

**CONSTITUTION AND COVENANT OF THE  
MEADOW BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

The name of this church shall be Meadow Baptist Church of Duluth, Inc., Duluth, Georgia.

**ARTICLE II**

**CHURCH OBJECT**

It shall be the object of the Meadow Baptist Church, under the direction and by the divine enabling of our Lord to: (1) Proclaim the Word of God in its entirety; (2) make every possible Scriptural effort to win the lost to Jesus Christ; (3) edify the saints of God; (4) strengthen new converts in the faith and to direct them into fruitful Christian service by urging them to wholly yield themselves to Christ; (5) support Scriptural missions; and (6) maintain regular public and home worship and prayer services.

**ARTICLE III**

**I. GOD**

We believe, according to Scripture, in one true God (Deut. 4:35; Isaiah 44:6-8), omnipresent (Psa. 139:7), Jer. 23:23, 24; Acts 7:49), immutable and infinitely holy, existing eternally in three distinct Persons- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; these Persons being equal in substance, power, and glory, yet only one God, the Creator of all things (John 1:3), the Giver and Sustainer of Life, The Author and Finisher of our Faith and Salvation (Hebrews 12:2).

**II. JESUS CHRIST**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ is the only Begotten Son of God, The Savior of the world, God incarnate (I Timothy 3:16); that He exists eternally with the Father (John 1:1), and that He was both true God and man (Col. 2:9, 1:19; John 20:28).

**A. His Incarnation**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ voluntarily laid aside His glory as God (Phil. 2:7-8), took it upon Himself the form of a servant and came to this earth (John 1:14) and dwelt among men as both God and man (Acts 12:3).

**B. His Virgin Birth**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ was Begotten of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary (Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-38).

### **C. Return of Christ**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ will bodily and personally return in like manner as He ascended, (Acts 1:11). His first return or rapture will be in the clouds to resurrect the bodies of the dead saints and to catch away all the living saints, (I Thess. 4:14- 18). At this time, which only God knows (Matt. 24:36) our vile bodies shall be changed into glorified bodies (I Cor. 15:51-53). He will come to earth with His saints to set up the millennial kingdom of perfect reign for 1000 years. (Rev. 20:3)

### **D. His Death**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross at Calvary (Matt. 27:33-35) for the sins of the whole world, past present, and future. He, who was sinless, was made sin for the whole world and died in the sinner's place. He offered Himself once and for all without spot or blemish to God the Father as the complete offering for the penalty of the sins of fallen humanity (Heb. 9:28; 10:12).

### **E. His Resurrection**

We believe, according to Scripture, that on the third day after His sacrificial death on the cross that He was miraculously raised from the grave for our justification (I Cor. 15:3-8; Romans 4:25). This miracle signified God's acceptance of Christ as payment for the sins of the world and assures eternal life and immortality to all who are saved by Him. (Luke:24:6-7)

### **F. His Ascension**

We believe, according to Scripture, that after His resurrection He ascended back to God where He is today exalted at the right hand of God.

### **G. His Advocacy**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and men (I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1), and that He is constantly at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for His people. (Heb. 7:25; 4:14)

## **III. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe, according to scripture, that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead (Matt. 28:19) possessing all the attributes of God. His work is to convict the unregenerate man of sin (John 16:8), to perform the operation of regeneration and to seal the believer unto the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13;4:30). The Holy spirit comes to the believer at conversion and indwells him to reveal and ever exalt Christ seeking to conform the believer to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:9).

#### **IV. SALVATION**

We believe, according to Scripture, that there is only one way to be saved, and that is to realize that every person is a totally depraved, hell-bound sinner; that confession of the guilt of sin must be made to God personally as the repentance, that forgiveness must be sought from God, and that Jesus Christ must be personally received as Savior. This great Salvation is by grace and is the gift of God, received by faith (Eph. 2:8-9), purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:22), and cannot be obtained by any other way. This experience constitutes the new birth, and from that moment the individual is born of the Spirit of God into the family of God for time and Eternity. From that moment on the child of God belongs to Him to worship and to serve Him continually. (John 1:12; I Cor. 12:13; Romans 6:4; Tit. 3:5; John 5:24, 6:40; I Peter 1:3).

#### **V. THE CHURCH**

The church of Jesus Christ is both a universal body and a local organization. The true church of Jesus Christ in its mystical form is composed of all born-again believers (Cor. 12:12-14) with Christ Jesus Himself being its Chief "Cornerstone" (Luke 20:17) and Supreme Head (Eph. 1:22; 5:23). This group composes the Body of Christ which is as well the Bride of Christ. This is the Church Universal.

The local church is the organization composed of the assembly of mortal born-again believers (I Cor. 1:1-2; Gal. 1:2; Acts 5:11) who have been scripturally baptized, with the two-fold purpose of edification and evangelization. This assembly literally observes the ordinance and exercises the rights and privileges duly invested in them by the direct authority and command of Jesus Christ the Head of the Church Universal.

#### **VI. THE HOLY BIBLE**

We believe, according to Scripture, that the entire Bible is the verbally inspired, as originally given, inerrant and infallible Word of God given by direction of God the Holy Spirit through holy men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Pet. 1:20-21). The Bible does not merely contain or become the Word of God, but is the Word of Almighty God and is the final and supreme authority for holy principles of faith and life (John 12:17).

#### **VII. THE ORDINANCES**

We believe, according to Scripture, that Jesus Christ commanded the observance of two ordinances before He ascended unto His father in heaven; namely, Baptism (Matt. 28:19) and The Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:23-30).

##### **A. BAPTISM**

We believe that all truly born-again believers are to follow the scriptural example of the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan (Matt. 3:13-16). As we believe that He was immersed, so we conclude that we are to be immersed after this example. Although salvation is not contingent upon baptism (Eph. 2:8-9), we believe that every born-again believer will gladly follow the Lord in scriptural baptism as soon after conversion as possible as a public confession of the salvation experience; a complete break with all known sin and the world and sincere intent to reckon oneself dead unto sin and alive unto God (Rom. 6:3-5). The ordinance openly signifies that the believer is truly crucified with Christ and buried with Him, being dead to sin and resurrected with Him by the power of God to newness of life through Him (Acts 2:38-41).

## **B. LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper consist of the drinking of the first fruit of the vine (grape juice) which is symbolic of the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for the remission of sins. The eating of bread which is a symbolic reminder of the physical body of Christ, which was broken for us (I Cor. 11:25; Matt. 26:28). The fellowship of this table belongs to all truly born-again children of God and will be observed by this assembly, Meadow Baptist Church once each quarter. A careful examination of the heart should have been made by each believer, for the unworthy partaking of the Lord's Supper brings damnation (judgement) upon himself (I Cor. 11:28-30).

## **VIII. THE DEVIL**

We believe, according to scripture, that the devil, or Satan, is a real personal being (Job 1:6-11); that he is an outcast of Heaven having fallen from his original position before God (Ezek. 28:12-17); that his express purpose is to damn and destroy the human race; that he is the originator of all sin; the father of all liars (John 8:44); the prince of the power of the air; the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2); that he goes about on the earth as an angel of light or a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8).

## **IX. HEAVEN**

We believe, according to scripture, that heaven is a literal reality; that it is the abode of God (Isa. 66:1); that all born-again believers shall, at God's appointed time, ascend to this perfect, blissful paradise of God to abide there for eternity with God and Christ (John 14:3). Heaven is the present site of the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of God (Rev. 21:2) that Christ is preparing now for all those who possess Him as personal Savior (Rev. Chapters 21 and 22).

## **X. HELL**

We believe, according to scripture, that hell is a physical place of literal misery, fire and torment (Luke 16:23-24). It was created to be the final abode of Satan and the unrighteous associates of this archfiend; that all Christ-rejecting mankind will spend eternity there as the penalty for sin and the result of God's judgement against all sin and unrighteousness (Rev. 21:8; Matt. 23:33; Heb. 10:26-29).

## **XI. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

We believe, according to Scripture, that every born-again believer must immediately evidence a new attitude toward life as the result of his conversion (II Cor. 5:17). He should shun all evil influences and affiliation, joyfully forsake the further partaking of all worldly habits in order to glorify Jesus Christ in his new life. He will furthermore, worship, serve, and honor God as Lord of his life and in all things give our Savior the preeminence.

## **XII. JUDGEMENT**

We believe in FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGEMENT: that the spirit and soul of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgement Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirit and soul of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgement, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment (Romans 2:5-11; I Cor. 3:12-17; Rev. 20:11-15).

## **XIII. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE**

We believe in THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE: With each having definite and distinct sphere of responsibility (Matt. 22:21).

## **XIV. AUTONOMY**

We believe in THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH: That each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God (Gal. 2:5-6).

## **XV. CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT AND CULTS**

We stand against the ecumenical movement and the charismatic movement as being unscriptural, divisive and detrimental to the cause of New Testament Christianity. We oppose the practice and use of modern day tongues (charismatic movement). We do not believe in the paganistic eastern religions such as Hinduism with their "transcendental meditation" classes, hare Krishna and such cults who teach anti-Christian philosophy. We oppose the practice of transcendental meditation (Acts 2; I Cor. 12,13,14; I John 4:1-4; I Tim. 4:1-5; Col. 2:8; Phil. 4:5-9; Eph. 5:15-20).

## **XVI. CREATION**

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Gen 1,2; Col. 1:16; 17; John 1:3)

## ARTICLE IV

### I. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Before anyone shall be eligible for membership in this Church, he must have been Scripturally Born-again. They must be able to give a clear and positive account of how he became a Christian and must have assurance of salvation (I John 5:13; John 10:27-29).
- B. In accordance with our Lord's teaching in Matt. 28:19, all candidates for membership in Meadow Baptist Church who have not been baptized by immersion shall be baptized at the next baptismal service scheduled by Meadow Baptist Church.
- C. Before anyone is considered for membership in this church his Christian life and testimony must be, in so far as can be known by the church, consistent with his profession of faith, and he must state his sincere desire to live a consistent Christian life.
- D. Anyone who desires to become a member of this church must, furthermore, whole-heartedly agree with and support the constitution of this church in its entirety.

### II. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of regeneration and accepting the Doctrinal Statement and Covenant held by this church, may upon baptism, be received into its membership. Meadow Baptist Church receives new church members by one of the three following manners:

- A. Those giving a clear testimony of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior shall be baptized in obedience to the command of Scripture. Upon being baptized they shall become members of Meadow Baptist Church.**
- B. Members from other churches of the same faith and order may be received by letter of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches. This practice, commonly known as "transfer of letter" shall be limited only to other Baptist churches.**
- C. Persons coming from other non-Baptist denominations who accept the view of doctrine and practice as adopted by this church, and who have been baptized by immersion may be received by virtue of their statement of faith, testifying publicly to their commitment to abide within the teachings and practices of Meadow Baptist Church.**

### **III. MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

A. Prior to uniting with Meadow Baptist Church in membership covenant, each prospective member shall first be presented with a copy of this handbook and constitution. Each prospective member is expected to read it in its entirety and agree to personal and familial accountability to the information herein. Any questions concerning any of the information of this handbook should be addressed with the Pastoral staff or Deacons prior to committing to church membership.

### **ARTICLE V**

### **DISCIPLINE**

#### **SECTION I- SELF-DISCIPLINE**

It shall be the sacred duty of all members of this fellowship to conduct themselves in a reverent and orderly manner in all church services and church related activities. It shall be the duty of parents to see that their children conduct themselves accordingly. Church property shall be respected, and treated properly.

It shall be the duty of the individual members, furthermore, to settle all personal differences according to the scriptural manner as outlined in **Matthew 18:15-17**.

#### **SECTION II- CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

A. Any member who attends none of the regularly scheduled services of this church for a period of 3 months, and who fail to give a satisfactory reason for this continued absence shall be ineligible to vote in conference. We believe that in accordance with Hebrews 10:25, we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Should the individual attend at least one service per week of this church for three (3) consecutive weeks or give satisfactory reasons to the Pastor and/or Deacons for the intervening absences he shall be eligible to vote.

B. If any member of Meadow Baptist Church should come into question for conduct not in keeping with the Christian standard, he or she shall be recommended to the Board of Deacons for investigation and an examination shall be held at the discretion of the Board for that purpose. The member in question shall be notified of the hearing not later than two (2) weeks before the time appointed. Should the charges be validated or the member in question fail to appear and if after a loving and straightforward appeal for repentance the plea should go unheeded, the Board of Deacons shall present the name of the member to the church at the next regularly scheduled business meeting of the church with the recommendation that the name of the member be stricken from the church roll. A majority vote shall be necessary to accomplish this action. Excluded members by a majority vote may be restored to membership on confession of their error, and giving evidence of their repentance.

C. In the event of any heretical doctrine being held or taught or a departure from the stipulations of this constitution being practiced by any member of this church that person shall be dealt with as in the case of unchristian conduct outlined above.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**GOVERNMENT**

**SECTION I- INDEPENDENCE**

It is the unanimous desire of the founders of this church that the Meadow Baptist Church shall always and unalterable be an independent Bible-believing fellowship. This practice and position shall never be altered in any way.

**SECTION II- IN CASE OF DEPARTURE**

In the event that this church should ever depart from the doctrinal position upon which it was founded the members who still hold to the original doctrinal position, as outlined in this constitution shall be authorized to disband this church and to sell all buildings and property belonging thereto. Another church of like faith and practice may be built with the money secured from the sale of the original buildings and property or this money may be given to a faith mission work which holds with the faith and practice of this church as outlined in this constitution.

The Pastor shall be at liberty at all times to recommend to the Church the dismissal of the Deacons or any other officer in this church when he shows evidence of unfaithfulness in his duties, violation of his covenant obligations, or Departure from the Declarations of Faith or for any reason he no longer agrees with the stand and position of this church.

The Deacons shall be at liberty at all times to recommend to the Church the dismissal of the Pastor or any other officer in this church when he shows evidence of unfaithfulness in his duties, violation of his covenant obligations or departure from the Declaration of Faith, or for any reason he no longer agrees with the stand and position of this church.

**SECTION- III- GOVERNMENT OF PROPERTIES**

All properties owned by this church (Building and Property) shall be governed by this church body. The management of these properties shall be determined by a majority vote of the active members of the church. No ecclesiastical body, group, or organization shall ever have any part in the use or disposition of this property.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **CHURCH POLICY**

#### **SECTION I- MISSIONS**

It shall be the policy of this church to support both prayerfully and financially the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Meadow Baptist Church shall support only mission work which hold to and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its entirety.

#### **SECTION II- RAISING OF FUNDS**

It shall be the policy of this church that funds raised by this church or any organization in this church shall be acquired by freewill offerings. Before any other methods of fund raising may be utilized it must be approved by the Pastor and Deacons of the church.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **OFFICERS**

The officers of this church shall be the pastor and deacons and such other officers as the church may deem advisable and necessary. All officers and Sunday School teachers shall be chosen according to the following qualifications.

#### **PERSONAL CONSECRATION**

Any person holding an ordained position in this church must be inwardly dedicated and outwardly consecrated to our Lord. Accordingly, he shall conduct himself in obedience to the requirements of Scripture for all Christians generally and also according to the specific requirements for ordained leaders found in the New Testament. Additionally, all church officers shall abstain from intoxicating drink and tobacco use which would serve easily to mar his Christian testimony. He shall not be a member of any secret order society or any other organization that would involve vows or practices contrary to scripture.

#### **CAPABILITY**

All officers, furthermore, must be capable of carrying out satisfactorily the duties assigned to their office both physically and spiritually and be an active member of Meadow Baptist Church.

## **DEPENDABILITY**

All officers, must render faithful and dependable services in the execution of all duties assigned to their office.

### **I. PASTOR**

The man who serves as pastor of this church must be one who has been called of God to preach the Gospel. He must also meet the Biblical qualifications as found in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3 and corresponding passages. He must preach the entire Word of God and seek only to ever exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and to please God and not men. He must be a separated and dedicated servant of the Lord and must be in whole-hearted agreement with the doctrine and practice of this church. He must also have a missionary heart and vision.

#### **A. ELECTION**

Pulpit Committee: A pulpit committee shall be formed upon acceptance of resignation or dismissal of the pastor or, if for any other reason the church is without a pastor. The committee to be selected from the active deacons, not more than three, plus two male members of the church elected by vote of the congregation. This committee shall accept recommendations from the congregation and others, compile useful information concerning prospective candidates, and invite prospective candidates to preach to the congregation. The committee shall interview each candidate in person. Upon a unanimous consensus of the entire committee a candidate shall be recommended to the church. If the candidate does not receive a three-fourths vote in the business meeting called for electing a pastor, the Pulpit Committee shall resume its responsibilities until a pastor has been elected. Upon election of a pastor the Pulpit Committee shall make arrangements for moving the new pastor to the field and helping him become situated. Having fulfilled these obligations the pulpit committee shall be dismissed.

Having been duly elected the pastor shall serve until he deems it advisable to resign or until such a time as he is requested by the church, upon a three-fourths majority vote at a meeting called for that purpose and announced at least 2 weeks in advance, to resign his office. It shall be understood that a 30 day notice shall be given by either party in case of desired separation. This 30 day notice may be dispensed with by mutual consent of both parties.

#### **B. RIGHTS**

The pastor shall act in an advisory capacity on all boards and committees.

## **II. DEACONS**

### **A. NUMBER**

The Board of Deacons shall be composed of whatever number of men necessary to efficiently carry on the work required of the Board.

### **B. QUALIFICATIONS**

The qualifications for deacons shall be those outlined in the Scriptures according to I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:2-8. Deacons shall also qualify according to Article VIII of this constitution.

### **C. DUTIES**

It shall be the duty of the deacons of this church to assist the pastor in carrying out the work of the church. They shall attend to many matters that would otherwise involve the pastor and take vital time and attention to prayer and study that the pastor needs. Deacons shall also care for those as stipulated in Acts 6:1-4.

### **D. ELECTION**

Deacons of this church shall be elected in the following manner: The Pastor and Deacons shall prayerfully consider the names of active men and eliminate any that they know not qualified for office. The final list, after being contacted as to their willingness to serve, shall be presented to the church at the time of voting. The church shall then vote on each candidate and, upon majority of congregational approval, the candidate shall become a deacon. Any candidate not receiving majority approval shall be denied the office of deacon. This vote shall be by secret ballot. The term of office shall be indefinite. Any man not previously ordained shall be ordained to the office of deacon.

### **E. DISCIPLINE**

Any deacon who proves to be incompetent in testimony or who becomes indifferent toward attendance of duty or the services of this church shall be subject to removal from the office of deacon. This action shall require a majority vote.

### **F. MEETINGS**

The deacons shall meet at least once quarterly, prior to the business meeting of the church.

### **III. CLERK**

The Church Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings and transactions of the church, such as the reception of new members, church discipline, etc. He shall perform all other duties that the church may direct. This position shall be filled by a candidate recommended by the deacon board and presented to the church for congregational approval during a quarterly conference.

### **IV. CHURCH TREASURER**

The Church Treasurer shall have charge of all finances with the exception of those otherwise provided for by the church. He shall have access to the records of all church offerings and business transactions and shall make a quarterly report of same to the church. An annual report shall be made to the church at the first of the calendar year. This position shall be filled by a candidate recommended by the deacon board and presented to the church for congregational approval during a quarterly conference.

### **V. CHURCH STAFF**

The pastor shall have the authority to select the appropriate individual to fill any church staff positions. He shall also have the right to dismiss said person from that position. Any financial compensation must be within the parameters of the annual church budget or approved by congregational vote in a special recommendation during church conference. In the event that the church is without a pastor, the deacons and/or the church shall have the authority to select or dismiss an officer for the approved position.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **MEETING & ORGANIZATIONS**

- I.** Meadow Baptist Church shall have a moderator to preside and keep order over the conference.
- II.** The pastor will be the moderator, or in his absence, the chairman of the Board of Deacons. In the event the pastor and chairman of the Board of Deacons being absent, a moderator will be appointed by the pastor or the board of deacons.
- III.** The church shall have a clerk to record all business transactions of each conference.
- IV.** Only active members, 18 years old and older shall be eligible to vote on all matters brought before the church in conference.

- V. All members addressing the moderator shall rise and then await recognition before proceeding with his statement.
- VI. All moves must obtain a second before being opened for discussion.
- VII. Any move not receiving a second shall die on the floor.
- VIII. No one person shall speak over twice on the same subject.
- IX. No member speaking during the conference shall be interrupted by another member.
- X. All seconded moves must receive a majority of the votes cast to be passed and become law.
- XI. Only one (1) subject at a time shall be discussed during the conference.
- XII. A member not conducting himself in a Christlike manner shall be reprovved by the moderator and dealt with by the church.
- XIII. All minutes passed by conference shall become law and the church shall be governed accordingly.
- XIV. Conference shall be conducted as outlined by the "Conference Order of Business".

### DECORUM

- I. Meadow Baptist Church shall have a Pastor elected by the body of the church to be a spiritual leader.
- II. Meadow Baptist Church shall have full time services Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights.
- III. **It shall be the duty of Meadow Baptist Church to hold a business conference once each quarter in each of the following months of the year; January, April, July and October. Called conference shall be announced two (2) services prior to the conference.**

- IV. The order of business in each conference shall follow the following process after the moderator calls the conference into order:
1. **Reading minutes of previous meeting**
  2. **Report from treasurers**
  3. **Old Business**
  4. **New Business**
  5. **Recommendation from Board of Deacons**
  6. **Reading and adoption of the minutes of this conference**
  7. **Adjournment**
- V. Meadow Baptist Church shall offer communion to those who wish to participate. Communion services to be scheduled by the pastor and/or deacon board at least one time each quarter.
- VI. It shall be the duty of the church to approve the following officers of the church.

Church Clerk  
Church Treasurer

- VII. The Pastor is responsible for the appointment and/or approval of any and all members holding a volunteer position within the church. This includes all members engaged in teaching capacities, all ministry volunteers, and all church staff. It is the sole right of the pastor to relieve any and all of the aforementioned people from said positions and duties. In the absence of a man filling the office of pastor of Meadow Baptist Church, this responsibility falls to the Board of Deacons.
- VIII. All members shall abide by this decorum and the by-laws set forth by this church.

## ARTICLE X

### CHURCH COVENANT

Church Covenant: Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, 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 sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; 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 religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and 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.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

The By-laws of this constitution, with the exception of Article III; Article VI, Section 1,2,3, Article X, and XI, may be amended, altered, or revised at any regular or special business meeting of the church by a three-fourths majority vote, provided that the desired alteration, revision, or amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the church at the regular business meeting preceding the meeting at which such an action is to be taken. A public announcement must also have been made during a regular worship service at least one week before the action is to be taken.