

SOUTH DELTA BAPTIST CHURCH

BYLAWS

Part 1 - Definitions and Interpretation

Definitions

1.1. In these Bylaws:

“Bylaws” means the Bylaws of the Church;

“Elected Elders” means the Elders of the Church who are elected and who for all purposes serve as the directors (as defined and required by the Societies Act) of the Church;

“Church” means South Delta Baptist Church;

“Societies Act” or “Act” means the Societies Act of British Columbia as amended from time to time;

“ordinary resolution” means a resolution passed at a general meeting by a simple majority of the votes cast by the voting members present;

“special resolution” means a resolution passed at a general meeting by at least 2/3 of the votes cast by the voting members present.

(Note: As permitted by the Act, certain Bylaws contained herein provide for a higher voting threshold. These instances are explicitly identified in these Bylaws.)

Definitions in the Act Apply

1.2. The definitions in the Act apply to these Bylaws.

Conflict with Act or Regulations

1.3. If there is a conflict between these Bylaws and the Act or the regulations under the Act, the Act or the regulations, as the case may be, prevail.

Part 2 - Membership

Membership Requirements

2.1. Each person applying for membership in the Church must:

- a) acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord;
- b) have experienced believers' baptism by immersion or in a manner satisfactory to the Elected Elders; and
- c) agree with the Statement of Beliefs, Constitution, and Bylaws of the Church.

Membership Approval

Process for becoming a member:

2.2. Applications for membership must be made through the Elected Elders, with the exception of pastors who, by nature of their call and subsequent approval by the members, are granted membership.

2.3. All applicants for membership shall be interviewed to determine their acceptability based on the requirements stated above. Interviews are performed by two Elected Elders or by two members appointed by the Elected Elders.

2.4. Upon a satisfactory interview, the interviewers shall make a recommendation to the Elected Elders regarding the applicant's acceptance into membership.

2.5. Applicants become members upon unanimous approval of the Elected Elders.

2.6. An individual under the age of eighteen may be admitted as a member of the Church, but may not vote until attaining the age of eighteen.

Membership Responsibilities

2.7. Members of the Church will maintain agreement with the Statement of Beliefs, uphold the Constitution and comply with the Bylaws of the Church and will strive to live out these responsibilities:

- a) To continually be taking next steps on their spiritual journey (Gal 5:22-25).
- b) To express Jesus' love in word and deed (Col 3:17), in the world in which they live (Mat 28:19-20).
- c) To meet regularly with the church family (Psa 150:1, Heb 10:24-25).
- d) To support the Church financially (2 Cor 9:6-15).
- e) To be responsive to and supportive of the leadership of the Church (Heb 13:17).
- f) To love, encourage, support and pray for one another (Rom 12:10).
- g) To grow as servants (Mk 10:42-45).

Membership Roll

2.8. The Church membership roll shall be reviewed annually by the Elected Elders.

2.9. All members are in good standing except:

- a) a member who, in the opinion of the Elected Elders, has failed to remain active in the Church, provided that such inactivity shall arise only where a member is absent from the normal activities of the Church for a period of a year or more and does not communicate an interest in remaining a member of the Church; or
- b) a member who is under discipline or suspension.

Care and Discipline

2.10. The care of the members will be the particular concern of the Elected Elders and pastors. It should be understood that for this reason the lives and testimony of this local body of believers in Christ shall be of continual interest to the Elected Elders and pastors. They may, therefore, from time to time elect to counsel members personally to more active service, to remind members of their responsibilities within this church family, or to encourage members in areas of self-discipline which will strengthen their testimony and that of the Church. The admonitions of the Elders are to be given in a spirit of love and concern, and the members are expected to receive the admonitions in a spirit of appreciation and self-examination.

2.11. When further discipline of Church members is necessary, as an expression of the members' care for one another and for the body of Christ, its object shall be the correction and leading of individual members to repentance with a clear view to their full restoration to fellowship within the body and the protection of the spiritual life and testimony of the corporate body of the Church within the community.

2.12. In the event of a difference arising between members, the responsibility for reconciliation is incumbent upon both. The procedure to be followed is outlined in Matt 18:15-22 and the attitude in Matt 7:1-5; 1 Cor 6:1-11; 2 Cor 5:11-21; Gal 6:1.

2.13. The Church, by special resolution, may provide a process of dispute resolution between the Church and any member, or between or among members. Such process or processes shall be communicated to all members of the Church and thereafter be binding on all members.

Termination

2.14. A person shall cease to be a member of the Church:

- a) by requesting in writing removal from the Church membership roll;
- b) on being expelled;
- c) on having been a member not in good standing for twelve consecutive months; or
- d) on death.

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2.15. The Elected Elders may, by unanimous resolution, expel, suspend or otherwise discipline any member who in their opinion is in breach of these Bylaws, or is guilty of conduct which is improper or unbecoming for a member of the Church, or likely to endanger the interests or reputation of the Church. Before taking such action the Elected Elders shall first notify the member and give the member an opportunity to be heard.

2.16. Any person who ceases to be a member of the Church forfeits all rights, claims, privileges or interest arising from membership in the Church.

Part 3 - Meetings of Members

Schedule of Meetings

- 3.1. The annual general meeting shall be held within the four months following the fiscal year end of the Church, and at the time and place which the Elected Elders decide.
- 3.2. The Elected Elders may, at their discretion, convene a general meeting, provided that at least one additional general meeting shall be held each year at least 3 months apart from the annual general meeting.
- 3.3. In a manner compliant to Act, the members may requisition the Elected Elders to call a general meeting for the purposes stated in the requisition.

Notice of Meetings

- 3.4. Notice of the date, time and location of a general meeting must be sent to every member at least 21 days before the meeting except as noted in subsection 10.2.
- 3.5. Notice of a general meeting must state the nature of any business to be transacted at the meeting in sufficient detail to permit a member receiving the notice to form a reasoned judgment concerning that business. Notice must include the text of any special resolution, or of any other resolution requiring more than a 2/3 voting threshold.
- 3.6. Notice of a general meeting is deemed to have been sent under subsection 3.4 if:
- a) notice of the date, time and location of the meeting has been sent to every member of the society who has provided an email address to the Church, by email to that email address; and
 - b) notice of the date, time and location of the meeting is posted, throughout the period commencing at least 21 days before the meeting and ending when the meeting is held, on a website that is maintained by or on behalf of the Church and is accessible to all of the members of the Church.
- 3.7. The accidental omission to send notice of a general meeting to a member, or the non-receipt of notice by a member, does not invalidate any proceedings at the meeting.

Rules Governing Meetings

- 3.8. The rules of order shall be the current version of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
- 3.9. A member in good standing present at a meeting is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 3.10. The quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting is 3 voting members or 10% of the voting members, whichever is greater.

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3.11. No business, other than the election of a chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting shall be conducted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present.

3.12. If, at any time during a general meeting, the chair determines that a quorum is no longer present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.

3.13. If, 30 minutes after the time set for holding a general meeting, a quorum is not present,

- a) in the case of a meeting convened on the request of the members, the meeting is terminated; and
- b) in any other case, the meeting stands adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the continuation of the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present at the time set for holding the continuation of the adjourned meeting, the voting members who are present constitute a quorum for that meeting.

3.14. Subject to Part 3.15, the Moderator of the Church shall preside as chair of a general meeting. The Moderator shall be a member in good standing, elected by the members from the membership at each annual general meeting and shall serve until the close of the next annual general meeting after being elected. The Moderator shall not be an Elected Elder.

3.15. If at a general meeting the Moderator is not present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or if the Moderator is unable to act as chair, then the members present shall choose one of their number to be chair.

3.16. The chair of a general meeting may, or, if so directed by the voting members at the meeting, must, adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business may be transacted at the continuation of the adjourned meeting other than business left unfinished at the adjourned meeting.

3.17. It is not necessary to give notice of a continuation of an adjourned general meeting or of the business to be transacted at a continuation of an adjourned general meeting except that, when a general meeting is adjourned for 30 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.

3.18. At a general meeting, voting must be by a show of hands, except when a secret ballot is required pursuant to these Bylaws, is requested by two or more voting members, or is directed by the chair of the meeting.

3.19. A matter to be decided at a general meeting must be decided by ordinary resolution unless the matter is required by the Act or these Bylaws to be decided by special resolution or by another resolution having a higher voting threshold.

Part 4 - Elected Elders

Role of Elected Elders

4.1. Subject to the Act, the regulations under the Act, applicable laws and these Bylaws, the Elected Elders must manage, or supervise the management of, the activities and internal affairs of the Church.

4.2. Elected Elders must, when exercising the powers and performing the functions noted in Part 4.1:

- a) act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Church;
- b) exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent individual would exercise in comparable circumstances;
- c) act in accordance with the Act and the regulations; and
- d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c), act in accordance with the Bylaws of the Church.

Elected Elder Requirements

4.3. Elected Elders must meet the following requirements:

- a) be men prepared by God who clearly possess the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9;
- b) be in agreement with the Church's Statement of Beliefs. If at any time one is at variance with it, he shall resign;
- c) perform the Biblical duties of an Elder in specified areas of ministry;
- d) be members in good standing; and
- e) cannot be employees of the Church.

Nominating Committee

4.4. The nominees for election as an Elected Elder shall be selected by a nominating committee comprised of seven members of the Church, three of whom are appointed by the Elected Elders and four of whom are elected by the membership at the annual general meeting.

Number of Elected Elders

4.5. The number of Elected Elders shall be 9, or such other number as determined from time to time at a general meeting. No act or proceeding of the Elected Elders, unless otherwise prescribed, is invalid only by reason of there being fewer than the prescribed number of Elected Elders in office.

Election of Elected Elders

4.6. The election of Elected Elders shall be by a resolution passed at a general meeting by at least 3/4 (75%) of the votes cast using a secret ballot.

Elected Elder Term

4.7. An Elected Elder's term is three years, ending at the close of the third annual general meeting after being elected. A person is eligible for election as an Elected Elder for a maximum of two consecutive terms. Following a period of rest, that person will be eligible for re-election as an Elected Elder at the next annual general meeting.

4.8. If there exists a vacancy caused by the early retirement, resignation, termination, or otherwise of an Elected Elder, a replacement, selected by the nominating committee, may only be elected at a general meeting to complete the remainder of the three-year term of the Elected Elder being replaced.

4.9. An Elected Elder ceases to hold office:

- a) when his term of office expires;
- b) when he resigns or dies;
- c) when he is removed from office in accordance with section 4.11;
- d) if he is found to be incapable of managing his own affairs by reason of mental infirmity;
- e) if he is an undischarged bankrupt;
- f) if he is convicted, in or out of British Columbia, of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation or unincorporated entity, or of an offence involving fraud, unless,
 - i) the court orders otherwise, or
 - ii) 5 years have elapsed since the last to occur of:
 - 1. the expiration of the period set for suspension of the passing of sentence without a sentence having been passed, the imposition of a fine;
 - 2. the conclusion of the term of any imprisonment; and
 - 3. the conclusion of the term of any probation imposed, or
 - 4. a pardon was granted or issued, or a record suspension was ordered, under the Criminal Records Act (Canada) and the pardon or record suspension, as the case may be, has not been revoked or ceased to have effect.
- g) or if he ceases to be a member in good standing.

4.10. An Elected Elder who intends to resign must give his resignation to the Church in writing, and the resignation takes effect on the later to occur of the following:

- a) the receipt by the Church of the written resignation; or

- b) if the written resignation specifies that the resignation is to take effect on a specified date, on a specified date and time or on the occurrence of a specified event,
 - i) if a date is specified, the beginning of the day on the specified date;
 - ii) if a date and time are specified, the date and time specified; or
 - iii) if an event is specified, the occurrence of the event.

4.11. An Elected Elder may be removed from office by special resolution of the members at a general meeting using a secret ballot.

Elected Elder Compensation

4.12. No Elected Elder shall be remunerated for being an Elected Elder, but an Elected Elder may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by him in performing his duties as Elected Elder.

Elected Elder Limits on Unbudgeted Spending

4.13. The Elected Elders may expend only those Church funds authorized by the budget approved at a general meeting, and, if required by the Elected Elders, an additional amount equal to 2% of such budget, unless otherwise approved by the members.

Part 5 - Proceedings of Elected Elders and Committees Composed of Elected Elders

Elected Elders Meetings

- 5.1. The Elected Elders may meet at any location, on any notice and in any manner convenient to the Elected Elders. The Elected Elders may regulate their meetings and proceedings as they think fit.
- 5.2. The Elected Elders may pass a resolution without a meeting if all of the Elected Elders consent to the resolution in writing or by electronic means, such as email.
- 5.3. The quorum necessary to transact business shall be a majority of the Elected Elders then in office.
- 5.4. The chair shall be chairperson of all meetings of the Elected Elders, but if at a meeting the chair is not present or is unwilling to chair the meeting, the vice chair shall act as chairperson. If neither is present, the Elected Elders present may choose one of their number to be chairperson at that meeting.
- 5.5. Upon the request of an Elected Elder, the secretary of the Board shall convene a meeting of the Elected Elders.

Elected Elders Delegation and Committees

- 5.6. The Elected Elders may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of an Elder or Elders as they deem fit. Such committees shall conform to any rules imposed on them by the Elected Elders, and shall report on their actions at the next meeting of the Elected Elders.
- 5.7. The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper.
- 5.8. Resolutions of the Elected Elders and of committees of the Elected Elders shall be decided by majority vote unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws. In case of an equality of votes, the chair of a meeting of Elected Elders does not have a second vote and the motion is defeated.

Part 6 - Officers and Employees

Elected Elders Officers

6.1. The Board of Elected Elders shall appoint from within the Board, as they see fit, individuals to hold the offices of chair, vice-chair, and secretary, and such offices are to be held for terms of one year.

6.2. The chair, vice-chair, and secretary shall retire from office at the close of each annual general meeting and their successors shall be appointed immediately following the annual general meeting.

6.3. A retiring officer is eligible for re-appointment to any of the offices.

6.4. An officer may resign his officer's position by delivering a notice in writing to the registered address of the Church.

6.5. The chair, or, failing him, the vice chair, shall supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties.

6.6. The secretary shall carry out or cause to be carried out:

- a) the official correspondence of the Church.
- b) the issuing of notices of all meetings of the Church and Elected Elders.
- c) the keeping of minutes of all meetings of the Church and Elected Elders.
- d) the keeping of the records of the Church in accordance with the Act.
- e) the maintenance of the register of members.
- f) the filing of the Church's annual report with the registrar and making any other filings as required by the Societies Act.

6.7. In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the Elected Elders shall appoint another individual to act as secretary at the meeting.

Elected Elders Delegation to Staff

6.8. The Elected Elders may delegate duties and powers to any employee of the Church in any manner that is not inconsistent with the Societies Act or these Bylaws.

Pastor Qualifications

6.9. The Lead Pastor and other Pastors of the Church shall have the qualifications and be appointed as set out below:

- a) Lead Pastor
 - i) He shall be a man prepared by God who clearly possesses the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9.

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- ii) He shall agree with the Church's Statement of Beliefs and shall uphold the Church's Constitution and Bylaws. If at any time he is at variance with any of these, he shall resign.
 - iii) He shall be charged with the duties of leading (1 Timothy 5:17), shepherding the flock (1 Peter 5:2), defending, preaching and teaching the truth of God's Word (Titus 1:9), setting a Christ-like example (1 Peter 5:3), and administering the ordinances of baptism, communion and prayer (Acts 6:4).
 - iv) He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Church except the nominating committee.
 - v) He shall become and remain a member in good standing as per Part 2.2.
- b) Other Pastors
- i) They shall be men prepared by God who clearly possess the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9.
 - ii) They shall agree with the Church's Statement of Beliefs and shall uphold the Church's Constitution and Bylaws. If at any time they are at variance with any of these, they shall resign.
 - iii) They shall perform the biblical duties of a Pastor in specified areas of ministry.
 - iv) They shall be members of the pastoral team and work under the leadership of the Lead Pastor.
 - v) They shall become and remain members in good standing as per Part 2.2.

Calling and Dismissal of Pastors

6.10. Calling and Dismissal of a Lead Pastor

- a) The calling of a Lead Pastor shall be done in all cases upon the recommendation of the Elected Elders, and approved by the members at a general meeting by at least 3/4 (75%) of the votes cast using a secret ballot.
- b) The dismissal of a Lead Pastor shall be done in all cases upon the recommendation of the Elected Elders, and approved by the members at a general meeting by a majority of the votes cast using a secret ballot.

6.11. Calling and Dismissal of Other Pastors

- a) The calling of a Pastor (other than the Lead Pastor) shall be done in all cases upon the recommendation of the Elected Elders, and approved by the members at a general meeting by at least 3/4 (75%) of the votes cast using a secret ballot.
- b) The dismissal of a Pastor (other than the Lead Pastor) shall be by a majority vote of the Elected Elders.

Part 7 - Borrowing and Investment

7.1. The Church may, from time to time, raise or borrow any sum of money for the purpose of the Church by ordinary resolution of a general meeting of the Church, provided that such sums so raised or borrowed are not secured.

7.2. The Church may by special resolution, from time to time, raise or borrow and secure the payment of any sum or sums of money for the purpose of the Church and for that purpose may execute mortgages, debenture or bonds, or give or execute any other form of security whatsoever of real property of the Church or any part thereof.

7.3. The Elected Elders may invest the money and other property of the Church in any investments that the Elected Elders, in their sole discretion, consider to be prudent and in the best interests of the Church.

Part 8 - Auditor

Requirement for Auditor

8.1. At each annual general meeting the Church shall appoint an auditor, as per the qualifications set out in the Societies Act, to hold office until the close of the next annual general meeting.

8.2. If an auditor is not appointed at an annual general meeting, the auditor in office continues as auditor until a successor is appointed.

8.3. The Elected Elders shall fill all vacancies occurring in the office of auditor in the event the appointed auditor is unable to complete his or her term.

Removal / Replacement of Auditor

8.4. The Church

- a) may, by ordinary resolution passed at a general meeting, remove its auditor before the expiration of the auditor's term of office, and
- b) must, by ordinary resolution, appoint a person as auditor for the remainder of the term of office of the auditor who was removed under paragraph (a).

Auditor Must Be Independent

8.5. In accordance with the provisions of the Societies Act, a person who is not independent of the Church must not act as the auditor of the Church.

Auditor Entitlements

8.6. The auditor of the Church is entitled, in respect of a general meeting,

- a) to receive each notice and other communication relating to the meeting to which a member is entitled;
- b) to attend the meeting; and
- c) to be heard at the meeting on any part of the business of the meeting that deals with the financial statements of the Church or any other matter with respect to which the auditor has a duty or function.

Part 9 - Records

9.1. Records of the Church shall be kept at the registered address of the Church unless the Elected Elders resolve otherwise.

9.2. A member may inspect the records of the Church, as defined in the Act with the exception of the personal giving records of donors, during normal business hours at the place where the records of the Church are kept, but the Elected Elders may determine that no member may inspect minutes of a meeting of a committee established by the Elected Elders. Non-members may not inspect any record of the Church.

9.3. Upon request, members shall be given copies of any documents open to their inspection upon paying a reasonable fee in accordance with the Societies Act. An Elected Elder is entitled to receive, without charge, a copy of a record the Church is required to keep.

9.4 A member is entitled to receive, without charge, one copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, and one copy of the most recent Audited Financial Statements.

Part 10 - Alterations to Constitution and Bylaws

10.1. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Church shall not be altered or added to except by special resolution of the members at a general meeting by at least 3/4 (75%) of the votes cast using a secret ballot. Notice of such a general meeting must be provided 60 days in advance of the meeting. Alterations to the Constitution or the Bylaws of the Church take effect when the alteration application is filed with the Registrar of the BC Corporate Registry.

Part 11 - Other Matters

Charitable Purposes

11.1. The Church exists as a non-profit organization, so that neither the Church nor its individual members shall use the Church for anything but charitable purposes.

Affiliation

11.2. The charitable activities of the Church shall be carried on in affiliation with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in British Columbia and the Yukon, as well as with the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada.

Activities Bound by Statement of Beliefs

11.3. To reflect the Christian distinctives that provide the sole basis for the Society, the charitable activities of the Society shall be carried on in a manner consistent with the Statement of Beliefs set out in Paragraph 11.5.

Dissolution

11.4. On the winding-up or dissolution of the Church, after payment of all costs, charges and expenses properly incurred in the dissolution, payment to the employees of any arrears of salaries or wages including severances, and payment of any other debts of the Church, the assets remaining shall be distributed to the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in British Columbia and Yukon, or, if it does not exist at the time of such dissolution, or if the Church is not affiliated with it pursuant to Part 11.2 at the time of such dissolution, to one or more charitable organizations or churches as may be designated by the Elected Elders in accordance with Part 11.2.

11.5. The Society's Statement of Beliefs is as follows:

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

A. The Bible

We believe the entire Bible to be the complete Word of God; that all sixty-six books, as originally given, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the basis of all Christian teaching and unity.

Psalm 19:7,8
Rev. 22:18,19
2 Tim. 3:16,17
Psalm 12:6,7
Isaiah 55:11
John 17:14-17

B. God

We believe in one God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit; perfect in wisdom, love, and judgement; Creator and Sovereign of all; holy; eternal; self-existing in three equal persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

1 Tim. 1:17
Psalm 86:15
Matt. 28:19
2 Cor. 13:14

1) We believe that the Father reigns with providential care over all life and history; He hears and answers prayer; He initiated salvation by sending His Son; He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Saviour.

1Chr.29:10-13
Matt. 6:9-13
1 John 4:14,15
John 14:6

2) We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory; in His virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, burial, bodily resurrection and appearances, triumphant ascension, present ministry as our Advocate, and imminent return.

Isa. 7:14, 9:6,7
John 1:1-4,14
2 Cor. 5:21
1 John 2:1
Rev. 22:12

3) We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit Who convinces the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement; Who as the Spirit of Truth, magnifies the person and word of Christ; Who regenerates, indwells, sanctifies, strengthens, equips with spiritual gifts, and leads into all truth those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:3,9
John 16:7-15
1Thes.5:19-22
Titus 3:5,6
1 Cor. 12:1-11
1 Cor. 2:11-13
John 14,15,16
1 John 4:1-6

We believe that Jesus and His apostles explained the present work of the Holy Spirit and that doctrines and experiences that deviate from the Bible pattern are to be avoided and regarded as not originating from God.

C. Angels

We believe God created a distinct order of spirit beings to worship and serve God, and to act as messengers to and protectors of human beings.

Hebrews 1:14
Luke 1:11-20
Psalm91:11,12

We believe that Satan, a fallen angel, exists as an evil personality, the originator of sin, the archenemy of God and man, and that he leads his evil angels to exercise great, though limited, power in the world. We believe that Christ on the cross triumphed over him and that he will suffer final defeat before Jesus Christ at the end of the age.

Isa. 14:12-20
Gen. 3:1-7
Rev. 12:7-15
Col. 2:14,15
Rev. 20:1-3,10

D. Man

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned in Eden and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death (which is separation from God) and as a result all human beings are born with a sinful nature and sin against God in thought, word and deed.

Gen. 1:26-28
Gen. 3
Rom. 5:12-21
Rom. 3:9-23
Prov. 6:18,19

E. Salvation

We believe that personal salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that Christ voluntarily suffered physical death by crucifixion to satisfy God's demand for judgement of sin and to provide justification for the repentant sinner who rests by faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ and in His work of redemption.

We believe that God seeks progressively to shape all those He has saved into the likeness of Christ by means of the scriptures, prayer, blessings, suffering, and the influence of other believers.

We believe that all those who have obeyed God's call shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected at the Lord's return.

John 6:37,44,65
Phil. 2:5-8
1 John 2:2
Acts 20:21
1 Cor. 15:3,4
Eph. 4:11-16
2 Cor. 3:18
Heb. 12:11
John 10:27-29
1 John 3:2

F. Future Things

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the resurrection and judgment of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the believer, and in the everlasting, conscious punishment of the unbeliever.
20:11-15

Acts 1:11
1Thes.4:14-17
Rev. 21:1-7
Rev.

G. The Universal Church

We believe that the church is a spiritual organism made up of all believers in Jesus Christ since Pentecost and that each member has been baptized in the Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose of

Eph. 1:22,23
Acts 2
Luke 3:16

uniting every believer into the one body of which Christ is the Head. All believers are commanded by Christ to love one another as He has loved us, and are commissioned to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching them to observe everything that Jesus commanded His disciples.

1 Cor. 12:13
Col. 1:18
John 13:34,35
Matt. 28:18-20
2 Tim. 4:1,2

H. The Local Church

We believe that the local church is a self-governing fellowship of disciples that gather together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to be taught the word of God, to be encouraged in prayer and discipleship, to participate in the Lord's Supper, and to be equipped to serve one another in love.

Acts 4:23
Acts 2:41,42,47
Heb. 10:24,25
Col. 2:7
1 Cor. 12,13,14

I. Ordinances

We believe there are two ordinances for believers regularly observed in the New Testament.

1) Baptism, which is the immersion of the believer in water in obedience to Christ's command, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, demonstrating publicly the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Acts 8:36-38
Matt. 28:18-20

Rom. 6:3-5

2) The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thanksgiving to Him, and serves to unite His people and to declare His death until He returns.

Luke 22:19,20
1 Cor. 11:23-26
1 Cor. 10:16,17

J. The Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lords' Day and is in a special, though not exclusive, sense to be set apart for congregational worship and edification.

Rev. 1:10
Acts 20:7
1 Cor. 16:1,2

K. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is a separate institution from the church and is appointed by God for the good order of society; and that secular authorities are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed except in the things opposed to the Word of God.

Matt. 22:21
Rom. 13:1-7
1 Pet. 2:13-17
1 Tim. 2:1-4
Acts 4:18-20

L. Marriage

We believe that man and woman were created by God and that marriage, as instituted by God, is the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.

Gen. 1:27
Gen. 2:22-24
Matt. 19:4-6
Eph. 5:31