

BUENAS NUEVAS BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER ONE

COVENANT, DENOMINATION, OBJECTIVES, DURATION, AND BASE

ARTICLE I - The name of this church shall be Iglesia Bautista Buenas Nuevas of Bonita Springs Inc. located in Bonita Springs, Florida. Lee County.

The Baptist Church, Buenas Nuevas, is constituted under the following covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit, 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, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now, in the presence of God, the angels, and of this congregation, we make a covenant with one another, in the most solemn and joyful way, as one body in Christ.

We promise aided by the sacred Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, offering the advance of this church in knowledge, sanctity and well-being, to promote their prosperity and spirituality, to sustain their cult, ordinances, its disciplines and doctrines, to contribute fixed and gladly for the maintenance of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the promulgation of the Gospel in all the nations.

We promise to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children biblically; to seek the salvation of our relatives, of our friendships, and of the whole humanity in general; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and irreproachable in our conduct; to avoid all gossiping, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We also 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 towards taking offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

Finally, we engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith and practice, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE II - The Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation. This local church, in their diverse activities, won't have a prevailing purpose of economic character, or pursue an end of lucre, or have represented their patrimony in deeds, and not in social parts of the same. The church won't have more goals than what is mentioned in the next article and established with the Department of State and the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Therefore, the meetings of the members of the church in the premises or places destined to the same will be exclusively in order to achieve the objectives of the church.

ARTICLE III - This local church settles down in order to:

- a) Glorify God by preaching and teaching the Word of God with the goal of preparing the believers for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12).
- b) Evangelize the lost by using all the appropriate ways established in God's Word, that they become mature and develop according to biblical standards.
- c) Maintain regular meetings of religious Worship, Prayer, and Christian Fellowship.
- d) Administer the ordinances established in God's Word: the Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- e) Maintain the pure doctrine, defending it against the invasion of all heresy or movement contrary to God's Word. (Jude 3).
- f) Maintain and promote a worthy testimony of Jesus Christ's Church as well as a Christian fellowship between associated local churches.
- g) Establish centers of Christian education in order to promote the preparation of people that want to serve the Lord, especially those who have been called to the Ministry.
- h) Establish Christian schools for education, (pre-school, elementary, middle school, high school, and professional level), in accordance with that which is established in the Federal Law of Public Education.

- i) Promote juvenile programs, camps, spiritual retreats, and social works like: orphanages, hospitals, charity clinics, and programs of literacy, whenever they are useful in order to achieve the purposes before established.
- j) Represent all kinds of national and foreigners' associations that have an objective or activity related directly or indirectly with the objective of this church.
- k) Hold all of the acts, agreements or necessary contracts, in order to achieve the goals of the church; and in general, to carry out all the annexed activities that are related directly or indirectly with the objective of this church.
- l) This organization is also incorporated for religious, charitable and educational purposes as defined in our constitution.

ARTICLE IV - The period of duration of the corporation is perpetual.

ARTICLE V - The main office of this church will be 24861 Old 41 Rd. Bonita Springs, Florida, 34135 U.S.A. It also will establish representative or local offices in any city of this country or abroad in order to develop the activities of the purpose of this church.

ARTICLE VI - The corporation shall have a racially nondiscrimination policy and therefore shall not discriminate against applicants, students, employees, and others on the basis of race, color, or national ethnic origin.

CHAPTER TWO

FUNDAMENTAL BASES OF THE DOCTRINE

ARTICLE VII - The Scriptures. We believe that the Holy Bible is inspired by God, written by men and directed by God. It contains the truth without a mixture or error. Therefore, it is and will be, until the consummation of the centuries, the whole and final revelation of the will of God for man. It is the True Center of the Christian union and Supreme norm, to which it should hold all judgment that is formed of one's conduct, beliefs, and human opinions.

By the Holy Bible, we mean the collection of the sixty six (66) books from Genesis to Revelation. That how it was written originally, not only contains and transmits the Word of God, but rather, the same is only the sufficient Word of God. By Inspiration, we mean that the books of the Bible were written by men, saints of God, being moved by the Holy Spirit in a so defined way that they registered the truth of God in plenary and verbal form, without error or omission.

(II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; 28:25; Psalms 119:105; 130 and 160; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psalm 119:89; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 3:4; I Peter 1:23; Revelation 22:18-19; John 12:48; Isaiah 8:20; Ephesians 6:17; Romans 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalm 19:7-11; John 5:45-47, 5:39).

ARTICLE VIII - The True God. We believe that there is only one living and true God, Who is a person, an infinite and intelligent Spirit, Maker and Supreme Judge of heaven and earth, unspeakable, glorious in Sanctity and Worthy of all honor, trust and love.

We believe that in the unit of the Divine exist three persons; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, that these are equal in every Divine perfection, and execute distinct but harmonious offices in all the Divine work. Exodus 15:11; 20:23; Psalm 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:30; John 4:24; 10:30; 15: 26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 11:23; II Corinthians 2: 10-11; 8:6; 12:4-6; II Corinthians 13:14; I Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:11.

ARTICLE IX - God the Father. We believe in God the Father, that He is an Infinite Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 45:21, 22; Exodus 15:6, 11; Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 15:3; John 3:16; I John 4:7-16.)

ARTICLE X - The Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, with God the Father and the Son, of the same nature, and He took active part in the creation.

We believe that in connection with the whole world, He holds back iniquity until the purpose of God is completed; that He convinces of sin, justice, and judgment. He is the Author and Interpreter of the Scriptures.

We believe that He testifies to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony. He is the Person that acts in the new birth, and in that moment, comes to live permanently in the believers, sealing them, and during their lives continues carrying out His works of teaching, sanctification, strengthening, guiding, and helping. Also, He testifies, through the believer, to the world about Jesus Christ.

We believe that God is the Giver of the spiritual gifts which are distributed to the believers according to what the Holy Spirit wants. The gifts of tongues, healing, and miracles ceased with the apostolic century, and no gift could demand a sign of the baptism or fullness of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; Luke 1:35; 3:16; 24:49; Genesis 1:1-3; II Thessalonians 2: 7 and 13; John 1:33; 3:5,6 and 11; 14:16-17; 16:8-11 and 13; 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8,14:26; Romans 8:14 and 16:26-27; I Peter 1:2; Romans 12:6-8; I Peter 4:10; I Corinthians 12:1-13; 13:8-10.

ARTICLE XI - The Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God, the eternal, and omnipotent creator, and not a created being; that He was born of the virgin Mary from the work of the Holy Spirit, not robbing him of His deity, and therefore, is God manifest in flesh, having the same attributes of the Father and the Holy Spirit, even in His earthly life.

We also believe that He lived a perfect life without sinning here in the earth. He died for our sins in order to be a complete sacrifice before God for the redemption of man. He physically resurrected, and ascended to heaven in order to intercede for us, and He will come again in order to judge man and establish His Kingdom in the earth. (Genesis 3:15; John 1:1-3, 14; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:17; Psalm 2:7; Galatians 4:4; I John 5:20; I Corinthians 15:47.)

ARTICLE XII - The Devil. We believe that the devil was an angel that enjoyed celestial privileges, but for pride and ambition of being like the Highest, he fell and dragged a great multitude of angels with him, and that he is now the wicked prince of the authority of the air and the unrighteous god of this world.

We believe that he is the great tempter of humanity, the enemy of God, the accuser of the saints, the main power of all false religion and the present apostasy, the lord of the Antichrist, and the prince of all the powers of darkness.

We believe that the devil is powerful, but not almighty. He is not omnipresent or omniscient. Therefore, the believer in Christ that is living in submission and obedience to God's Word could resist him firm in the faith, and have victory over his attacks and temptations.

We also believe that he has been defeated on the hands of the Son of God and reserved to a just and eternal judgment in hell, a prepared place for him and his angels.

(Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28: 14-17; Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:14; Ephesians 2:2; John 14:30; I Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:1-3; 13:25 and 39; 25:41; I Peter 5:8-9; I John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; Luke 22:3-4; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; II John 7; James 4:7; I John 4:4; Revelation 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11, 16 and 20; 20:1-3; II Thessalonians 2:8-11.)

ARTICLE XIII - Creation. We believe in the story of the creation according to the book of Genesis, that God created out of nothing, all that exists, separated of Himself, calling it to exist for His own will and word, and that this story has to be accepted literally, and not allegorical or figuratively. The creation of man was not by evolution or evolutionary change of species, or by the development of simple forms of life to more complex forms through endless periods of time. The whole animal and vegetable world were directly made, and the law established by God was that they reproduce according to their kind. (Genesis 1; 2:21-23; Psalm 33:6-9; 148:5; Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Revelation 10:6; Romans 1:20; Ezekiel 18: 19-20; Galatians 3:22.)

ARTICLE XIV - The fall of man. We believe that man was created in sanctity, subject to the law of his Maker; but he, for the voluntary transgression, fell from that holy and happy state, for whose cause the whole human kind are now sinners, by nature and will, and for that very reason are under just condemnation without defense or worthy excuse. (Genesis 3:16, 24; Romans 1:18, 20, 28, 32, 3:10-19; 5:19, 24; Ephesians 2:1, 3; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Galatians 3:22.)

ARTICLE XV - The atonement for sin. We believe that the salvation of sinners is purely free, by virtue of the redeeming work of the Son of God, who completing the will of the Father, became a man; however, exempt from sin, He completed the Divine Law with His personal obedience, and by His death gave us complete atonement for our sins.

We believe that His atonement consists not of an example with His death like martyr, but rather a voluntary substitution of Himself instead of the sinner, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, taking our sins in His body on the cross.

We believe that He resurrected from the dead and He was enthroned in heaven, who as an Admirable Person, reigns with the most tender sympathies and the Divine perfections, having excellent qualities that require a suitable, compassionate, and omnipotent Savior. (Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; 10:11; Matthew 11:18; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 9:12-15; 12:2; Isaiah 53:4-7; 11:12; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3 and 20; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; I Peter 2:24, 3:18.)

ARTICLE XVI - Repentance and Faith. We believe that repentance and faith are the duties of man, who being deeply convinced of his sin and blame, imminent danger and impotence in order to survive, accepts and obeys God's Word, in answer to the work of the Holy Spirit, and he receives Jesus Christ, the God Man, as his only sufficient Savior and Lord (Psalm 51:7; Isaiah 55:6-7; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; 20: 21; Luke 12:8; 18:13; Romans 10:9-11 and 13.)

ARTICLE XVII - Regeneration. We believe that in order to be saved, it is necessary to receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, and so be regenerated, or born again, that in the new birth one comes to be a new creation in Jesus Christ. That the salvation is instantaneous and not progressive, that in the new birth, those dead in trespasses and sins are made participants of a divine nature and receive eternal life, the gratuitous gift of God.

We believe that the new creation is carried out of the reach of our understanding, not for culture, not for character, not for human will, but only, and completely, for the Power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Divine Truth, consequently, that we willingly obey the Gospel, and that it may be really evidenced in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and new life. (John 1:12-13; 3:3, 6 and 7; II Corinthians 5:17 and 19; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; Acts 2:41; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1, 5:9; Colossians 2:13; Galatians 5:22-23.)

ARTICLE XVIII - Justification. We believe that justification is the act by which God being just, declares just to sinners that believe in Jesus Christ, and includes the forgiveness of sin, and the gift of the eternal life in accordance with the principles of God's Justice.

We believe that, by the faith in Christ, and not for consideration of works of justice that man makes, God attributes freely to the believer the perfect justice of Christ, and that brings us in a highly blessed condition of peace and favor with God. (Acts 13: 39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 1:17, 4:1-9, 24-25, 5:1; Titus 3:3-7; Habakkuk 2:3-4; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38.)

ARTICLE XIX - Sanctification. We believe that sanctification is the work of God by separating the believer in Christ for Himself. This sanctification shows in three phases. **First**, the instantaneous and eternal sanctification that is carried out in the moment that one believes in Christ as his personal Savior. The believer receives the sanctity of Christ, and is constituted as a saint for his position before God.

Second, the progressive sanctification is the process through which the Holy Spirit transforms the life of the believer so that it is more conformed to Christ. The main means that God uses for the progressive sanctification are: God's Word, discipline, tests, prayer, obedience, faith, and complete submission to God's Will.

Third, the final and complete sanctification is that it will be carried out when the believer is taken out of this world in death or in the rapture. In this, the body of the believer will be glorified and will be a perfect instrument for the obedience to God. There will no longer be the possibility of sinning for the believer. (I

Corinthians 1:2,30; 6:11; Ephesians 1:1,4; II Thessalonians 2:13; John 15:3; Hebrews 10:14; II Corinthians 7:1; John 17:17; Colossians 3:8-12; Ephesians 4:22-33; Romans 6:13; 12:1; I Peter 1:22; Galatians 5:22-23; II Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:5-11; I John 3:2; Hebrews 12:23; I Thessalonians 3:13.)

ARTICLE XX - Security of Salvation. We believe that the truly regenerated, born from the Spirit, enjoy eternal life. It is a life that one could never lose and will not apostatize in order to perish hopelessly, but instead, will remain until the end. Their persevering adhesion to Christ is the notable sign that distinguishes them from those who outwardly make a superficial profession of faith.

We believe that for the good of them, by the Providence of God, they are kept by the Power of God for the salvation through the faith. (Psalm 121:3; Matthew 6:30; John 8:31-32, 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Colossians 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Hebrews 1:14; I Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6.)

ARTICLE XXI - The Gratuitous Character of Salvation. We believe that salvation is offered free with all its blessings to all human beings, through the Gospel, that is, the faithful presentation of the death, and resurrection of Christ in propitiation to God.

We believe that it is the immediate duty of all to accept it with sincere and obedient faith, and that nothing impedes the salvation of the vilest sinner but his own wickedness and volunteer rejection to Christ, which puts him in a bigger and increased perdition.

(Colossians 3:12-13; Romans 8:32; Matthew 11:28; Isaiah 55:1, 6 and 7; Revelation 22:17; Acts 2:39; John 3:15-18 and 36; 5:40, 6:37; I Timothy 1:15; 2:6; I Corinthians 8:11, 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; 5:2; Hebrews 2:9; I John 2:2.)

ARTICLE XXII - The Divine Purpose of Grace. We believe that election, predestination, and adoption, are eternal purposes of God, in which He, for His grace, and through Jesus Christ, saves, regenerates, sanctify, and finally, glorifies to the believer in Christ. All this is fully done in accordance with the free will of the human being, and is based on the foreknowledge of God and embraces all the conductive means to such end.

We believe that this plan of God is free, eternal, unalterable, holy, sage, and a glorious manifestation of the sovereign kindness of God. The plan of God embraces, not only the individuals in their salvation, but the whole course of human history, and will arrive to its culmination in the Kingdom of Heaven which one day will settle down here under the government of Christ in person.

We believe that the election excludes completely all boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, love, and trust in God. It motivates us by grace, and it shows its results in those who deposit their faith in Christ. (Ephesians 1:4-6; 2:12-13,16-18; II Thessalonians 2:12-13; I Peter 1:2; Matthew 20:16; 22:9 and 14; 23:37; II Peter 1:10; 2:1; 3:9; Revelation 17:8 and 14; Genesis 25:23; Romans 8:29-30; 9:11,15,17,18 and 21-33; 11:5-7 and 28; 16:13; II Timothy 1:9; Jude 1; Acts 13:48; Isaiah 55:3-7; 65:2-3 and 12; John 1:11-13; 6:37; 8:21.)

ARTICLE XXIII - The Church. We believe that the church, *which is His body*, is made up of all the believers that have been born again, and that the Lord Jesus Christ found it with His Apostles. He gave authority to the local Church in which He now meets. Likewise, we believe that the believers will be rapture with Him in the clouds in order to be in heaven and will form the bride of the Lamb.

We believe that a Church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of believers biblically baptized in accordance with Article XXIV, after a profession of faith, organized and associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship in the Gospel, and with its own Constitution, recognizing Christ as the only head, and observing the ordinances of Christ. It is a congregation governed by its own statutes in autonomous form, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in it through the Word of God.

We believe that its authorized officials by the Word of God are: The Pastors (Bishops or Elders) and Deacons, whose requirements, rights and duties are described in the Scriptures. We believe that the true commission of the Church is in The GREAT COMMISSION; first: To make individual disciples in the

whole world; second: To practice the ordinances; and third: To build the Church, to teach, and instruct, to keep all that Christ has commanded.

We believe that the Church has its own legal status according to that which is established with the Department of State. It is entitled absolute right of congregational government for itself, free of all hierarchical intervention of individuals or of congregations. It is according to the Word of God that the Churches cooperate with one another, contending for the faith and the propagation of the Gospel. Each Church determines the measure and the method of such cooperation and those matters of membership, order, government, discipline, benevolence, and of its furniture and properties, the local Church is autonomous and determinant through its congregational government. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:23; Acts 2:41-42; 6:5-6; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; I Corinthians 5:11-6:3; 11:2; 12:4; 12:8-11; 16:1; Ephesians 4:11-12; 5:23-24; I Timothy 3:1-7; 3:8-13, Matthew 28:19-20, Colossians 1:18; I Peter 5 1-4; Jude 3-4; II Corinthians 8:23-24; Malachi 3:10; Leviticus 27:32.)

ARTICLE XXIV - Baptism. We believe that baptism is established in God's Word. It is the immersion in water of those that believe in Christ, done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, with the authority of the local Church.

We believe that such baptism has the purpose of proclaiming, by a solemn and beautiful public testimony, faith in the crucified, buried, and resurrected Savior. Also the effect of the same faith, that is; the death to the sin, and the resurrection to the new life of the believer.

We believe that the baptism is the pre-requisite in order to be a member of a church and enjoy the privileges of its members. (Matthew 3:1-2, 6, 16; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:12, 36:39, 16:31-33, 18:8; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; I Peter 3:21.)

ARTICLE XXV - The Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper consists of two elements: Bread without yeast and wine (grape juice not fermented). They represent the body and blood of Christ, and must be celebrated in the meeting of the church, according to the approach of such who have completed the requirements for this, commemorating (remembering) the death of the Lord Jesus Christ and proclaiming the faith that they have. Their participation in the blessings of His sacrifice, their hope of the eternal life by virtue of the resurrection of Christ among the dead, should be preceded by a careful examination of themselves. Celebration of this should be until He comes. (Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-34; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:7-20.)

ARTICLE XXVI - Offerings. We believe that the only biblical way of sustaining the work of God is by the tithes and the voluntary offerings that the believers should give, as they have prospered, with happiness, love, and sacrifice. Believers should give their tithes and offerings to the Church for the maintenance and propagation of the Gospel to all the nations. (II Corinthians 9:6-8; Malachi 4:10; II Corinthians 16:2.)

ARTICLE XXVII - Separation. We believe that the Word of God teaches individual and ecclesiastical separation. We believe that the Word of God teaches separation from all sin and mundane practices that damage the communion with the Lord and the testimony of the children of God in the world. The believer should separate himself from the works of the flesh which are manifestations of the old man (Ephesians 4:22), and walk in the Spirit with the purpose of not satisfying the desires of the flesh.

We believe that the Church should separate from all persons and groups that do not maintain good doctrine and practices according to God's Word, and that it should leave all apostasy and ecumenism that shows in such groups like the World Council of Churches, Apostate Churches, and Ecumenical Organizations. Likewise, we reject the Theology of Liberation, Modernism, Humanism, and the teachings of the New Age.

We believe that the Church should separate from the Charismatic Movement and Pentecostalism, with their harmful emotional practices, tongues, prophecies, miracles, dreams and visions, because they are false and do not agree with the Word of God. Likewise, it should separate from all persons or groups that claim to receive revelations from God in this time, since the Bible is the only certain, complete, and final revelation of

God. II Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:16-24; Ephesians 4:22-32; Romans 16:17-18; I Timothy 6:3-5; Ephesians 5:11; 2 John 7:11; I Corinthians 5:1-13; Matthew 18:15-17; II Thessalonians 3:6.

ARTICLE XXVIII - Missionary Work. We believe that the only hope of salvation is Christ and that the commission to evangelize the world was given to the Church. This commission includes: To make disciples, baptize them, and teach them all the things that Jesus and His disciples commanded according to the Scriptures.

We believe that the missionary work is a collective effort of fellowship where members and Churches, working together, have the responsibility of praying, testifying in the houses, in the towns and to the ends of the earth. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1: 8; Romans 10:13-15

ARTICLE XXIX - Civil Government. We believe that the civil government exists, under Divine disposition, for the interests and good order of the human society, and that we should obey it through its laws, and pray for the magistrates and rulers, honoring them in conscience. We also believe that all citizens should respect the Patriot Symbols, National Institutions, and Rulers. We believe in the separation between the state and the church. Romans 13:1-10; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-14, 17; Acts 4:19-20, 23:5; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28; 22:21; Philippians 2:10; Psalm 71:11.

ARTICLE XXX - The Righteous and the Unrighteous. We believe that there is a great, essential, and radical difference between the righteous and the unrighteous; that in God's esteem there is no other righteous people but the regenerated, which have been justified through faith in Jesus Christ and sanctified through the Holy Spirit.

We believe that in God's eyes the unrighteous and wicked are all who continue as unbelievers, and that this difference between some and another is permanent upon dying, and still after the death.

We believe that the saved ones will live in heaven with great happiness, and that the unbelievers will be in conscious and eternal suffering in the lake of fire. Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 11:31; 14:32; I Peter 4:18; Romans 1:17; 5:19; 6:17-18 and 23; 7:6; Galatians 3:10; Luke 9:26; 16:25; John 8:21; 12:25; Matthew 7:13-14; 25:34 and 41; Revelation 20:15; 21:8.

ARTICLE XXXI - The Second Coming of Christ and Other Future Events. We believe in that blessed hope, the person and corporal, imminent and pre-millennial coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in order to rapture His Church before the Great Tribulation.

We believe that Christ will appear in the clouds, and that the dead in Christ will resurrect first; the believers that are alive will be transformed, and together they will be rapture in order to be with Him for the Tribunal of Christ and the Wedding of the Lamb. We believe that then there will be a great tribulation on earth, with afflictions for the whole humanity, and especially for the people of Israel. There will be a big, worldly and false church, and the Antichrist will get up and establish his worldly kingdom and will make himself like God.

We believe that later Christ will come with His saints, will destroy His enemies, including the Antichrist, will throw Satan to the abyss, and with the multitude of converted Jews and Gentiles will establish His millennial Kingdom.

We believe that after the millennium, the judgment of the great White Throne will take place, in which Christ will judge the unbelievers, who will be thrown in the lake of eternal fire. After this, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

We believe that then Christ will give the Kingdom to His Father, when He has suppressed all dominion, authority, and power. The new city of Jerusalem will descend to the new earth where God will put His throne, and He will live eternally with His redeemed. Matthew 28:6; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4, 25, 42-44, 51-53; Mark 16: 6 and 19; Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 3:21; 20:1-4 and 6; Hebrews 8:1; I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 1:32; 24:2-7, 39, 51; Isaiah 1: 4-5; Psalm 72: 8.

ARTICLE XXXII - Christian Conduct. We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his or her fellowmen; that his or her conduct should be blameless before the world; that each should be a faithful steward of all possessions, and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. Luke 16:1-17 Ephesians 5:9-11; I John 2:15-17; Romans 6:1-13; I Corinthians 4:2; II Corinthians 6:17.

ARTICLE XXXIII - Religious Liberty. We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone, in all matters of faith. Each Church is autonomous and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. Therefore, Church and State must be kept separate since they have different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictates or patronage of the other. Romans 5:1, 2; Romans 13:1-7.

ARTICLE XXXIV - Human sexuality. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography, are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. Any employee of the Church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment. Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10 Ephesians 5:22-23. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the Church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the Church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the Church. Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12.

ARTICLE XXXV - Divorce and remarriage. We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until either of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery according to the scriptures. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or Deacon. Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2,12; Titus 1:6.

ARTICLE XXXVI - Abortion. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. **Abortion is murder.** We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1-5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

ARTICLE XXXVII - Lawsuits between believers. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32.

CHAPTER THREE THE GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE XXXVIII - The General Assembly is the supreme government of the Church, and its agreements and resolutions, taken in the form and terms established in this Constitution, will be faithful and accurately fulfilled.

ARTICLE XXXIX - The General Assembly will be ordinary and extraordinary.

ARTICLE XL- The General Assemblies will take place once a year and preparations for that meeting will begin four months prior. The following will be items of discussion:

1. Reading and approval of the record of the previous session
2. Financial report
3. Report from the pastor
4. Report from the deacons
5. Report from the leaders of the auxiliary organizations
6. Election (deacons and other officials)
7. Revision of the membership
8. Outstanding matters
9. New matters.

ARTICLE. XLI - The general extraordinary assemblies will be carried out to the pastor's approach, or for petition presented by three members of the body of officials. These sessions will be announced with three services in advance when it is possible.

ARTICLE XLII - For the purpose of taking decisions in the general assemblies, only the votes of active members over 18 years old will be considered. A quorum will be 75% of the active members in the first meeting. If one could not carry out the meeting because of a lack of attendance, one could convene again after an hour with a quorum of 50%, of the active members over 18 years old. In case there is not enough in attendance for the second meeting, it will be convened for a new meeting on a posterior date and this will be carried out with the members that come. All the elections will be made by secret ballot; other voting will be made by custom of the church, unless the Constitution specifies the opposite.

CHAPTER FOUR DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE XLIII - The main officials of this Church will be the pastor. Deacons, a secretary and treasurer will be elected as well as other officials that are considered necessary for the good of the operation of the Church. These last officials could be deacons, but it is not a requirement that they are. When some of the officials leave their vacant position, the pastor and the body of officials will name a substitute.

ARTICLE XLIV - The pastor, deacons, assistant pastors, secretary, and treasurer, will constitute the Directive Board of the church. This Board will meet when it is necessary in order to judge, under the direction of the pastor, the important matters of the church and recommend to the church the appropriate action. The members of this Board, except for the pastor and the co-pastor, will carry out their activities in gratuitous and voluntary form, for which they will not receive any amount from concept of honorarium or emoluments corresponding to their service.

ARTICLE XLV - Committee of Finance. The pastor, deacons, secretary, treasurer, and the accountant will serve as the Financial Committee, and they will make recommendations to the church concerning the budget and eventual expenses.

ARTICLE XLVI - Duties of the Secretary, Treasurer and Accountant.

- a) The Secretary will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. To maintain a list of the members of the church.
 - 2. To read the memorandums, letters, and documents in the sessions of business.
 - 3. To keep a record of the agreements taken by the church.
 - 4. To take charge of distributing, picking up, and counting the calls of voting, and inform the result to the person in charge.
 - 5. To keep in file the proceedings, letters, and documents of the church.
- a) The Treasurer will have the responsibility of the following:
 - 1. To receive the tithes and offerings of the members, as well as any other type of income from other people that is granted to the church.
 - 2. To make the necessary payments for the operation of the church, requesting the corresponding authorization and the respective vouchers, those that will have the established requirements according to the fiscal law.
 - 3. To deposit the funds of the church in a bank institution.
- a) The Accountant will have the responsibility of the following:
 - 1. To keep the accounting books of the church.
 - 2. To keep the book of registration of properties of the church.
 - 3. To formulate, monthly and annually, the financial information that will be submitted to the fiscal authorities and for the consideration of the assembly of members.

ARTICLE XLVII - All the organizations of this church, such as: The Sunday School, the Youth Society, etc., will be under the direction and control of the church and their leaders will submit to the pastor. All the officials of the organizations should be faithful members of the church and will sign the Officials and Teachers Covenant.

ARTICLE XLVIII - The Deacons.

- a) Requirements: The requirements for the deacons will be those that are in I Timothy 3: 8-13 and Acts 6: 3. Also, it is required that they are faithful men in attending the church, in serving the Lord, and in cooperating economically in the support of the work.
- b) Election: The body of officials under the direction of the pastor will select the candidates for deacons and other positions, and they will present their names to the church for voting. It will be looked for that there is a deacon for each 20-25 members, if there are suitable men for the position. The deacons will be chosen annually by secret ballot. They will serve for one year and they will be reelected if the church wants. It would be convenient to take turns if there are persons qualified in the church.
- c) Responsibilities: The deacons will serve under the direction of the pastor in material and spiritual works, so that the pastor could be more devoted in prayer and ministry of the Word of God. (Acts 6: 3-4.) The Deacons will carry out their activities, always in voluntary and gratuitous form, for which they will not receive any remuneration.

ARTICLE XLIX - Other Officers.

The other officers of the church will be chosen annually by secret ballot and by a majority of the present members. They may be reelected. The only ones that will be reelected are the faithful and spiritual ones that have demonstrated that they have the necessary abilities in order to carry out the work that is commended to them. These will sign the corresponding covenant before beginning their activities.

ARTICLE L - Eligibility.

The only people who will be elected for permanent positions are those who are active members in communion with the church.

CHAPTER FIVE THE LEGAL REPRESENTATION

ARTICLE LI - The Church will have a staff of legal representation, which will be integrated, preferably, for the pastor and one or more representatives designated by the church for such effect.

ARTICLE LII - The powers and obligations of the legal representatives are as follows:

- a) To represent the Church in all kinds of authorities and matters, in individual or combined form, with wide power for cases, charges, and acts of administration, remaining understood in specific form, in the following manner: Granting and revoking powers; formulating civic accusations and complaints, and being cooperator with the Prosecutor's office if necessary; granting forgiveness in the cases in which it proceeds, in order to desist of the attempted judgments, even of the judgment of protection, for compromising, committing in referees, acquitting and articulating positions, impeaching, and receiving payments. The legal representatives will celebrate acts of domain only with the expressed approval by the majority of the assistants to the general assembly that corresponds. For effects of specific procedure, the general assembly may grant special powers to the legal representatives in individual form.
- b) To communicate to the corresponding authorities that the Church has been constituted.
- c) To execute the agreements that the general assembly assign.
- d) To render to the general assembly, at least once a year, a report from the administrations carried out in representation of the Church.
- e) To fulfill according to this Constitution.

ARTICLE LIII - The legal representatives will last in the position during the time that is effective the given powers to their favor for the general assembly, and will be ratified every year.

ARTICLE LIV - The legal representatives may resign their position, but must fulfill their obligation until the person that should substitute them is designated, which will be made within three following of the communication of the resignation.

ARTICLE LV - The legal representatives will be removed by a vote of at least the 75% of the active members present in the general corresponding assembly in which such matter is discussed.

ARTICLE LVI - The legal representatives will not receive any amount for concept of honorarium or emoluments for the performance of their activities.

CHAPTER SIX THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

ARTICLE LVII - Reception of Officers and Members.

- a) This church will work with associating Americans or foreigners. The associates will always be active and enjoy a single vote, and their quality of associating will be exclusively as an active member as it has been defined in the following clauses and in the Article LVII.
- b) Everyone who confesses that (he or she) has received Jesus Christ, gives evidence of this by his/her conduct and faithful attendance to the church meetings, and declares and agrees with the practices and doctrines of this church may request to be a member. We will explain the requirements, privileges, and responsibilities of the members. He/she will fill an application so that it is kept in the records of the church.
- c) The members will be received in the following ways: (1) By baptism; (2) By a letter from another church of the same practice and faith; (3) By experience- if he/she is already biblically baptized and could not present a letter of recommendation from another church, he/she could be received by his/her

own testimony of faith in Christ; (4) By restoration; one that has been disciplined for expulsion may be received again after manifesting openly to the church that he/she has been repentant and has amended his/her life.

- d) Those who aspire to be members of the church will be examined by the pastor, or the commission that he named, before being presented to the church for their reception.

ARTICLE LVIII - Resignation of Members.

- a) By letter. A member that wants to unite with another church that is based in doctrine and practice could request a letter of recommendation to be sent to that church.
- b) By voluntary renouncement in writing. The renouncement will not be permitted if the person is in process of discipline.
- c) By discipline.
 1. The discipline of the members will be the responsibility of the pastor and a commission of discipline. In the case of the expulsion of a member, the matter will be presented to the church for their ratification. The discipline is an action of true love toward the persistent offender, and it should not be neglected. ("The Lord disciplines those He loves" Hebrews 12:6). The discipline is applied in the church, not as a measure of punishment, but in order to maintain the testimony clean in the world and sustain the internal order for the whole spiritual development of the church.
 2. Reasons for the discipline. A member could be excluded for the following reasons:
 - a) Immoral Conduct- (I Corinthians 5:1-13)
 - b) False and pernicious doctrine that disturbs and confuses the congregation-Romans 16:17-18; I Timothy 6:3-5
 - c) Conduct or doctrine that causes divisions- (Romans 16:17)
 - d) Disordered life- (II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15)
 - e) Habitual Absence- If a member persists in being absent from the church meetings for a period of six months without a justified reason, after being admonished, when it is necessary, the commissioned brothers of the Church, after following the steps established in Matthew 18, will place said member on the list of inactive members. If he/she does not return to assist regularly during the following six months, he/she will automatically be excluded according to the article established here in.
 3. The procedure for the discipline:
 - a) The offended, or the one that knows the fault made by a church member, will follow the steps indicated in Matthew 18:15-16. If their efforts are fruitless, they will take the case to the pastor or to the worker entrusted of the church.
 - b) The pastor, with another spiritual member, will visit the offender with the purpose of restoring by prayer and biblical advices presented in the spirit of love (Galatians 6:1)
 - c) If the culprit does not want to correct after one or two admonishments (Titus 3:10) then, the committee of discipline will take charge of the case and will recommend the necessary sanctions. In any event, the church is responsible for taking the final decision.

CHAPTER SEVEN THE MINISTERS OF WORSHIP

ARTICLE LIX - This church will recognize, as ministers of worship, the pastors and workers that manifest themselves by writing their agreement, to this constitution, covenant of faith and companionship. They do have the requirements that are in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The pastors and workers will be Baptist Ministers and are supposed to grant a copy of their certificate of Ordination, or authorization from a Baptist Church of the same faith and practice, according to what is established in this Constitution. Likewise, they will give proof of their studies of ministerial preparation for the Church records.

ARTICLE LX - The Pastor.

- a) Requirements: The pastor will have the requirements pointed out in the previous Article. When the candidate has the requirements previously mentioned, with exception of the ordination, in order to exercise the ministry, it will be necessary that the church summons a Council in order to aid the situation in the suitable ordination, within thirty days following the nomination.

When the Church is left without an ordained pastor, it may name a worker in order to serve in interim form. It will be required for the interim pastor to fulfill the requirements for the pastors established in the present statutes except for the following: 1) A call to the ministry, 2) the certificate of ordination, and 3) the proof of studies of ministerial preparation. He will last in the position as long as the Church determines. Likewise, it will have the respective ministerial agreement, even when this activity is developed in voluntary and gratuitous form.

- b) Election: A pulpit committee will investigate the qualifications of the candidate for the pastoral function and invite him to preach in the church. Only one name will be presented at the time of voting and is required for election a minimum of 75% of the quorum established in Art. XLI. The voting will be by secret ballot. The pastor will be chosen for an indefinite time. This commission will be dissolved once the pastor is elected.
- c) Resignation. The pastoral relationship could be dissolved for:
 - 1. Voluntary Resignation, with a previous warning of three months.
 - 2. Justified separation of his position, without damage to the church, and by agreement of 75% of the quorum, and for voting by summon, having previously informed all the active members of the time, day, and reason of the meeting.
 - 3. Justified separation by cause, without damage to the church, established in the labor law, and showing a conduct contrary to those established in the statutes of this constitution, and especially the reasons of discipline established in ARTICLE LVIII, clause "c" number 2, CHAPTER SIX.
- d) Financial Agreement: It will be the responsibility of the Church to have an agreement through a ministerial contract in which the corresponding wage will settle down, as well as the responsibilities to which the pastor should hold, and the assistant pastors if this is the case. Such statement will be elaborated before the beginning of any activity in order to carry out their position, except for contrary pact by the pastor that develops the activities in gratuitous and voluntary form. The Church should watch over the pastor to see that he receives enough wages for his necessities and in order to carry out the work in a worthy way of a servant of the Lord.
- e) Responsibilities: The pastor will preach the Gospel, he will teach the Bible in accordance with the principles established in this Constitution, he will celebrate the ordinances, he will be active in the ministry of visiting and preaching the Gospel, he will preside over the sessions of business and will direct all activities of the church in the minor possible way. He will be an honorary member with a voice and a vote in all the organizations and committees inside the church, and he will have access in all the matters of the church. The pastor will look after the spiritual interests with love for the whole membership of the church, and he will authorize with his signature, the necessary payments.

CHAPTER EIGHT THE POSSESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

ARTICLE LXII - The properties and facilities of the Church shall be formed by:

- a) The offerings and voluntary tithes of the members, which will be designated in order to fulfill the purposes defined in this Constitution.
- b) Other donations from interested people that contribute spontaneously without looking for personal interests.
- c) The properties, facilities, and furniture donated to the Church.
- d) Unused income of the Church that will never be distributed among the members, but rather will be reinvested and become part of the possessions of the Church, and will be designated in order to fulfill the purposes and goals established in this Constitution.

ARTICLE LXII - The Church, according to the law, will be responsible for contracted debts during its operation; therefore, the members will not be liable for the business of the Church.

CHAPTER NINE
THE AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE CHURCH

ARTICLE LXIII - This church will always be autonomous and independent, having its own legal capacity, governing, sustaining, and spreading itself under the direction of its head, Jesus Christ, and according to the principles of the Scriptures. It will never go under the direction of any other entity, but it will be in freedom of having communion with other churches of the same faith and practice, and associate with them in common efforts for the work of the Lord.

ARTICLE LXIV - Missions. It will be the practice of this Church to sustain only the missions, the missionaries, and the organizations that are in the middle of agreement with the doctrines, practices, and the Constitution of this church.

ARTICLE LXV - It is recognized that the missions of this Church, in the moment in which they are able to sustain themselves and count on their own patrimony in order to acquire land and build their temple, will request their own registration as a religious organization before legal authorities and, in this way, enjoy the autonomy and independence as a local church.

CHAPTER TEN
ADMINISTRATION AND ORDINANCES

ARTICLE LXVI - Baptism

Normally, the baptism of new members will be the responsibility of the pastor, but the church could designate a pastor of another church of the same faith and practice, or a spiritual brother of the same congregation, to administer this ordinance.

ARTICLE LXVII - The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be administered by the pastor or another brother designated by the church, and the date in which the church wants it to be made.

Only baptized believers will participate in this ordinance. The elements, bread without yeast and wine (grape juice not fermented), will be served after a brief explanation of its meaning and purpose.

CHAPTER ELEVEN
AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE LXVIII - This Constitution could be amended by continuing the procedure described as follows:

- a) The amendment proposal will be approved by the pastor and the body of officials.
- b) The amendment proposal will be communicated to the members two weeks prior to the meeting of business in which the amendment will be addressed.
- c) The amendment proposal will be adopted by the affirmative voting of 75% of the active members present and voting in the session of business.

CHAPTER TWELVE
DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

ARTICLE LXIX - The church will be dissolved:

- a) By consent of the General Assembly emitted by vote of 75% of the associates.
- b) By the conclusion of the term noted in this Constitution for its duration without an extension being made in this respect.

- c) The inability of the church to fulfill the objectives in this Constitution.
- d) By resolution dictated by a competent authority.

ARTICLE LXX - The breakup of the church will be carried out by a clearing committee, formed by at least three officers, who will be designated by majority in the corresponding assembly.

ARTICLE LXXI - The clearing committee will make the corresponding project, under the following bases:

- a) They will pay, in first place, the salaries of the employees, if there are any.
- b) They will pay the debts that the association may have.
- c) They will return to the associates, the assets that they have given.
- d) They will distribute between all of the officers, the assets that the excluded officers have given.
- e) They will donate the remaining assets to another association that may have the same objectives.
- f) They will organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious, or educational purposes and at that time qualifies as an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

ARTICLE LXXII - The project of liquidation will be approved by most of the officers, and it will be executed by the same committee.

ARTICLE LXXIII - The terms mentioned in this Constitution will become active on the day the same becomes registered.