

Our Church Covenant

We, the members of Fayette Bible Church do covenant together, God helping us, that as strangers and pilgrims we will abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; that we will put away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger and clamor, and evil speaking, and be kind one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us; that as we have opportunity we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith; that we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God; and that we will give as God hath prospered us; not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friend of Fayette Bible Church,

In receiving a copy of our Constitution, you are having the opportunity to read what we believe based on Scripture and an idea of how we operate our church. Every organization has to be based on principle, and I hope that you take the necessary time to study this Constitution and make sure that the principles and convictions of this document are yours, too.

Fayette Bible Church was started in the mid 1960's as a Bible Study meeting in the old Washington Hotel on Main Street. The group of people that met at that time became burdened to begin an independent ministry that stood for the fundamentals of the Faith and took a non-compromising stand on the religious issues of the day. So in March of 1967, Fayette Bible Church began and met for five years in the old Sunnyside School building on South Fayette Street. In 1972, the Board and the Pastor presented a plan to build a church located on a piece of property on Dayton Avenue. The church approved and construction was completed by the end of the year. The church voted to start a Christian School in 1974 and expanded the facility in 1977 to accommodate the needed classroom space. The expansion included seven classrooms, a small gym, and a teacher's supply room. An adjacent field was also purchased and transformed into a soccer playing field.

The ministry has been under the leadership of several men through the years. Reverend Graydon Cox was very instrumental in getting the Bible Study underway and the church started. Rev. Cox was employed by the Ohio Bible Mission, the evangelistic arm of the Ohio Bible Fellowship. Rev. Clyde Broadbelt then came to assume the pastorate for the next two years.

Denis O. Howard became the pastor in May of 1970. Under his leadership, the church building was constructed, the school was

founded, and many programs were established. His ministry continued for twelve years until November of 1982 when he moved to Tucson, Arizona, to pastor a church.

After a brief ministry of K. Spencer Brown in 1983, the Lord led Thomas N. Coffman to assume the pastorate in March of 1984 to June of 1999.

In July of 1999 I was appointed as interim Pastor. I had served as Youth Pastor, along with my wife, for 11 years here at Fayette Bible Church. In September of 1999 I was called to be the Pastor of Fayette Bible Church

For you who are reading this Constitution maybe for the first time as a prospective member, or over again as a long time member, the Lord desires His best for this ministry. His best, though sometimes takes us through sufferings that refine our Faith, is to exalt the Lord Jesus, our Savior, and to make Him real in our lives. Through Bible Study, personal evangelism, cultivating Christian character, and response to the ministry of the pulpit, the Lord wants all of us to grow in Him.

For you personally, let me say, as your Pastor, that this church will only mean to you what you put in to it. Your faithfulness and prayers for this ministry mean everything. Your attendance at services, and special events, Prayer Meetings, and visitation is greatly needed and should be desired by you. Your positive spirit is a "must" and is contagious to all. Plus, most of all, a thirst for the Word and a willingness to be used by Him should be the paramount goal of each member and attender of this church.

If you have any questions regarding this Constitution or the church structure, please feel free to ask. The Lord bless you as you seek to serve Him.

In Christ,

*Tony R. Garren
Pastor*

Fayette Bible Church Missionary Policy

I

Prospective missionary candidates should be able to give full assent to the statement of faith contained in our church constitution.

II

Such candidates should hold sympathetically and without reserve, the position of this church with respect to complete separation from apostasy and any entanglements therewith. Those who could go as easily and without compunctions of conscience under old-line denominational mission boards, could hardly qualify as taking the position of Fayette Bible Church in matters of Biblical separation. The Board of Deacons will take into consideration the work and testimony of the individual in the home field as an indication of his or her attitude toward Scriptural separation.

III

It shall be expected that our prospective missionary candidates, desiring the prayerful and financial support of this church shall seek to go to the fields of their call under such missionary boards and agencies as are in essential accord with our statement of faith. They should be agencies free from all connections with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Christian Churches and the National Association of Evangelicals or such other organizations as may work in harmony therewith.

IV

All missionary business (taking on new missionaries, increasing present mission support, dropping of any missionaries from support) be approved by a two-thirds vote of the active members attending a regularly called business meeting.

- a. One who has not served at least six months in definite Christian work in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.
- b. One who is addicted to intoxicating liquor, drugs, or tobacco in any form; or who belongs to a secret society or who would bring disrepute upon the ministry through worldly practices and associations (Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:14-18; James 4:4; I John 2:15).

Section 3 – Discipline – It shall be within the province of this church to discipline even to the revoking of the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the above practices after an impartial trial conducted in the spirit of I Cor. 13.

Article XI – Financing

The expenses of the regular budget of the church, including its monthly missionary support shall be met by free-will offering. Any other fundraising project for non-budgeted ministries of the church shall be approved by the Deacon Board prior to the commencement of the activity which may or may not be funded by free-will offerings. Fayette Christian School's financial procedures, being not part of the church budget, and thus not limited to free-will offerings, shall be supervised by its own Board and budget with final authority vested in the Fayette Bible Church.

Any expenditure over \$500.00, with the exception of fixed items such as utilities or loan payments, be approved by a majority vote of the active members attending a regularly called business meeting.

Article XII – Changes and Amendments

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular or called congregational meeting provided the proposed amendment has been printed and distributed to the congregation at each regular church service for two Sundays preceding said meeting.

Constitution Revised

and Reprinted

February 1998

CONSTITUTION
FAYETTE BIBLE CHURCH

Preamble

The Fayette Bible Church is a local assembly of Christian believers free from any denominational apostasy in the spirit of II Corinthians 6:14-18. It is patterned after the New Testament church, being made up of a group of witnesses, emphasizing the scriptural thought of “the fellowship of believers”, free of a sectarian spirit, remembering there is one body, the body of Christ, in which body all believers are member.

Article I – Name

The name of this church shall be Fayette Bible Church.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Fayette Bible Church shall be the preaching and teaching of the Word of God for the salvation of the lost, the edification of the saints, the defense of "the faith once-delivered to the saints", the world-wide proclamation of the gospel in keeping with Christ's great commission, and for our direction in all co-operative Christian activities in harmony with God's Word.

Article III – Position

The Fayette Bible church is independent in polity and fundamental in doctrine. This position cannot be changed except by a three-fourths majority of the voting members present in a congregational business meeting specially called for that purpose.

Article IV – Statement of Faith

1. The Scriptures – We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God Breathed (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Peter 1:21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12,13).

full term in office shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office during the year immediately following the expiration of their term. All other officers, except pastor, shall be elected for one year, but may succeed themselves.

Any vacancy may be filled by the vote of the active membership, acting in accordance with Article IX, Section 2.

Any member of an elected office may be removed from office at any time by majority vote of the congregation, taken at any called congregational meeting, as provided by Article VII, Section 2. Any official of an appointed office may be removed from office at any time by majority vote of the Board of Deacons.

All officers shall serve until their successors take office, except in the case of discipline.

Section 4 – Other Personnel – Other members of the church personnel including Sunday Bible School Department Superintendents and teachers, VBS Superintendents and teachers, youth counselors, and music personnel shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons and must be active members of the church. The ushering staff shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons.

Article X – Ordination

Section 1 – Power of Ordination – When in the judgment of the Board of Deacons, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Board of Deacons to call and conduct a council for ordination, providing such authority is granted by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members.

Section 2 – Sphere of Examination – The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The following shall not be ordained to the Christian ministry:

Section 2 – Election of Other Officers – Nomination of elected officers of the church shall be by a nominating committee appointed by the Board of Deacons with the pastor as chairman. These nominations shall be read and posted at least two weeks prior to the annual congregational business meeting. Active voting members of the church may nominate names of men whom they believe are qualified for the office. These names must be given in writing to the pastor or one of the nominating committee no later than one week prior to the annual congregational meeting in January.

The nominating committee shall thoroughly investigate the qualifications of every man nominated for office. The proposed candidates shall be examined by the Board of Deacons as to their agreement with the doctrinal statement and the standards that may be established by the church or the Board of Deacons. All candidates for office shall be required to answer in the affirmative the following questions:

- a. Have you publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior and experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3-6?
- b. Are you in hearty agreement with the doctrinal statement of this church and with its constitution?
- c. If you should change your view regarding the doctrine and stand of this church, would you recognize it as your duty to report these changes to the Board of Deacons and to submit your resignation from office?
- d. Are you living a dedicated, prayerful, Christian life, especially as regards loyal observance of the moral precepts taught in the Word of God for believers, including:
 - (1) Separation from the world in the spirit of I John 2:15-17; James 4:4; and Titus 2:11-15.
 - (2) Freedom from membership in oathbound religious or secret social organizations.
 - (3) Willingness to put out of your life any sin which the Holy Spirit may reveal to you?

Section 3 – Terms of Officers – The Deacons shall be elected for a three-year term, and upon completion of one

2. The Godhead – We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three person – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14).
3. The Person and Work of Christ –
 - a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35).
 - b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal physical resurrection from the dead. (Rom. 3:24, 25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).
 - c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1,2).
4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit –
 - a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:7-15; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13,14).
 - b. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20,27; Eph. 2:1-3, 12).

5. The Total Depravity of Man – We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam’s sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:22,23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3,12).
6. Salvation – We believe that salvation is the gift of God, brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 2:8-11; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18,19).
7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers –
 - a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 8:28-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5; Phil. 1:6; Col. 2:10; II Thess. 3:3; Eph. 1:13).
 - b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
8. The Two Natures of the Believer – We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Rom. 6:13; 8:12-14; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9).
9. Separation – We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Cor. 6:14; 7:1).

Section 8 – Annual Affirmation of Faith – Within one month after each annual congregational meeting the Pastor, Board of Deacons, Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Staff shall be required to affirm and sign the doctrinal statement of the Church, and their signatures shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Deacons.

Article IX – Election of Officers

Section 1 – Pastor – In selecting a pastor the Board of Deacons shall appoint a five-man pulpit committee consisting of three deacons and two active members of the congregation which shall secure names and qualifications of potential candidates for the pastorate. If these qualifications are found to be in complete harmony with the fundamental and separated stand of this church and with its doctrinal statement and constitution, the candidates may be contacted one at a time to be heard and questioned by the congregation. After hearing the candidate preach and after questioning him thoroughly, the Board of Deacons shall call a special congregational business meeting for the purpose of voting on the candidate in question. The call shall be extended upon a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period and shall serve until their pastorate is terminated by death, resignation, or vote of the active members. The pastor shall give a minimum of thirty days notice before terminating his services. In the event the active members terminate the pastorate abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for thirty days.

In the event that the personal belief, preaching, or teaching or moral conduct of the pastor changes so that it is no longer in full agreement with the doctrinal statement, constitution, and separated position of this church, his services as Pastor shall be terminated by resignation or by vote of the active members.

All associate and assistant pastors can be terminated by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

We believe that neither water baptism nor any particular form of its administration is required for membership in the Body of Christ. Any believer applying for membership who has not been immersed will be required to be baptized by immersion.

- b. The Lord's Supper: We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ to be observed by the redeemed in remembrance of His death until He comes again. It is not to be considered as having any sacramental merit nor are the elements to be considered in any way to be the literal body and blood of Christ (I Cor. 11:23-26; Luke 22:19-20).
14. Dispensationalism – We believe in the dispensation view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as “Hyper Dispensationalism” such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Cor. 11:23-26).
15. The Personality of Satan – We believe that Satan is a Person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11 ; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).
16. The Second Advent of Christ – We believe in that “Blessed Hope” the personal, imminent, pretribulation, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (I Thes. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; II Thes. 1:5-10; Rev. 3:10).
17. The Eternal State -
- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Rev. 20:5,6,12,13).

Article VIII – Officers and their Duties

Section 1 – Officers listed – Officers to be elected by the congregation are three or more deacons and a Sunday School Superintendent.

The Deacons with the Pastor(s) shall constitute the Board of Deacons and shall be comprised of men only and must be active members of the church. One of these Deacons shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons to serve as clerk.

Other officers to be appointed by the Board of Deacons are treasurer and financial secretary.

Section 2 – Duties of the Pastor – The Pastor shall be responsible for the preaching of the Word, and have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services, and administration of the ordinances of the church. He shall act as moderator in the business meetings of the church, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees connected with the church or any of its organizations.

Section 3 – Duties of Deacons – The Board of Deacons is charged with the government, spiritual nurture, and business administration of the congregation. It belongs to the Board of Deacons to judge the qualifications of Deacons elected, and if approved, to ordain and install them in office; to decide upon the qualifications of applicants for membership in the church, and to certify departing members to other congregations; to watch over the deportment of members of the congregation; to counsel parents in training their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to administer the ordinances of the Lord's House, and judicially enforce His laws governing the lives of His people; to devise and direct ways and means of leading the people to honor the Lord with their substance; to determine the uses to be made of the Church edifice or attached buildings. The Board of Deacons shall have the care of the physical property and finances of the Church and shall oversee all the business affairs of the congregation, preparing an annual budget for submission to the congregation at its annual meeting. Furthermore, it belongs to the Pastor and the Board of Deacons to exercise control over the Sunday School and supervise all other organizations and agencies of the congregation; to direct the service of praise and other

ordinances of worship; and to attend to all matters which, in its judgment, pertain to the spiritual welfare of the congregation. The members of the Board of Deacons shall be expected to visit members of the congregation, giving special attention to the sick and sorrowing (I Tim. 3:1-18; Titus 1:6-9).

Section 4 – Duties of Clerk – The clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings, both of the congregation and the Board of Deacons. He shall be responsible for keeping a record of church membership, admissions, dismissions, deaths, baptisms, dedications, and ordination services. He shall maintain a complete record of all correspondence and such other records as pertain to his office.

Section 5 – Duties of Sunday School Superintendent – The Sunday School Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Sunday Bible School. He shall oversee all Sunday School activities subject to the approval of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

Section 6 – Duties of Treasurer – The treasurer shall with the financial secretary, receive, count and record all church and Sunday School Funds. The treasurer shall make all disbursements authorized by the Board of Deacons. He shall have custody of all legal papers pertaining to the property and finances of the church. The treasurer shall furnish fidelity bonds in such amounts as determined by the Board of Deacons, the cost of which is to be paid by the church. He shall submit his records to the Board of Deacons for audit annually at the close of the fiscal year and shall hold them available for inspection at all times by the Board of Deacons.

Section 7 – Duties of Financial Secretary – The financial secretary shall serve as the assistant to the treasurer and shall assume the duties of the treasurer in case the treasurer is unable to serve due to absence, death, resignation or other inability of the treasurer. He shall record all personal giving of the congregation and annually issue receipts for the same. He shall also make a monthly written report of receipts and disbursements to the Board of Deacons and an annual report to the congregation.

10. Missions – We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:19-20).

11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts –

- a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (I Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12; I Cor. 13:8).
- b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15).

12. The Church –

- a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Cor. 12:12,14; II Cor. 11:2).
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 28:32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

13. Ordinances –

- a. Baptism: We believe immersion to be New Testament form of baptism to be administered upon the personal acceptance and public confession of Christ as Savior. Baptism in our church therefore, shall be administered by immersion only. We believe Christ Himself established and commanded the ordinance to symbolize the believer's death to the old life of sin and his spiritual resurrection to the new life in Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 9:18; 10:47-48; Rom. 6:3-6).

of the members of the Board of Deacons. No meeting called by the Board of Deacons can be legally held without the pastor's knowledge.

A majority vote of those present at any regular or special meeting shall be necessary for all decision.

Section 2 – Congregational Meeting – The fiscal year of this church shall end on the 31st of December, and the annual congregational meeting shall be held within 30 days thereafter, the date to be determined by the Board of Deacons and announced to the congregation in the regular church services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting. There will be four quarterly congregational meetings per year.

The purpose of the annual meeting shall be the reading of the minutes of the previous year's meeting, the annual report of the treasurer, the election of officers and all other business as may be necessary or desirable.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Deacons or by ten percent of the active members of the congregation. Such meetings must be announced to the congregation in the regular church services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting and business must be confined to that announced in the call for the meeting.

All active members present, 16 years of age and older, shall be eligible to vote and constitute a quorum.

A majority vote of the active members present at any constitutionally called congregational business meeting shall be required for the election of officers or to render final decisions in any matter under consideration unless otherwise required by this constitution. (See Article VI – Section 2; Article IX – Section 1).

Section 3 – Parliamentary Procedure – Parliamentary procedure not covered by this constitution shall be determined by the latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order".

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; II Cor. 5:8; Phil 1:23; 3:21; I Thes. 4:16-17).

c. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15).

Article V – Membership

Section 1 – Requirements – Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and gives assurance to the Board of Deacons of that fact, and of his serious intent to live a godly life of separation from the world and the apostasy, and of his willingness to receive the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper; who subscribes to our statement of faith and form of government as set forth in this constitution, and who will wholeheartedly support this church in its ministry at home and abroad shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2 – Means of Receiving Members – Eligible persons may be received into membership by the Board of Deacons and by a majority vote of the members present and voting, upon confession of faith or restatement of faith. Voting in of new members will take place on the second and fourth Sunday evening of each month.

Section 3 – Responsibilities – All members should deem it their responsibility to regularly attend all public services possible. **They should be willing to engage in some part of the work of the church, and in preparation for such work should be engaged in daily Bible reading and prayer as individuals and as families.** They should be giving personal and public testimony for Christ by word and deed in an effort to win the lost to Him. They should be regularly supporting the church by systematic proportionate giving as taught in the Scriptures. (I Cor. 16:2).

Section 4 – Status of Members – An active member shall be defined as one who attends thirteen or more services of the church in a quarter.

Section 5 – Review of Membership – The Board of Deacons shall review the membership roll of the church once each year, at which time, inactive members may be removed from membership upon notification. The Board of Deacons may at any time, for what it deems good cause, upon notice to the member concerned and after opportunity for hearing, remove any person from the membership roll.

Section 6 – Transfer of Members – Members who become an offense to the peace, unity and good name of the church by reason of immoral, disorderly and unchristian conduct, or who shall disturb the peace, unity and usefulness of the church by speaking evil of it and fomenting discord or who radically depart from the doctrine and practices of this church may be excluded from the fellowship of this church, and their names erased from the membership roll. The Board of Deacons shall consider all questions of discipline before they are presented to the church. In all matters of discipline, the Board of Deacons shall constitute a committee of inquiry and shall have full authority in all cases coming regularly before them, to summon witnesses and receive their testimony. They shall keep a record of the testimony offered to them, and may present the same with charges and their recommendations before the church. After review of the matter by the Board of Deacons, if discipline is decided upon, a special meeting of the church shall be called and the charges shall be read to the church by the Deacons. An opportunity shall then be given at this meeting for the one under discipline to appear in person and to present his or her petition in writing. Should the Board of Deacons recommend that discipline be taken, a majority vote of all members present and voting shall be required for the discipline. While charges against any member are pending, his right to vote shall be suspended.

Members who shall have united with another church without first having been dismissed from this church shall have their names automatically removed from the membership rolls.

Article VI – Authority

The governmental authority of this church is vested in its active membership, with the Pastor and the Board of Deacons serving as the

executive body on behalf of the congregation. All church groups and committees are approved by and accountable to the Board of Deacons. The constitution and/or by-laws of such groups and committees must be in agreement with this constitution and must be approved by the Board of Deacons, as must all subsequent changes in said constitution and by-laws.

Section 2 – Trusteeship – The Board of Deacons shall have the trusteeship of all properties of the church and shall be responsible for their care, control and use. It shall not encumber with loan, transfer, sell, or purchase any real estate for the church except by the express authorization of the congregation, conveyed through a two-thirds majority vote of the active members present at a constitutionally-called congregational business meeting.

Section 3 – Other Powers – The Board of Deacons shall have the authority to call congregational meetings for recommending such actions as require a vote of the congregation and shall have the power to appoint a chairman for such meeting in case the action in question pertains to the pastor.

The Board of Deacons shall have the authority to appoint individuals or committees to transact business and shall be responsible for filling the pulpit in the absence of the pastor, with his approval.

The Board of Deacons shall consider and handle suggestions, recommendations and grievances on the part of any member or organization affiliated with the church.

The Board of Deacons shall have the responsibility for disbursing church funds, observing all constitutional restrictions and shall have the direction of the missionary program of the church.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 – Board of Deacons – The Board of Deacons shall meet monthly at a time and place of its choosing.

Special meetings may be called at any time when necessary. All Board members must be notified except when such special meeting is called for after a regular church service.

Special meetings may be called by the pastor or by one-third

