



## ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be Grace Baptist Fellowship of Sartell, Minnesota.

## ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF FAITH

### SECTION I. THE SCRIPTURE

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and absolutely inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions shall be tried.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19–21

### SECTION II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Exodus 20: 2, 3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelations 4:11

### SECTION III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1–3; John 16:8–11; Acts 5:30–32; John 3:5,6; Ephesians 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27

### SECTION IV. THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

Matthew 4:1–11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelations 20:10

## **SECTION V. CREATION**

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. In light of God's creative design, we believe that the Bible teaches that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman and that sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the bonds of a Biblically defined marriage. Any other form of marriage or sexual intimacy is immoral and a perversion of God's gracious will.

Genesis 1:2, 2:18, 24, 25; Matthew 19:4-6; 7:2; John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4, Colossians 1:16,17

## **SECTION VI. THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all are totally depraved, and are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18,32; 3:10-19; 5:12, 19

## **SECTION VII. THE VIRGIN BIRTH**

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

Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14

## **SECTION VIII. SALVATION**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of the holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith

Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24, 25; John 3:16; Mat. 18:11; Philippians 2:7, 8; Hebrews 2:14-17; Isa. 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; & 1 Peter 2:24

## **SECTION IX. RESURRECTION AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us.

Mat. 28:6, 7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Revelations 3:21; Hebrews 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17; 5:9, 10

## **SECTION X. GRACE AND THE NEW BIRTH**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Acts 16:20–33; 2 Peter 1:14; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8

## **SECTION XI. JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood.

Romans 3:24; 4:5; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9

## **SECTION XII. SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return.

Hebrews 10:10–14; 3:1; John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 5:25–27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4; 5:23, 24; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24,25; Revelations 22:11

## **SECTION XIII. THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that God again keeps all who are truly born again in the Father for Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6; John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35–39; Jude 1

## **SECTION XIV. THE CHURCH**

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word, that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organization; and that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit, that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 20:17–28; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Acts 2:41, 42

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in The Church, which is the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:1–6; 4:11; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 15: 13–18

## **SECTION XV. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show a solemn and beautiful emblem of our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by a solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of ordinances is baptism first then the Lord's Supper, and those participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers

Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Mat. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42

## **SECTION XVI. SEPARATION**

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from world and ecclesiastical apostasy

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 9-11

## **SECTION XVII. CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of kings.

Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-11; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17-18

## **SECTION XVIII. ISRAEL**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37

## **SECTION XIX. RAPTURE AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 51-54; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelations 3:10

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under a curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire

Genesis 18:23; Romans 7:6; 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21; Rev. 20:14-15

## ARTICLE III: GOVERNMENT

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it reserves the right to affiliate with any other Christian organization which takes a like position with regard to faith and practice. It accepts the Scriptures as its sole authority for faith and practice.

## ARTICLE IV: INCORPORATION AND LEGAL TRUSTEES

The title to the property of this church shall be vested in a corporation consisting of the members of Grace Baptist Fellowship of Sartell acting through our legal trustees who are the deacons functioning under the certification of incorporation and the laws of the state of Minnesota. The deacons shall serve as legal trustees as well as a nominating committee. Also see ARTICLE VIII.

## ARTICLE V: 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 this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to study the Bible; to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the Church in knowledge, wisdom, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly as God has prospered us to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and individual devotions; to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; 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 all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which will bring unwarranted hardship to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith, and to earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us.

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 of like precious faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's Word.

## ARTICLE VI: OBJECTIVES

Following the example of the New Testament local church we declare our adherence to biblical doctrine, and we state as objectives:

1. To promote the worship of God the Father, and God the Son through God the Holy Spirit in regular services as was practiced by New Testament churches.
2. To provide a total educational program consisting of Sunday school, and Christian youth clubs and camps, and other such ministries as the church may deem necessary.
3. To obey the Great Commission both in personal evangelism and the support of home and foreign missionaries.
4. To provide the opportunity for Christian fellowship.
5. To defend the faith against all forms of apostasy and liberalism.

## ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have made a profession of the faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, who desire to be numbered among His disciples, who have experienced New Testament baptism by immersion, who are in sympathy with the faith and practices of this church, and have given evidence of their full endorsement of the beliefs to which this church subscribes. Admission and termination of membership is prescribed in this constitution.

### **SECTION 1 - ADMISSION:**

Clause A. This church shall welcome into its membership anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and who has followed the Lord in baptism by immersion and gives assurance of his/her desire to abide according to this constitution.

Clause B. Every candidate for admission (be it: statement, letter, or baptism) for membership to this church shall related his/her Christian experience to the pastor and deacons to determine his/her eligibility for membership.

Clause C. Having satisfied the pastor and deacons the candidate for membership will be presented to the congregation at a regular meeting. After relating their profession of faith in Christ as their Savior each will be accepted into full membership by majority vote.

Clause D. Excluded persons may be reinstated to membership upon recommendation of the pastor and deacons after such persons have given satisfactory explanation or acceptance of evidence of honest repentance and have made confession of wrongdoing, and upon majority vote of the members present at a regular church or business meeting.

### **SECTION 2 – DUTIES OF MEMBERS:**

The duties of members are set forth in general terms in the church covenant in Article V.

### **SECTION 3 – SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS:**

If any member shall, by his/her own will, neglect the privileges and duties of church membership for a period of three months, then the pastor and deacons shall review such. At this time the pastor or deacons will make notification to those concerned. At the end of three months those who have not replied or reacted favorably shall be removed from the membership list by majority vote of a quorum at a regular or special business meeting. Following the vote to remove from membership, members shall be notified by the church clerk of their removal.

#### **SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS:**

Clause A. The pastor and deacons will constitute the Discipline Committee.

Clause B. In case of personal differences between members of the church, the pastor and deacons shall recommend the parties settle their differences in the manner laid down by our Savior in Mathew 18:15-16.

Clause C. No charge will be made against any member without at least two witnesses that can fully corroborate and clearly substantiate with facts the alleged accusation. Where charges are made against a member, the accused shall be notified by letter about the nature of the charges and shall be summoned to appear before the Discipline Committee to make answer to the charges. At least one-week notice of such meeting shall be given to party involved. If the accused does not appear in response to the summons, unless satisfactory reason is given for non-appearance, the Discipline Committee is empowered to acquit the accused, if a majority of the Discipline Committee members present vote that the accused is innocent of the charges. If, on the other hand, the majority of the Discipline Committee members vote that accused is guilty of the charges preferred, they shall recommend to the church that the accused be excluded from the membership list of the church, or such other discipline as the case may warrant. The church must either approve the recommendation of the Discipline committee or hear the case for itself. The accused must be notified in writing of the final decision of the church.

#### **SECTION 5 – RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP:**

The church clerk will keep and maintain an accurate record of church membership, updating it in writing for each quarterly business meeting.

### **ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS**

The elected officers of this church shall be those chosen to fill the Scriptural offices of pastor and deacons. Other positions of service shall be filled by appointment upon ratification by the church.

#### **SECTION 1 – PERSONNEL:**

Clause A. QUALIFICATIONS: Those elected or appointed to office shall first be proven to be Scripturally qualified and shall be subject to questioning by the church regarding their Christian beliefs and practices.

Clause B. SUBSCRIPTION TO CONSTITUTION AND ARTICLES OF FAITH: All nominees to such offices of the church shall be active members of this church and shall be required to subscribe yearly, either orally or in writing to the Article so Faith and the Constitution of this church at the annual business meeting.

#### **SECTION 2 – PASTOR:**

Clause A. A pulpit committee shall consist of the deacons—Amended May 1, 1994 to read: A pulpit committee shall consist of five voting members of which at least two shall be deacons. They shall endeavor to secure a candidate who meets the qualifications set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. After careful examination of the candidate, this committee shall make its recommendation to the church. Only one candidate may be voted on at any one business or regular church meeting. During the time that the church is without a pastor, the pulpit committee shall be responsible for pulpit supply.

Clause B. ELECTION OF PASTOR: The pastor shall be elected at a special or regular meeting of the church, public notice of such action having been given from the pulpit at least two Sundays immediately preceding the date of said meeting, and three-fourths majority vote of the ballots cast shall be necessary for his election. He shall be required to subscribe to the constitution upon his election and yearly thereafter with the other officers. This election will also be considered an acceptance of the pastor and his wife into the membership of the church.

Clause C. DUTIES OF THE PASTOR: As an under shepherd, the senior pastor is therefore responsible to shepherd the flock. This shepherding includes faithful visitation (Acts 20:20) as well as diligent prayer and study of the Word in order to properly “feed the flock of God” (Acts 20:28-31). As a Bishop (overseer) he is responsible to lead the services of the church (1 Peter 5:2; Heb. 13:17). As an Elder he is responsible to lead the services of the church (Acts 14:23; 15:1-6). As a teacher he is responsible to instruct the church (1 Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 4:2). Further duties of the pastor shall be to administer the ordinances and promote the spiritual welfare of the church. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees with the privilege of voting if he desires.

Clause D. The pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or his resignation is requested at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event of his resignation, the pastor shall be given a minimum of thirty days’ notice before termination of his service.

Clause E. DISMISSAL: for any moral, heretical, and/or any serious impropriety of the pastor, the church by majority vote shall remove him from office and membership of the church with a thirty day severance pay.

### **SECTION 3 – DEACONS:**

Clause A. ELECTION: The church shall elect by secret ballot the number of deacons it deems necessary to assist in the affairs of the church. The church shall have an opportunity to submit nominations to any quarterly or annual business meeting that has been announced at two previous regular services. The function of the office of deacon is described in Acts 6:3, and I Tim. 3: 8-13. Their terms of office shall be three years, but may be re-elected as often as the church determines. While they shall elect a chairman periodically, it will be the responsibility of the pastor to lead the deacon meetings. In meeting the scriptural qualification of the office of deacon, they shall demonstrate such by attending as many services as possible, active involvement in visitation and soul winning, giving at least a tithe to the local church ministry, and being willing to follow the Scripturally prescribed leadership of the pastor.

Clause B. DUTIES: In keeping with the Scriptural meaning of the term, “deacon,” and with the Scriptural function of the office it is understood that the office of deacon is an office of service. It shall be the responsibility of the deacons to assist in every area of church ministry as much as possible. This includes the observance of the ordinances, regular church services, visitation, and all other church approved ministries. It shall be the responsibility of the deacons, in cooperation with the pastor, to care for the physical properties of the church including counting, depositing, and handling of all money. The deacons shall serve as the Budget Committee to advise the pastor and assist him with the preparation of a budget prior to the annual meeting to be voted on there. Further, the deacons shall assist the Pastor in examining and recommending new members to the church. They shall act as the Nominating Committee in recommending to the pastor individuals to fulfill vacancies to the subsequently approved by a majority vote of the congregation at a regular business meeting.

### **SECTION 4 – ADDITIONAL PASTORAL STAFF:**

The Pastor shall appoint positions such as part-time Associate Pastor, part-time Assistant, Youth Pastor, Director of Education, Day School Principle, Supervisors, after consultation with the deacons. These individuals may or may not receive remuneration from the church. The pastor and deacons shall determine salaries with consideration given to the qualifications and financial needs of the individual. However, any full-time Associate or Assistant Pastor shall be called and his salary approved by a three-fourths majority vote of the church. The pastor shall appoint all other personnel, such as monitor, secretary, building superintendent, or custodian after consultation with the deacons.

## ARTICLE IX: BUSINESS MEETING

Annual, quarterly and special business meetings shall be held as prescribed in the constitution.

### SECTION 1 – BUSINESS MEETINGS:

Clause A. The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

Clause B. Quarterly business meetings shall be held in January, April, July, and October. At these meetings the clerk shall read the minutes of the previous meetings; the treasurer shall give a report of the cash received and disbursed since the previous meeting, and report the total cash on hand. The chairman of any existing church committee shall give a report, and then old and new business shall be considered. At the annual meeting the church's yearly financial report will be rendered, and written reports of officers, organizations, and departments shall be given. Two weeks' notice of each quarterly meeting shall be given from the pulpit, except for extenuating circumstances that may only allow for a one week prior notice.

Clause C. The Annual Election Meeting for the election of officers and adoption of the budget shall take place no later than the first week of December. Nominations of officers from the congregation shall be by secret ballot no later than 4 weeks prior to the Annual Election Meeting. The most often nominated and qualified individuals, that are willing to serve, will be placed on a sample ballot to be distributed no later than one week before the Annual Election Meeting.

Clause D. Twenty-five percent (25%) of resident voting members constitutes a quorum.

Clause E. The manual for parliamentary procedure for the conduct of business meetings of the church shall be Robert's Rules Of Order. In cases of conflict, this Constitution takes precedence with the Bible taking ultimate precedence and authority.

Clause F. All members in good standing, having attained the age of eighteen years, are qualified to vote in all business meetings.

Clause G. In absence of the pastor, the chairman of the deacons shall act as moderator.

Clause H. A special business meeting may be called without extended previous notice by the pastor, or deacons in the absence of the pastor.

## ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS

The annual and special elections of officers shall be done by secret ballot of majority vote for nomination; and then subsequently by another secret ballot, majority vote at said election.

## ARTICLE XI: ORDINANCES

Section 1. ORDINANCES: The ordinances of this church shall be baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Section 2. Baptism: Baptism shall be by immersion.

## ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the church by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the meeting of the members present provided a quorum exists, and provided an announcement for the amendment was made from the pulpit at least two successive Sunday mornings immediately preceding the meeting.

## ARTICLE XIII: AUDITING COMMITTEE

The pastor and deacons shall appoint at least two adult members to serve as the audit committee at the annual meeting of the church. They shall serve for one year. They shall make a thorough examination of all church accounts at least once a year, reconcile the cash on hand as set forth in the treasurer's report, examine the checkbook balances, and make a report at the annual meeting of the financial condition of the church at the close of the fiscal year.

## ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION

In the possible event of the disbanding of our church, the property, both real and personal, as well as other assets shall be donated to another non-profit group that would also qualify for Capital Federal Income Tax Exemption. Every effort shall be made to place these properties into the hands of those of like faith and practice.

## ARTICLE XV: NON-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

No substantial part of the activities of this organization shall be to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation except where it directly effects the beliefs and practices of this church, and this church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) and campaign on the behalf of any candidate for public office. This does not preclude individual political opinions expressed or involvement in the political process of the pastor, deacons, or members of the church. Nor does it preclude the content of the pastor's sermons that may touch on by happenstance a political position or view or platform idea. In other words, the church as a religious body is "non-political" in philosophy and practice, but is made up of members including the pastor with political views and rights to express them. It just means the church will not be an organization that will actively support, endorse, or campaign for any particular political party. The church is a religious organization, not a political one.

## ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XIV

In the course of events it becomes necessary for the church to authorize by majority vote of the members a lien on the property, both real and personal; as well as all other assets, in order that a financial debt be resolved; that any financial loan institute or bank or similar financial business corporation may grant a loan to assist the church in the resolution of a debt with full rights to foreclose on the property, both real and personal, as well as all other assets, should our church disband or for any other reason be incapable of paying back such a lien as agreed upon with such a loaning institute.