His once-for-all sacrifice for sin;³ that there is therefore no condemnation (judgment) remaining against the believer.⁴ Furthermore, we believe that all who are truly born again⁵ are completely (fully) saved⁶ and forever secured (kept)⁷ in their salvation by the power of God the Father for Jesus Christ.⁸

Article 17 – Sanctification and Conversion

We believe that *sanctification* is the divine setting apart (Lit., "to make central") of the believer unto God, fully and permanently accomplished at the moment of salvation;¹ that *conversion* is a personal and

progressive experience of every believer throughout one's Christian life, brought about through the providential work of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with the Word of God, whereby the believer is progressively conformed (converted) into the image of Jesus Christ.² Furthermore, we believe that this conversion process is guaranteed to be perfected (completed), subsequent to death, at which time every believer will experience their full adoption as sons of God.³

Article 18 – The Church

We believe that the New Testament Church is composed of local organized congregations of immersed believers, and is not Judaism continued and enlarged; that each local congregation is to be associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ;¹ governed by His laws and exercising the abilities, rights and privileges vested in them by His Spirit and His Word;² that there are two offices: Bishop (Elder/Pastor)³ and Deacon,⁴ whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the purpose of the local church is to include meeting together on a regular basis for corporate worship of God in accordance with Holy Scripture; to nurture believers through various discipleship ministries and communal fellowships encouraging one another in the Christian life;⁵ and to faithfully bear witness of Jesus Christ to all men, throughout the world as we have opportunity.⁶ We also believe that each local church has the responsibility of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations;⁷ that it is mutually beneficial for churches of like faith and practice to fellowship together as brothers and sisters and fellow-laborers in Christ for the glory of Christ, the encouragement of believers and the furtherance of the gospel.⁸

Article 19 - The Priesthood of the Believer

We believe in the priesthood of every believer;¹ that every born-again believer is a priest of God and may enter into His presence² through Jesus Christ;³ that with the help of the Holy Spirit, every believer has the privilege and responsibility to study,⁴ understand⁵ and obey the commands of God revealed in the Scriptures.⁶

Article 20 – Two Ordinances: Believers' Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water,¹ as a solemn and beautiful emblem of identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life;² that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church,³ and that it is a reasonable prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.⁴ Furthermore, we believe the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated, as often as desired by the Lord's people;⁵ that it is a solemn commemoration of our Lord's death; and that it should be preceded by solemn self-examination.⁶

Article 21 – Separation: Personal and Ecclesiastical

We believe in obedience to the biblical command to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness¹ and ecclesiastical apostasy,² that we are to live moral and upright lives as the children of God³ and ambassadors of Jesus Christ;⁴ that we are to abstain from all forms of sexual immorality,⁵ including all premarital⁶ and extramarital⁷ sexual relationships and all forms of homosexual behavior;⁸ that we should possess our bodies in sanctification and honor;⁹ that drunkenness,¹⁰ abusive use of prescription drugs and or the use of illicit drugs are strictly forbidden in Scripture.¹¹ Furthermore, we believe that the local church as a corporate representative of Christ has a solemn responsibility to separate herself from other ecclesiastical groups which do not hold to the fundamentals of the Christian faith, and or by whose fellowship would require us as a church to compromise our stand for Christ as we understand to be the teaching of Scripture.¹²

Article 22 – Future Things: Eschatology

We believe in the secret pre-tribulational return (Rapture) of Jesus Christ for His Bride the Church, an imminent event at which time the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and both resurrected and raptured saints will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air,¹ being spared the coming wrath of the Tribulation;² that at the *Judgment Seat of Christ* the works, words, thoughts and motives of service rendered by believers to Jesus Christ will be examined by Him, resulting in gain or loss of reward.³ We believe in the pre-millennial return (Revelation) of Jesus Christ in power and great glory, being accompanied by His saints, He will bring to a close the Great Tribulation period;⁴ that He will judge the nations of the earth,⁵ bind and cast Satan to the abyss,⁶ and establish His Millennial Kingdom upon the earth⁷ whereby He will fulfill all the prophecies associated with the Abrahamic Covenant to Israel as a nation;⁸ that after the thousand-year reign of Christ (Millennial Kingdom), Satan will be loosed for a short time⁹ and will instigate and lead the nations of the earth in a final worldwide rebellion against Christ;¹⁰ that judgment will come from heaven in the form of fire whereby all those in rebellion will be consumed;¹¹ and that immediately following that judgment by fire, the lost (non-believers) from all ages will be summarily resurrected to stand before the Lord Jesus at the *Great White Throne*,¹² at which time they will all be judged according to their works¹³ and condemned. Furthermore, they shall all be cast into the *Lake of Fire*¹⁴ along with Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet;¹⁵ and that there shall be no end to their confinement and torment.¹⁶

Article 23 – The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked;¹ that only those who are justified by faith in Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit of our God are truly righteous;² that all such as continue in unrepentance and unbelief are wicked in His sight and deserving of condemnation.³ Furthermore, we believe that this distinction holds among men both in and after death,⁴ in the everlasting felicity of the saved⁵ and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire.⁶

Article 24 – Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the wellbeing and good order of human society; to restrain evil and punish lawbreakers;¹ that believers are to fulfill their tax obligation to governmental authorities;² that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed,³ except in those things opposed to the will of Jesus Christ as revealed in Scripture.⁴

PART THREE:

HOW WE DO MINISTRY

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PART THREE: HOW WE DO MINISTRY

(Church Polity: Bylaws)

The following statement of governing bylaws have been adopted in order to direct the development of Christian ministry in this church and reflects our biblical understanding of the divine mission of the Church as taught in Scripture.

Article 1 – Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who profess faith in Christ as their personal Savior, give evidence of a change of heart, who have been baptized by immersion, agree with the doctrinal position of this church and are willing to cooperate as a body together in accordance with this Constitution. No person will be received into membership while a member of a secret society or lodge.

Section 2 – Application

All applications for membership shall be made to the church office. Upon successful completion of the membership application process, the Board of Deacons shall review and recommend them to the members of the church for approval.

Section 3 – Admission

Members may be received into the church by a majority vote, at any regular or special business meeting of the church. Membership shall begin at the time of the church vote. Public acknowledgment of the vote shall be made during a Lord's Day Morning Worship Service .

Section 4 – Responsibilities

Membership is always accompanied by responsibility. The New Testament is filled with the instruction regarding the work and responsibilities of the local church. Members of Alaska Baptist Church are expected to use their talents, abilities and opportunities for Christian service as God provides them, for His glory, the building up of fellow believers and evangelizing the lost. Members will also be expected to attend the services of the church and faithfully support the work of the church through prayer and their giving toward the expenses of the church.

Section 5 – Discipline of Members

The following conditions merit the investigation and consultation of the Pastor and Board of Deacons. All matters of discipline shall be prayerfully considered and conducted in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-20.

- A. Members who fail to attend the services of the church over an extended period of time should be pursued by the Pastor(s) or deacons to determine why they have shown a lack of interest in the church. Once a year, the deacons shall review the membership list and those members who have willfully absented themselves from the services of the church for six (6) months or more shall be reclassified as Inactive members. Members who remain inactive for an extended period of time may be removed from the membership by recommendation of the deacons and approval of the membership. Exceptions should be made in regard to serious illness, the elderly, students away at school, missionaries, and those in the military.
- B. In the case of open and aggravated personal differences of members of the church, the Board of Deacons shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences as laid down in Matthew 18:15-17. Only after this step is taken shall a matter be brought before the church for settlement. In the event that a matter should arise between members which cannot be resolved in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-17, members shall submit their concern, in writing, to the Pastor(s) and the Board Chairman for deliberation and direction.

- C. Discipline of members whose transgressions jeopardize the spiritual life of the church shall be at the discretion of the pastor(s) and the Board of Deacons. Any person being so disciplined shall have the right of appeal to the church. Charges, when made, shall be in writing and shall be submitted to the deacons for proper disposition to the church. Person under discipline shall be informed by mail of the charges made against them and of their right to appear before the Board (and if necessary before the church) to respond to the charges having been made. If the accused fails to appear the church may proceed, the church's only final form of discipline is exclusion from church membership. If this is done, a statement of the exclusion, including reasons, shall be presented to the excluded member by registered/certified mail.
- D. A member under discipline is automatically released from any office or position, cannot speak at business meetings, except at his hearing, and is deprived the right to vote.
- E. An excluded member can be received back into fellowship after repentance and public confession of the sin and following the constitutional procedure for being admitted. Restoration to church membership does not automatically restore one to an office held prior to one's dismissal.

Section 6 – Associate Membership

Temporary residents and/or home-based missionaries who are members in good standing of churches whose doctrinal views are in accord with this church may, upon recommendation of the deacons and favorable vote of the church, be accepted as Associate Members. Associate members shall have all privileges of membership except those of voting or holding the office of Deacon in the church.

Article 2 – Meetings

Section 1 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall be April 1 through March 31.

Section 2 – Sunday Services

The Pastor(s) and deacons shall be responsible for the scheduling and developing of weekly services of the church. Regularly scheduled Sunday services of the church shall be held for the purpose of worshiping God, giving of praise, offering of prayer, proclamation of the gospel, Bible study and Christian fellowship.

Section 3- Ministry Programs

The pastor(s) and deacons shall be responsible for the development and scheduling of meaningful purpose-driven programs focused upon the overall discipleship, encouragement and fellowship of the church. All programs and/or ministries shall be reviewed regularly for the purpose of developing and maintaining an effective Christian education ministry of the church.

Section 4 – Special Services

The Pastor(s) and the Worship and Service ministry team along with the assistance of deacons and related ministry teams shall be responsible for developing and scheduling various Special Services for the purpose of encouraging and contributing to the overall spiritual growth of the church by promoting missions, evangelism, marriage, spiritual renewal, personal stewardship and discipleship.

Section 5 - Annual Budget Meeting

An Annual Budget Meeting shall be scheduled previous to the beginning of the fiscal year – April 1st. The purpose of this meeting will be to present and to approve a budget before the new fiscal year begins. A two-

week public notification (including at least one Sunday Morning Worship Service) shall be given prior to the meeting.

Section 6 - Annual Business Meeting

An Annual Business Meeting shall be scheduled during the month of April. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be to: (1) elect/appoint deacons, (2) give a report of the previous year's ministry activity, (3) to approve and publish adjustments to the church membership list.

Section 7 - Quarterly Business Meetings

Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held during the months of July, October, and January. A two-week public notification (including at least one Sunday Morning Worship Service) shall be given prior to these meetings. All business to be transacted at Quarterly Business Meetings must be announced at least two weeks prior to these meetings. The Annual Business Meeting shall supersede the fourth (April) Quarterly Business Meeting of the church.

Section 8 – Special Business Meetings

A Special Business Meeting may be called by the pastor, the majority of the Deacon Board or twenty-five (25%) percent of the voting membership of the church asking for the same by written petition, providing notice of the meeting is read at two (2) services one Sunday in advance of the meeting along with the express nature of the business to be addressed. No business shall be transacted other than that for which the meeting has been called to address.

Article 3 – Polity (Governance)

Section 1 – Moderator

The Senior Pastor shall preside over the Business Meetings of the church, except in matters considered in which he is personally involved. In the absence of the Pastor, or in such instances in which he is personally involved and therefore yields his position as moderator, the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall be appointed as the moderator.

Section 2 - Rules Governing Business Meetings

Items of business to be brought to the church shall be submitted to the Senior Pastor and to the Board of Deacons in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to the business meeting for review, approval and for proper notification of the same to the church membership.

Section 3 - Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote on the business of the church one must be an Active Member in good standing and at least eighteen (18) years old.

Section 4 - Majority Rule

All church business transacted requires a fifty-one (51%) percent majority vote of members present and voting, unless otherwise stated in this constitution, or a greater vote if desired by express vote of the majority in a business session.

Section 5 - Quorum Requirements

Ten percent (10 %) of the voting membership of the church shall be considered a quorum for any business transacted.

Section 6 - Rules of Order

Questions of order shall be settled by the customary rules governing deliberating bodies, as given in *Robert's Rules of Order*, excepting where said rules are contrary to this Constitution.

Section 7 – Parliamentarian

The Chairman of the Board shall act as the Parliamentarian in all matters in which parliamentary procedure is questioned or consulted.

Article 4 – Pastor(s):

The term Pastor [and or Elder] as used in this Article and throughout this Constitution refers to the man/men who fill the New Testament office of Bishop in this church.

Section 1 – Nature and Purpose

The biblical nature and purpose of the office of Bishop (Elder and/or Pastor) are summarized in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; and Titus 1:5-9. Accordingly, Elders (Overseers/Pastors) are to be Spirit-filled, servant-minded men, recognized (ordained or licensed) by the church as men called by God and given by Christ to the church in order to provide leadership, spiritual guidance and to minister the Word of God.

Section 2 – Qualifications

The biblical qualifications of pastors are those given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

Section 3 – General Responsibilities

- A. The pastor(s)'s responsibilities are, according to the Scriptures, the giving of himself to prayer, the ministry of the Word, the administration of the ordinances, the pastoral oversight of the flock, and the general guidance of the spiritual welfare of the church.
- B. In addition to his usual pastoral responsibilities, the Senior Pastor shall be moderator at all Business Meetings of the church except in matters considered in which he is personally involved. He shall be an *ex-officio* member of all ministry teams of the church. He shall have the privilege of requesting that meetings of the Board and/or ministry teams be called when deemed necessary.
- C. Personnel of the church whose work is of a spiritual/ministerial nature (i.e., Associate and/or Assistant Pastors, Administrative Assistants and Secretaries) shall be under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor.

Section 4 – Call and Appointment

The office of Bishop is to be occupied by men called of God and recognized by the church (ordained or licensed) to lead and oversee the ministries of the church. Those called and appointed to serve as Pastors (Elders) should be highly regarded for their work's sake, as those who will ultimately give an account of

their stewardship to the Lord. Therefore, the office should not be lightly formed nor rudely severed. The church shall choose their Pastor(s) as hereinafter provided:

- A. Search Team: In the event that the pastoral office is vacated, an *ad hoc* Pulpit Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons and shall be responsible for seeking out viable pastoral candidate(s), who meets the above stated qualifications and to make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Deacons.
- B. Deacon Interview: The *Board of Deacons* shall consider the recommendation of the *Pulpit Committee*, schedule and convene an interview(s) with the candidate.
- C. Speaking Engagements: Upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee and the approval of the Board of Deacons, at least two (2) speaking engagements shall be scheduled, including at least one Lord's Day Worship Service, by which approved candidates can speak to and have opportunity to meet the members of the church.
- D. Church Vote: The Board of Deacons shall recommend to the church membership one pastoral candidate at a time. The Pastor shall be selected (elected) by the congregation in a duly scheduled Special Business Meeting for which announcement and order of business has been freely made by a public reading during at least two Sunday Morning Services prior to the meeting, and/or each member shall be notified by mail at least seven days prior to the scheduled Special Business Meeting calling for an election.
- E. Required Vote: To approve a motion of the Board of Deacons to extend a call to a prospective pastoral candidate, the motion must be approved by a minimum three-fourths (3/4 %) majority of the qualified members present and voting.
- F. Extending a Call: Upon the approval of the church to extend a call to a particular candidate, the Chairman of the Board shall contact the candidate and inform him of the vote of the church. The Board shall appoint an ad hoc committee of Deacons to represent the church in the process of developing and negotiating a reasonable, comprehensive compensation plan which may be offered to the candidate. The plan once developed shall be presented to the Board for approval. Upon the approval of the Board, the Chairman of the Board, acting on behalf of the church, shall present to the candidate, the proposed compensation plan along with a current Job Description and respectfully request the candidate's prayerful consideration of the Lord's leading in the matter.

Section 5 – Dismissal of a Pastor

- A. Resignation of a Pastor: In the event that a Pastor determines the leading of the Lord away from his present ministry, he shall present his resignation, in writing, to the Board, and shall give the church at least one month's notice of his leaving. These terms may be revised by mutual agreement
- B. Termination of a Pastor: A Pastor may be terminated by three fourths (3/4) vote of the church at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. The severance terms shall be determined by the Board of Deacons, subject to approval of the church.

Article 5 – Deacon(s)

The term Deacon as used in this Article and throughout this Constitution refers to the man/men who fill the New Testament office of Deacon in this church.

Section 1 – Nature and Purpose of Deacons

The biblical nature and purpose of the office of Deacon are summarized in Acts 6:1-6. Accordingly, Deacons are to be Spirit-filled, servant-minded men, appointed by the church to assist the Pastors (Elders) in the development and enactment of ministry.

Section 2 – Qualifications

The biblical qualifications for Deacons are summarized in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Accordingly, Deacons are to be godly men, demonstrating personal moral integrity and consistency in the managing of a Christian marriage and home. In keeping with the generalized qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, to be eligible for the office of Deacon one must be a male, married, at least twenty-one (21) years old and an Active Member of the church for at least one year.

Section 3 – Organization

The Board of Deacons, under the leadership and guidance of the Pastor(s), shall assist the Pastor(s) in the administrative and spiritual responsibilities of the church. The only executive board of the church shall be comprised of the sum total of Deacons, serving together with the Pastor(s) (also referred to as the Church Board, the Board and/or the Deacon Board).

Section 4 – Board Officers

As part of the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following the Annual Business Meeting of the church, the Board shall elect from their number a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Section 5 – General Responsibilities

The general responsibilities of Deacons and/or of the Deacon Board shall include: (1) Serving as Trustees: (2) Appointing Church Officers: Each year the Deacons shall appoint from among the Deacons and/or from the Active Membership of the church qualified, willing individuals to fill the responsibilities of: Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and a Financial Secretary; (3) Appointing/Approving Ministry Teams: Each year the Board shall determine and appoint/approve various teams and their members, as necessary to meet the needs of the ministries of the church; (4) Appointing Ministry Team Liaisons: Each year the pastor(s), and the Board shall assign/appoint Deacons to the various teams of the church; (5) Attending Monthly Meetings: The pastor(s) along with the Board Chairman shall plan and schedule monthly meetings of the Board to pray for and to direct the business and spiritual matters of the church; (6) Encouraging the Pastor(s): Deacons shall take responsibility for caring for and encouraging the Pastor(s) of the church; (7) Disbursing Benevolent Funds: The Pastor(s) along with the Deacons shall be responsible for the use and disbursement of the Benevolent Fund of the church; and (8) Appointing Messengers: As the need arises, the Board shall have the responsibility of appointing an appropriate number of delegates (messengers), to represent the church at Association meetings, church councils, or other occasions which require representation. Messengers do not have authority to bind or commit this church by any of their actions while acting as messengers; (9) Approving Policies: The pastor(s) and deacons shall be responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing church policies and ministries.

Section 6 – Appointment

- A. Nominating Committee: The Board shall appoint an *ad hoc* committee composed of the Board Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and at least two other, non-Board, Active Members of the church, to function as a Nominating Committee. They shall compile a list of

qualified candidates from the Active Membership of the church to be submitted to the Pastor(s) and the Board seeking their approval.

- B. Pastoral and Deacon Approval: The list of nominees shall be reviewed and/or adjusted by the Pastor(s) and/or Deacons in order to approve a final list.
- C. Nominees Contacted: All approved nominees shall be contacted by representatives of the Nomination Committee for the purpose of discussing the importance and function of Deacons, to answer general questions regarding Deacon service and to encourage the nominee to prayerfully consider accepting their nomination.
- D. Public Notice: The names of all candidates accepting nomination shall be recorded and announced publicly, at least two weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting calling for their election.
- E. Church Approval: A majority vote of each nominee shall be necessary to be appointed to the office of Deacon. Nominees shall be voted upon individually by secret ballot.

Section 7 – Number and Term of Service

- A. Number of Deacons: We shall seek to have a minimum of nine (9) Deacons, or as many as are qualified and willing to serve.
- B. Term of Service: Deacons will be expected to serve single terms of three years, beginning May 1 following their appointment. Deacons will be permitted to serve two consecutive three-year terms after which they will be required to go off the Board for one year before being eligible again for re-appointment.

Section 8 – Meetings

- A. The Board of Deacons shall schedule regular monthly meetings for the purpose of prayer and consideration of the spiritual welfare of the church, and for executing the responsibilities delegated to them by the church body.
- B. A special meeting of the Board of Deacons may be called at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and/or Board Chairman.

Section 9 – Quorum

A simple majority of the members of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum to do church business.

Article 6 – Church Officers

Section 1 – Church Officers

Each year the Board of Deacons shall appoint qualified individuals to serve as Church Officers: Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Financial Secretary. For legal purposes, the Senior Pastor shall act as President and the Deacons shall function as the Trustees of the church.

Section 2 – Eligibility and Limitations

To be eligible to serve as an officer of the church one must be Active Member for at least one year, twenty-one years old or older and have a positive Christian testimony. No member shall hold more than one appointed office at a time.

Section 3 – Term of Service

Officers shall be appointed to serve on an annual basis. Their term of service shall begin May 1 following the Annual Business Meeting (April).

Section 4 – General Responsibilities

- A. Church Clerk: The general responsibilities of the church clerk shall include: (1) maintaining an accurate, permanent record of all business meetings of the church, (2) maintaining an accurate record of all baptisms, (3) maintaining a current up-to-date record of the membership of the church, (4) preparing and presenting the minutes of all business meetings, (5) acting as the secretary during the business meetings of the church.
- B. Church Treasurer: The general responsibilities of the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer shall include: (1) keeping a clear, accurate and permanent record of all regular receipts and disbursements of the church except those handled by the Financial Secretary, (2) the disbursing of funds (by check only) authorized by church budget and/or church vote, (3) shall be a member of the Finance ministry team, (4) preparing and submitting a financial report for each month, to the board and a summary report of the completed fiscal year at the Annual Meeting
- C. Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer shall cooperate with and assist the Treasurer as necessary in the financial accounting of the church. The Assistant Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance ministry team.
- D. Financial Secretary: The general responsibilities of the financial secretary shall include: (1) counting and depositing of all monies received by the church, (2) maintaining an accurate, permanent record of all monies received by the church, (3) maintaining confidential records of all tithes and offerings of which the giver(s) is known, (4) participating as a member of the Finance Committee, (5) preparing and dispersing of receipts of sums of monies given to the church at the end of each calendar year.

Sections 5 – Vacancies

The Board shall appoint temporary replacement officers to serve the un-expired term of an officer who for various reasons was unable to complete their term of service.

Article 7 – Ministry Teams

Section 1 – Appointment

Each year the Pastor(s) and the deacons shall determine and approve various Ministry Teams of the church, deemed necessary for the effective enactment of the ministries of the church. It shall furthermore be the responsibility of the Pastor(s) and Deacons to determine an appropriate number of members for each team and to appoint/approve qualified, willing individuals to each.

Section 2 – Standing Ministry Teams

All Ministry Teams are servants of the Lord and this church and are organized to assist the pastor(s) and deacons in the development and enactment of the ministries of the church. By Standing Ministry Teams it is meant those perennial teams, which have been established by the deacons, along with their respective purpose and organizational structure and are considered basic and essential to the organizational structure of the ministry of the church.

Section 3 - Ad hoc Ministry Teams

By *Ad hoc Ministry Teams* we mean those ministry teams, which are temporary in nature due to the nature of their assignments. As the need arises, the Pastor and the deacons may establish *ad hoc* ministry teams along with a clear purpose and a particular time frame within to conduct their activities. Once their stated purpose has been achieved or the time limitation for their appointment expires they shall summarily be dissolved. Some of the more commonly formed *ad hoc* ministry teams include: Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, Search Committee and various Steering Committees. There shall be at least one deacon appointed to each of the *ad hoc* ministry teams.

Article 8 – Licensing and Ordination

Section 1 – Licensing

It shall be within the power of Board to license men who are either serving in or pursuing vocational ministry, and/or are distinguished and singled out of the congregation to function as lay-ministers of the church. Licensure shall cease upon change of membership status.

Section 2 – Ordination

It shall be within the power of this church to recognize and to ordain into the Gospel Ministry those men whom God has called and equipped for vocational ministry. The church shall have the authority to call and convene an ordination council for the purpose of examining an individual and making an appropriate recommendation to the church. The church shall have the authority to issue proper credentials to those ordained. Furthermore, it shall also be the responsibility of the church to revoke the ordination credentials of any minister ordained by this church if it can be demonstrated that he is in violation of the moral standard of God's Word and/or he no longer holds to the theological position affirmed by this church.

Article 9 – Missions and Missionaries

Section 1 - Purpose

It shall be the policy of this church to promote and support missionary ventures at home and abroad. The missionary ministry team shall seek to develop a positive enthusiastic missionary program within the church, encouraging participation in the development of a missionary program and personal awareness of the needs and activities of the missionaries supported.

Section 2 - Eligibility

Eligibility for support shall require the missionary(s) and/or the board or agency which they choose to affiliate be in agreement with the core fundamental beliefs of this church as represented by the doctrinal statement (see PART TWO: WHAT WE BELIEVE pages 13-20) and the Missionary Policy of this church.

Article 10 – Emergency Procedures

Section 1 – Natural or National Disaster

In the event of a natural or national disaster or political upheaval, the church shall strive to continue to faithfully fulfill its biblical responsibilities and its purpose in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Section 2 – Business Meetings

If it should become impossible to hold business meetings at stated times and places, the Pastor(s) or chairman of the Board of Deacons shall call meetings at the most feasible times and places. Notice of such meetings shall be furnished to as many members as possible. A quorum shall consist of those members present.

Section 3 –Constitutional Adherence

During extreme adverse times, no constitutional Bylaw shall be legalistically followed if it hinders the effective administration of the church.

Article 11 – Disposition of Property

In the event of the dissolution of this church (corporation), all of its debts will be fully satisfied. None of its assets or holdings shall be divided among the members or other individuals, but shall be irrevocably designated by corporate vote prior to dissolution to such other nonprofit religious organization(s) as are in agreement with the doctrinal position adopted by this church (see PART TWO: WHAT WE BELIEVE pages 13-20) and in conformity with all appropriate legal requirements.

Article 12 – Amendment Process

Section 1 – Amending Part One: Who We Are

Part One: Who We Are of this Constitution may only be amended at the Annual Business Meeting of the church by a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the amendment.

Section 2 – Amending Part Two: What We Believe

Part Two: What We Believe of this Constitution may only be amended at the Annual Business Meeting of the church by a minimum of three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present and voting on the amendment. The membership should move very slowly, cautiously and prayerfully when considering amending the Doctrinal Statement of this church.

Section 3 – Amending Part Three: How We Do Ministry

Part Three: How We Do Ministry of this Constitution may only be amended at the Annual Business Meeting of the church by majority vote (51%) of the members present and voting on the amendment.

ENDNOTES

PART ONE: WHO WE ARE

Article 5 – Denomination (p.11)

¹ Alaska Baptist Church is appropriately classified as a Baptist church because we hold with conviction the following basic characteristics (doctrinally and politically) which have been historically distinctive of Baptist churches.

Biblical Authority: The supremacy, accuracy and authority of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Autonomy: The local church is an independent body accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church (Colossians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Priesthood of all Believers: Every believer today is a priest of God and may enter into His presence in prayer directly through our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 5:9-10).

Two Ordinances: Baptism of believers by immersion in water, identifying the individual with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 28:19-20); 2) the Lord's Supper, or communion, commemorating His death for our sins (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

Individual Soul Liberty: Every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the right (liberty) to choose what he believes is right in the religious realm (Romans 14:5,12; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 1:9).

Saved (Regenerate) Church Membership: Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a believable testimony of personal faith in Christ and have publicly identified themselves with him in believer's baptism (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:3).

Two Offices: Two Offices: The Bible mandates only two offices in the church – *bishop elder/pastor* and *deacon* (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 20:17-38; Philippians 1:1).

Separation of Church and State: Separation of Church and State: God established both the church and the civil government, and He gave each its own distinct sphere of operation- the government (Romans 13:1-7) and the Church (Matthew 28:19-20).

² Alaska Baptist Church is presently affiliated with the national fellowship of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC), on the state level with the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches (MARBC), and regionally with the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GRARBC).

PART TWO: WHAT WE BELIEVE

Article 1 – The Holy Scriptures (p.15)

¹ Inspiration and authority of Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Psalm 119:89.

² Sufficiency of Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:105,130.

³ 39 Old Testament books: Old Testament was recognized by the New Testament writers – Matthew 23:34-35; (The Synod of Jamnia A.D. 90 constituted the Jewish recognition of the same 39 books as Scripture).

⁴ 27 New Testament books: New Testament Apostles claimed divine authority for their writings – 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; (The Council of Carthage A.D. 397 listed the 27 N.T. books as canonical) – Note: The Bible is self-authenticating, Jewish Synod and/or the Christian Church Council have only recognized the authority inherent the books themselves.

⁵ Verbal (each word) inspiration: Exodus 20:1; 24:4; Matthew 4:4; 24:35.

⁶ Plenary (sum total) inspiration: 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:160.

⁷ Holy Spirit (Providentially) superintended: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.

⁸ Infallibility and inerrancy: Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.

⁹ Complete canon: Revelation 22:18-19.

¹⁰ Absolute, objective standard of truth: John 17:17; 12:47-48; Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

Article 2 – The Triune God (p.15)

¹ Only one true God: Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29-30; John 17:3; 1 Timothy 2:5.

² Self-revealing (self-disclosing): Hebrews 1:1-2.

³ Sovereignty of God: Ephesians 1; Isaiah 40:13-14.

⁴ Eternality of God: Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2; John 1:1.

⁵ Infinite: 1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24.

⁶ Immutability: James 1:17.

⁷ Spirit: John 4:24.

⁸ Omnipotent: Revelation 19:6; Psalm 139:13-18.

⁹ Omniscient: Psalm 139:1-6; Matthew 11:21.

¹⁰ Omnipresent: Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24.

¹¹ Creator and Ruler of heaven and earth: Genesis 1:1.

¹² Holy: Psalm 99:3; Isaiah 6:3; Ezekiel 39:7; 1 John 1:5.

¹³ Righteous: Psalm 11:7; 19:9; 116:5; 119:37; 145:17; John 17:25; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 16:5.

¹⁴ Love: 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 John 4:8, 16.

¹⁵ Just (justice): Romans 3:26; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:9.

¹⁶ Worthy of worship: Exodus 3:12; 12:31; Deuteronomy 6:13; Psalm 2:11; John 4:23-24; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 4:10; 14:7; 15:4; 22:9.

¹⁷ Honor: Proverbs 3:9; John 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 1:17; Revelation 4:9, 11; 5:12-13; 7:12.

¹⁸ Confidence: Psalm 71:5; 78:7; Proverbs 3:26; 14:26; 2 Corinthians 3:4.

¹⁹ Praise: Exodus 15:2; Psalm 7:17; 34:1; 104:35; Matthew 11:25; Revelation 19:5.

²⁰ Three uncreated, infinite divine Persons: Matthew 28:19; John 6:27; Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4.

²¹ Coeternal: Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; John 8:56; Romans 16:26; 1 Timothy 1:16-17; Hebrews 9:14.

²² Coequal: Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 17:5, 20-21; Colossians 1:19.

²³ Coexistent: John 17:5.

²⁴ Unity with a difference: Colossians 1:16, 20; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Article 3 – God the Father (p. 15)

¹ Deity of God the Father: Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 2:10; Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 John 3; Jude 1.

² Active in creation: Genesis 1:1, 21, 27; 5:1; Deuteronomy 4:32.

³ First Person of the Trinity: Matthew 28:19.

⁴ Father of Jesus Christ: Romans 5:10; 8:28-29; 1 Corinthians 1:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 11:31; Galatians 4:4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 1 John 1:3, 7; 3:21-23; 5:20.

- ⁵ Source of the Holy Spirit: the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son: Father – John 15:26; the Son – Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; John 16:7.
- ⁶ Believers’ heavenly Father: Matthew 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 9, 14, 26, 32; 7:11; 10:32-33; 18:14; Mark 11:25; Luke 11:12-13.
- ⁷ Person to whom believers pray: Matthew 6:6, 9; Luke 11:2; (Jesus’ example: Mark 14:35; Luke 22:40-42).
- ⁸ Giver of good gifts: Matthew 7:9-11; Luke 11:13; James 1:17.

Article 4 – God the Son: Jesus Christ (p. 15)

- ¹ Infinite, eternal, divine Person: Micah 5:2; John 1:1-2, 14; Hebrews 1:8.
- ² Equality with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit: John 5:18; 10:30; 14:23; Philippians 2:6; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; deity: Omnipotent Matthew 28:18; Omniscience – John 1:48; Omnipresent Matthew 18:20; Immutable – Hebrews 13:8; worthy of worship – Hebrews 1:6; Matthew 14:33; Philippians 2:10; Revelation 1:7-8.
- ³ Agent of creation: Colossians 1:16.
- ⁴ Second Person of the Trinity, Son of God and God the Son: Matthew 28:19; John 1:14; 3:16.
- ⁵ Relation to the Holy Spirit: the Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son: Father – John 15:26; the Son – Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9; John 16:7.
- ⁶ Mediator: 1 Timothy 2:5.
- ⁷ Savior: Acts 4:12.
- ⁸ God incarnate: Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34-35.
- ⁹ Virgin birth (conception): Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:34-35.
- ¹⁰ Sinless nature: Hebrews 4:15.
- ¹¹ Vicarious (substitutionary), expiatory (fully satisfied/atoning) death: Romans 5:17-19; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2.
- ¹² Physical/bodily resurrection: Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:38-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
- ¹³ Post-resurrection witnesses: Luke 24:15; John 20:19; 26-29; Acts 1:3; 2:32.
- ¹⁴ Ascension: Acts 1:3, 9.
- ¹⁵ Intercession: Hebrews 12:2; 7:25.

Article 5 – God the Holy Spirit (p. 16)

- ¹ The deity and full co-equality of the Spirit with the Triune God: (See Article 2 – The Triune God), Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; His deity: Omniscient – 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Omnipresent – Psalm 139:7; Omnipotent – Genesis 1:2; Holiness – Luke 11:13.
- ² Active in creation: Genesis 1:2 ff.,
- ³ Relationship to God the Father: John 1:33; 14:26.
- ⁴ Relationship to God the Son: Hebrews 10:15.
- ⁵ Restrainer of evil: 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7.
- ⁶ Relationship to the non-believer: John 16:8-11.
- ⁷ Witness of God: John 14:26; 15:26-27; Romans 8:16.
- ⁸ Agent of regeneration: John 3:5-7; Titus 3:5.
- ⁹ Baptism in the Spirit: 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- ¹⁰ Sealing work: 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30.
- ¹¹ Indwells: Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19.
- ¹² Empowering (enduing); Acts 1:8; 1 John 2:20, 27.
- ¹³ Giving gifts: (See Article 20 - Spiritual Gifts)
- ¹⁴ Guiding and teaching work: John 16:12-15; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18.
- ¹⁵ Illuminating work: 1 Corinthians 2:14; (John 16:12-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:2).
- ¹⁶ Witness to the truth: Romans 8:16.
- ¹⁷ Sanctification: 2 Thessalonians 2:13.
- ¹⁸ Helping and comforting work: John 14:16.
- ¹⁹ Interceding work: Romans 8:26-27.
- ²⁰ The fullness of the Spirit, an act of God: The fullness of the Spirit is the essential element of the indwelling work of the Spirit. (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22)
- ²¹ Filling of the Spirit, a responsibility of believers: Ephesians 5:18.

Article 6 – Spiritual Gifts (p. 16)

¹ Supernatural gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:1-12.

² Natural abilities and/talents: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

³ Individuals called of God to ministry: Ephesians 4:11-12.

Article 7 – Creation (p. 16)

¹ Biblical historical creation account: Genesis 1:1; (Genesis 1:2-2:4); Psalm 19:1; 148:1-6; Hebrews 11:3.

² Two realities (metaphysics): There are two realms of reality: 1) the *uncreated realm* (reality) – which consists of God alone and; 2) the *created realm* (reality) - which includes everything that exists that is not God. Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3; Revelation 4:11; 10:6.

Article 8 – Angels (p. 16)

¹ Created spirit beings: Luke 20:36; Colossians 1:16; Job 38:6-7; Hebrews 1:14; they cannot procreate, therefore must have been individually created – Mark 12:25.

² Personal (having personality): intellect – 1 Peter 1:12; emotion – Luke 2:13; will – Jude 6; Revelation 22:8-9.

³ Powerful (delegated authority): Psalm 103:20; 2 Peter 2:10-11.

⁴ Highly organized: Ephesians 1:21; (designated names of their ranks: Archangels – Jude 9; Chief Princes – Daniel 10:13; Ruling Angels – Ephesians 3:10; Guardian Angels Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10; Seraphim – Isaiah 6:1-3; Cherubim – Genesis 3:22-24; Elect Angels – 1 Timothy 5:21).

⁵ Original state of holiness: Psalm 148:2; Job 38:4-7; Jude 6.

⁶ Lucifer's rebellion against God: Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-15.

⁷ Defection of many angels: Ezekiel 28:12-15; Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:3-4.

⁸ Subsequent confirmed state of being holy or unholy: (Jude 6).

⁹ Unholy angels: (see Article 8 – The Devil: Satan); Zechariah 3:1; Acts 5:3; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; Revelation 2:10; 12:10.

¹⁰ Believers warned: 2 Corinthians 11:3, 14-15; 1 Timothy 2:14; 1 Peter 5:8.

¹¹ The armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18.

¹² Satan resisted: Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9; 1 John 2:14; 1 John 4:4.

¹³ Overcoming temptation: Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

¹⁴ Holy angels ministers of God: Psalm 103:20; (Psalm 91:11-12; Matthew 18:10; Acts 27:23-24; Hebrews 1:14).

¹⁵ God's sovereignty over Satan and angels: Job 1:12.

¹⁶ Satan and demons judged in Christ's death: 1 John 3:8.

¹⁷ Eternal confinement of Satan to the Lake of Fire: Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10.

Article 9 – The Devil: Satan (p. 17)

¹ Reality of Satan: Job 1:6-9, 12; 2:1-7; Zechariah 3:1-2; (the Serpent – Genesis 3); Matthew 4:1; Luke 10:18; 13:16; 22:3, 31; Acts 5:3; 26:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 2:24; 12:9; 20:2.

² Created finite being: (see Article 8 – Angels); Colossians 1:16.

³ Originally created Lucifer: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 13:25, 37-39.

⁴ Past rebellion and present activity of Satan: Matthew 4:1-11; 1 Peter 5:8.

⁵ The unholy god of this age (world): 2 Corinthians 4:4; see also the term *prince of this world* John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.

⁶ The ruler of the powers of darkness: Ephesians 6:12.

⁷ The prince and power of the air: Ephesians 2:2.

⁸ The spirit at work in the disobedient: Ephesians 2:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10; Ephesians 6:11-12.

⁹ The death of Christ destroyed the works of the devil: 1 John 3:8

¹⁰Jesus' death destroyed Satan's work: Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:9-10; Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41.

Article 10 – Man (p. 17)

- ¹ Man created by God: Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 5:1-2; 6:7; Mark 10:6 and not through evolution (the process of chance over time)
- ² Man's original state of perfection: Genesis 3:1-6.
- ³ Adam and Eve the progenitors of the human race: Genesis 5:1-3.
- ⁴ Life begins at conception: Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5.
- ⁵ All life forms are not the same that human life more valued than animal life: Genesis 9:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:39.
- ⁶ God alone has the right to life: Exodus 20:13; (Divine sanction - Genesis 9:5-6); Deuteronomy 32:39; Nehemiah 9:6.
- ⁷ Elective abortion is morally wrong: Exodus 20:13.
- ⁸ All killing is subject to divine sanction: Genesis 9:5-6.
- ⁹ Adam rebelled against God: Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12-14, 17-19.
- ¹⁰ All mankind is deserving of condemnation: Romans 1:18, 20, 32; 3:23; 5:12, 19; 6:23.
- ¹¹ Man cannot save himself: Ephesians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21.

Article 11 – Marriage and Family (p. 17)

- ¹ Marriage was instituted by God: Genesis 2:18-24; Hebrews 13:4.
- ² Nature of marriage: 1 Corinthians 7:39; Matthew 19:6.
- ³ One flesh relationship: Genesis 2:24 (Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:8); 1 Corinthians 6:16.
- ⁴ Function within marriage: Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:21-30.
- ⁵ Value is in the "image": 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Corinthians 7:3.
- ⁶ Nurture and admonition of the Lord: Ephesians 6:4.
- ⁷ Teaching the Word of God: Proverbs 6:20; Deuteronomy 4:10, 14; 6:1, 7; 11:19.
- ⁸ Being an example (after the example of Christ – John 13:15): Philippians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:7; Titus 2:6-10.
- ⁹ To build upon the Christian heritage given to them: Exodus 20:12 (Deuteronomy 5:16; Matthew 15:4; 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20); Ephesians 6:2.
- ¹⁰ Believers should not marry non-believers: 2 Corinthians 6:14.

Article 12 – Divorce (p. 17)

- ¹ Marriage is to be monogamous, heterosexual and lifelong: Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:1-3.
- ² Divorce permitted to stop abuse: Exodus 21:10-11; divorce permitted for adultery - Matthew 5:32; 19:7-9.
- ³ In the same sense that idolatry and treason are general terms which refer to acts of unfaithfulness in the spheres of faith commitment and national (patriotic commitment), adultery refers to acts of an unfaithful nature in the sphere of marriage. Jesus attributed the unfaithful thoughts of a married man to be adulterous (Matthew 5:28).
- ⁴ Remarriage of the innocent divorced party permitted: Deuteronomy 24:2; Matthew 5:32; 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:11.
- ⁵ Mercy, grace and forgiveness: Ephesians 2:4; Romans 5:20-21; 1 John 1:9.
- ⁶ Fruits of repentance and the right to remarry: Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8; 17:3.

Article 13 – The Plan of Salvation (p. 18)

- ¹ Man was created to serve and be loved by God: Proverbs 16:4; Colossians 1:16.
- ² Man was created in the image and likeness of God: Genesis 1:27.
- ³ Man created to walk with and to serve God: 2 Corinthians 6:16.
- ⁴ Sin separates man from God: Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:12, 18-19.
- ⁵ Sin brought a curse upon man and the earth: Genesis 3:17-19.
- ⁶ God loves man in spite of his sins: Romans 5:8. Colossians 1:19-20.
- ⁷ God so loved the world: John 3:16; Galatians 4:5; Titus 2:14.
- ⁸ God's loves demonstrated in the cross of Christ: Romans 5:8.
- ⁹ God does not desire anyone to perish in their sins: 2 Peter 3:9.
- ¹⁰ A simple prayer of repentance and faith in Jesus is necessary to receive eternal life: Romans 10:9-13.

Article 14 – Grace and Salvation (p. 18)

- ¹ Salvation is by grace through faith alone: Ephesians 2:8, 9; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25.
- ² Salvation is divinely initiated and wholly of grace: John 3:16; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Timothy 2:5, 6; Hebrews 9:15; 1 John 4:10.
- ³ Substitutionary death and propitiation: Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.
- ⁴ Repentance of sin: Luke 13:3-5; Acts 2:38; 4:12.
- ⁵ Repentance and faith: John 3:5-6.
- ⁶ Personal acceptance of Christ: Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-10, 13.

Article 15 – Regeneration and the New Birth (p. 18)

- ¹ Born again: John 3:3, 7;
- ² New birth is a new creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:3, 23.
- ³ Instantaneous salvation: John 5:24; Acts 2:41; 16:29-31;
- ⁴ Everlasting life: John 3:16; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13;
- ⁵ Regeneration (new life): 1 John 5:1;
- ⁶ Holy Spirit and divine truth: John 1:12, 13.
- ⁷ Evidence of the new birth: Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:10; 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Article 16 – Justification and the Security of the Believer (p. 18)

- ¹ Justification: Romans 3:24, 28; 4:5; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9; Titus 3:5-7.
- ² Salvation by grace alone apart from works: Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5; Isaiah 53:11; Galatians 3:24.
- ³ One sacrifice sufficient for all sins, past, present and future: Acts 13:38-39; Hebrews 7:26-27; 9:12; 10:10.
- ⁴ Believers will not stand in judgment for their sins: Romans 8:1; John 5:24.
- ⁵ Truly born again (truly saved): 1 John 2:19.
- ⁶ Completely saved: Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 103:11-12.
- ⁷ Eternally secured: John 10:28-29; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:5; Jude 1, 24-25; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Article 17 – Sanctification and Conversion (p. 18)

- ¹ Sanctification is instantaneous: John 17:17; Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; Hebrews 10:10-14; Jude 1.
- ² Daily transformation into the image of Christ is a lifelong process: Romans 8:29; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:8-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4.
- ³ Every believer will be presented to God fully converted: Ephesians 1:5; 5:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24-25.

Article 18 – The Church (p. 19)

- ¹Universal Church is composed of individual believers: local churches (fellowships/assemblies) are groups of believers joined together to fulfill the Great Commission - Acts 2:37-47; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Revelation 2-3; (Ordinances: Baptism – Acts 2:41; 8:38, 39; Lord’s Supper – 1 Corinthians 11:23-32.
- ²Local churches are governed by the Word of God: Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20.
- ³Bishop: Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; (Elder – Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; Pastor – Ephesians 4:11).
- ⁴Deacon: Acts 6:1-4; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- ⁵Discipleship: Matthew 28:19-20.
- ⁶Evangelism: Acts 1:8.
- ⁷Autonomous biblical authority: Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20; Acts 20:17-28.
- ⁸Local churches of like faith and practice should fellowship and cooperate with each other: Acts 9:31; 15:1-4, 41; 16:5; Romans 16:4; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Corinthians 8:19, 23-24.

Article 19 – The Priesthood of the Believer (p. 19)

- ¹Every believer is a priest unto God: 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6; 5:9-10.
- ²Every believer can come before God apart from another human priest or mediator: Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 4:14-16.
- ³Believers access God through Jesus Christ: 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 10:19-20.
- ⁴Study: Matthew 4:4; John 17:17; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15.
- ⁵Understand: 1 Corinthians 2:15; 1 John 2:27.
- ⁶Obedience to God and His command: John 14:15; James 1:22.

Article 20 – Believers’ Baptism and the Lord’s Supper (p. 19)

- ¹Believer’s baptism by immersion: the Greek word translated *baptize* means *to immerse*.
- ²Identification with Christ in death and resurrection: Romans 6:3-8.
- ³Local church ordinance: Acts 2:38-41; 10:47-48.
- ⁴Reasonable prerequisite for church membership: Acts 2:38-41.
- ⁵The Lord’s Supper served to believers: 1 Corinthians 11:23-34.
- ⁶Frequency: 1 Corinthians 11:26; and self-examination 1 Corinthians 11:29-30.

Article 21 – Separation: Personal and Ecclesiastical (p. 19)

- ¹Command to separate from worldliness: Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:15-20; Ephesians 5:11-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 3:5; 2 John 9-11.
- ²Ecclesiastical apostasy: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
- ³Live lives befitting children of God: Ephesians 4:1;
- ⁴Ambassadors of Christ: 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 5:3; 6:20.
- ⁵Abstain from sexual immorality: 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:18; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Peter 2:11; Romans 1:24-27.
- ⁶Premarital sexual relations: “fornication” 1 Corinthians 6:9; Hebrews 13:4.
- ⁷Extramarital sexual relations: “adultery”: Exodus 20: 14;
- ⁸Homosexual sexual relations: “effeminate” 1 Corinthians 6:9;
- ⁹Possess your body in honor: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.
- ¹⁰Drunkenness is sin: 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 5:19-21.
- ¹¹Drug abuse (sorcery) condemned: Galatians 5:20.
- ¹²Separate from apostate people and/or organizations: Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 2 Timothy 3:5; 2 John 9-11.

Article 22 – Future Things: Eschatology (p. 20)

- ¹ Rapture of the Church: John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44,, 51-57; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 3:10.
- ² Tribulation period: Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 3:10; 6:17 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.
- ³ Judgment Seat of Christ: 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- ⁴ Pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ: Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-16 (Revelation 19:11-16 comes chronologically before Revelation 20 which describes the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom).
- ⁵ Armageddon: judgment of the Gentile nations: Matthew 25:31-46; Joel 3:2; Revelation 19:17-21.
- ⁶ Satan bound and cast into the Abyss: Revelation 20:1-3.
- ⁷ Establishment of the Millennial Kingdom: Revelation 20:1-7.
- ⁸ Fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Davidic and new Covenant: Genesis 15:18-21.
- ⁹ Satan loosed from the Abyss: Revelation 20:7.
- ¹⁰ Satan instigating the nations: Revelation 20:8.
- ¹¹ Fire from heaven: Revelation 20:9.
- ¹² Great White Throne Judgment: Revelation 20:11-15.
- ¹³ Sinners judged according to works: Revelation 20:11-13.
- ¹⁴ The Lake of Fire (Hell): Revelation 20:14-15.
- ¹⁵ Satan, the Beast and False Prophet confined: Revelation 20:10.
- ¹⁶ Eternal confinement: Psalm 81:15; Revelation 20:15; 21:8.

Article 23 – The Righteous and the Wicked (p. 20)

- ¹ Difference between the righteous and the wicked: Malachi 3:18; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 18:23; Psalm 5:9-12; 28:3; 37:11-12; 25-40; 68:1-4; 119:155; Proverbs 2:20-22; 3:33; 12:5; 14:11; Matthew 13:49- 50; Acts 10:34-35.
- ² Believers are justified and sanctified in Christ: Romans 1:17; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- ³ Non-believers are under condemnation: Isaiah 57:21; Psalm 10: 4; Isaiah 55:6, 7; John 3:36; 1 John 5:19; Galatians 3:10.
- ⁴ Death secures an eternal destiny either in heaven or hell: Proverbs 14:32; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26.
- ⁵ Eternal life and blessing: John 3:16, 36; 5:23-24; 6:27, 40, 47; 10:28; 2 Corinthians 5:21; .
- ⁶ Eternal suffering/condemnation: Daniel 12:2; John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Revelation 20:11-15.

Article 24 - Civil Government (p. 20)

- ¹Civil government was ordained/sanctioned by God: Romans 13:1-7; Deuteronomy 16:18; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-23; Jeremiah 30:21.
- ² Obligation to the civil government: Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13.
- ³ Prayer for governing authorities: 1 Timothy 2:1-3.
- ⁴ Civil disobedience: Acts 4:17-20; 5:29; (Daniel 3:8-18; 6:6-16).