

CONSTITUTION OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH FREDONIA, NEW YORK

PREAMBLE:

We, the members of Faith Baptist Church of Fredonia, New York in orderly manner do hereby establish the following principles by which we agree to be governed in the affairs of our church.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME

The name of this organization as incorporated under the laws of New York State, shall be Faith Baptist Church of Fredonia, New York.

ARTICLE TWO: PURPOSE

The purpose of this local church shall be: 1. To carry out the great commission of Christ as given in Matthew 28:19,20; 2. To administer the ordinances of the New Testament (baptism and the Lord's supper); 3. To edify the saints of God through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God as set forth in the Articles of Faith of this church. The church ministries may include, but are not limited to: worship services, evangelistic services, prayer meetings, youth activities, various media programs, a day school, a Sunday School, a bus ministry, missionary activities and other ministries deemed necessary by the people of this church.

ARTICLE THREE: ARTICLES OF FAITH

SECTION ONE: The Scriptures

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Bible which is the Word of God; that it is inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and God breathed; that it is the center of true Christian union; that it is and shall remain to the end of the age the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; that it is the only criterion and authority of both church and individual for faith and practice.

By the "**Bible**" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation. By "**inspiration**" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and are free from error, as no other

writings ever have been or ever will be inspired. By “**verbal**” we mean that the very words of Scripture were inspired and not just the thoughts. By “**plenary**” we mean that the Bible was completely, fully and entirely inspired.

II Pet. 1:19-21; II Tim. 3:16; Rev. 1:1; I Cor. 2:13; Rom. 15:4; II Sam. 23:2; Heb. 1:1,2; Ps. 119:160; Ps. 119:142; John 17:17; Ps. 19:8; Ps. 100:5; Matt. 5:18; Isa. 40:6-8; I Pet. 1:25; Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2; Rom. 15:4; Matt. 4:4; Deut. 8:3; Isa. 8:20; Titus 2:11-13; Acts 17:11; II Thess. 2:15; Matt. 15:9

SECTION TWO: The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things; eternally existing in three Persons, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory; each with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence or being. We believe that the Father is truly God and that in the God-Head He occupies a functional but not a positional superiority. We believe that He is sovereign in His position, just in all His decrees and righteous in all His actions.

Deut. 6:4; Gen. 1:1,26; 6:3; Jn. 1:1,2; Phil. 2:6; I Cor. 8:6; Gen. 1:2; Jn. 10:30; I Jn. 5:7; Rev. 4:11

SECTION THREE: God the Father

We Believe in God the Father, Almighty, Ruler, from heaven, over heaven and earth. He is unchanging, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, holy, righteous, and the Creator of all things. He revealed His love by sending His only Son to die for the sins of mankind. He forgives those who come to Him by His Son.

Gen. 17:1; Rev. 1:8; Matt. 5:16; 11:25; Ps. 59:13; 66:7; Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; James 1:17; Mal. 3:6; Matt. 6:3-8, Matt. 19:26; Eph. 1:17-20; Ps. 139:7-10; Jer. 23:24; Matt. 28:20; Lev. 19:2; Jn. 17:11,25; Isa. 54:17; Dan. 9:14; II Cor. 5:21; Gen. 1; I Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:8,9; Mal. 2:10; Acts 14:15; Ps. 102:25; Isa. 42:5; Jn. 3:16; II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:8; Matt. 20:28; Jn. 14:6; I Tim. 2:5; Jn. 3:36; Rom. 10:13; I Jn. 5:12,13

SECTION FOUR: God the Son

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is true God and true man, He is Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and was crucified, He gave himself upon the cross for our sin. The third day He arose from the dead. He is now our High Priest in heaven, appearing before the face of God as Advocate and Intercessor. We believe in His bodily, personal, pre-millennial return, and that He will come before the seven year tribulation to catch away His church, coming only in the air. We further believe that He will come with His church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom.

Matt. 1:20-25; Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:26-37; Heb. 1:1-8; Jn. 1:1,2,14; Col. 1:15,16, Phil. 2:6-8; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9; Jn. 1:3; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9; Jn. 1:3; I Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:4; Isa. 53:5; I Pet. 2:24; I Tim. 3:16; Luke 24:5-7; I Cor. 15:20; Acts 2:24; Jn. 20:27,28; Heb.4:14-16; Heb. 8:1; I Jn. 2:1; I Tim. 2:5; Rom. 8:34

SECTION FIVE: God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Divine Person and work of the Holy Spirit, who is Creator, who convicts man of sin, brings about the new birth, and baptizes believers into the body of Christ. He indwells and eternally seals believers and also teaches, guides, purifies and empowers them in life, testimony and service.

Acts 5:3,4; I Jn. 5:7; Ps. 104:30; Gen. 1:26; Jn. 16:8-11; Acts 2:37; Titus 3:5; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:22,23; I Cor. 12:13; Jn. 4:14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30; II Cor. 1:22; Jn. 14:26; Lk. 12:12; I Cor. 2:13; I Jn. 2:27; Jn. 16:13; Rom. 8:14; Acts 8:29-39; Gal. 5:19-26; Eph. 5:18; Acts 10:38; Mic. 3:8; Acts 1:8; Lk. 24:49

SECTION SIX: Satan

We believe that Satan is a supernatural person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; that he shall be punished in the Lake of Fire.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Gen. 3:1-15; Matt. 4:1-11; Jn. 8:44; II Pet. 2:4; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:12; I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9,10; 20:10

SECTION SEVEN: The Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation as literal and believe that man came by the direct creation of God and not by evolution.

Gen. 1:26,27; Col. 1:16,17; Gen. 1 and 2; Gen. 2:7; Heb. 2:3

SECTION EIGHT: The Fall of Man

We believe that sin is any transgression of the laws of God and originated in the heart of Satan. We believe that God created man innocent for fellowship with Him. By Adam's voluntary transgression, sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men. Consequently, everyone is born a sinner, is such by nature and practice, and stands without excuse, condemned before God.

I Jn. 3:4; James 2:9,10; Rom. 3:20; Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:11-15; Gen. 3:1-3; Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 5:12; Rev. 4:11; Ex. 25:22; I Jn. 1:3; I Cor. 15:21; Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12,19; Ps. 53:3; Rom. 3:9,10; Isa. 53:6; Ps. 51:5; Job 5:7; Gal. 3:22; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 3:9-23; Matt. 23:27,28; Rom. 1:20,21; Jn. 3:19-20; Rom. 5:18; Jn. 3:18,36; Eph. 2:3; Matt. 12:36,37; Rom. 5:18

SECTION NINE: Salvation

A. Grace: We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree.

Jn. 6:37; Eph. 2:8; 1:4; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 2:14; 4:15; I Pet. 1:19;
Rom. 3:24,25; Jn. 3:16; Lk. 19:10; Isa. 53:4-7; I Jn. 4:10; I Cor. 15:3;
II Cor. 5:21; Jn. 10:14-18; I Pet. 3:18; 2:24

B. Human Responsibility: We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all through the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection condemns him. We believe that salvation is made effective to man only by his personal faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith is not a work of merit but is made possible by the grace of God.

Rom. 6:23; 5:1,2; Jn. 1:12; Lk. 13:5; Acts 16:31; I Tim. 1:15; Jn. 5:40;
3:18; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5

C. Repentance and Faith: We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God upon hearing the gospel of Christ; thereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned sorrow, receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Acts 20:21; Mk. 1:15; Acts 2:37,38; Lk. 12:8; I Thess. 1:9; I Cor. 1:18;
Rom. 10:17

D. Regeneration: We believe that regeneration is a divine and instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit, not a process, whereby God imparts a divine nature to one dead in trespasses and sins.

Jn. 3:5; I Jn. 5:11,12; II Pet. 1:4; II Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17

E. Justification: We believe that justification is the judicial act of God, whereby He declares the believing sinner to be righteous through faith in Jesus Christ; that justification is the non-imputation of guilt and the

imputation of the righteousness of God, whereby the believer's sins are pardoned and he is made free from guilt and punishment; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood.

Rom. 8:1; 8:33; II Cor. 5:21; Acts 13:38,39; Rom. 1:17; 4:3-8; Jn. 8:36; Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 3:25,26

- F. **Sanctification:** We believe that believers positionally "have been Sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

We believe that sanctification is a divine and progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby God, upon the ground of the finished work of Christ on the cross, His present intercessory ministry, and His divine Word, sets the believer apart and works out, in and through him, by means of a submissive will, that which is well pleasing to Himself through Jesus Christ.

We believe that sanctification culminates in the redemption of the body and complete conformity to the moral image of Christ.

Heb. 10:1-10; Col. 3:8-12; Rom. 6:13; 8:13; I Pet. 1:22; I Jn. 3:2; I Thess. 3:13; Phil. 3:20,21

- G. **Eternal Security:** We believe that a true believer is secure in Christ forever. We believe in the assurance of salvation through the testimony of God's Word which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Jn. 10:27,28; Rom. 11:29; 8:29-39; 5:8-10; Heb. 7:25; Phil. 1:6; II Tim. 1:12; I Pet. 1:5; Gal. 5:13

- H. **Perseverance Of The Saints:** We believe that only real believers will endure to the end and that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors.

Jn. 8:31,32; I Jn. 2:19

SECTION TEN: The Church

A. The Church Which Is His Body: We believe in the one true Church, the spiritual body and bride of the Lord Jesus Christ, composed of all those born again from Pentecost to the Rapture, into which believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit; that it is a New Testament institution, unknown to the Old Testament prophets, established by Jesus Christ, Who is its sole Head; that it is empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; that it is Christ's "body" for service and His "bride" for glory.

Matt. 16:15-18; Eph. 2:19,20; 1:22,23; Col. 1:28; Acts 2:41; I Cor. 12:13; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:10; 5:27

- B. **The Local Church:** We believe that the Church Which Is His Body is manifest through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by a 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 Scripturally designated officers are pastors (bishops or elders) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first to make disciples; second, to baptize them; third, to teach and instruct them as He has commanded. We do not believe in a reversal of this order. We hold that the local church has the absolute right to self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the one and only Superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that in all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline and benevolence the will of the local church is final.

Acts 14:23; 15:22; Rev. 1:11; I Cor. 11:2; 6:1-3; I Tim. 3:1-13; Eph. 1:22,23; 4:11; Matt. 28:19,20

- C. **Ordinances:** We believe that there are two ordinances to be observed by the church.
I Cor. 11:2

We believe that Christian baptism by single immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is the Biblical mode of baptism and testifies to the believer's faith in and identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior; that this baptism is necessary to the privileges of church membership and the Lord's Supper.

Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; 2:41; I Pet. 3:21; Jn. 3:23; Matt. 3:16

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance by which believers remember and show forth the Lord's death until He comes; that the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine are symbols for His body and blood; that it is only for those who are saved. It is to be taken only after solemn and careful self-examination.

Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:7-20; I Cor. 11:23-29; Acts 2:41,42

SECTION ELEVEN: 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 only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and coming Prince of kings of the earth.

We believe in the absolute separation of church and state.

Rom. 13:1-7; Acts 23:5; 5:29; Matt. 10:28; 22:22

SECTION TWELVE: The Righteous and the Wicked **THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when, with spirit, soul and body re-united they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting punishment.

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection when with spirit, soul and body re-united they appear at the Judgment Seat Of Christ where their works shall be tried.

Then, with glorified bodies they shall be forever with the Lord.

Rev. 20; Acts 24:15; Jn. 5:28, 29; Lk. 16:19-31; 23:40-43; I Thess. 4:14-17; I Jn. 3:2; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:12-15

SECTION THIRTEEN: The Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in the imminent, pre-millennial return of Christ for His Church. At that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies. 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. We believe that the Great Tribulation, the seventieth week of Daniel, which immediately follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the Revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and establish the Millennial reign. We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; 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 the curse. This distinction holds among

men both in and after death, in the everlasting joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire.

Rev. 3:10; Titus 2:13; I Thess. 4:13,14; Lk. 12:40; I Cor. 15:51-53; Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20-21; Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:3-44; II Thess. 2:7-12; Rev. 4-18; Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:10,11; Matt. 25:31-34; Rev. 19:11-16; Rev. 20:1,2; Rev.21:3,4; Mk. 9:43-48; Isa. 66:24; Rev. 14:10,11; 20:11-15; 21:8; Lk. 16:26; II Thess. 1:7-9

SECTION FOURTEEN: Marriage and the Family

We believe that marriage and the family were the first institutions God provided for a man and woman. We believe that marriage is a permanent, sacred relationship. “What God hath joined together let no man put asunder.” We believe that God has ordained that intimate sexual activity is only to be engaged in within the bond of marriage between a husband and wife.

Gen. 2:18-24; Lev. 18:1-30; Mal. 2:14-16; Mk. 10:14-16; Rom. 7:1-3; Eph. 5:21-33

BY-LAWS OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH FREDONIA, NEW YORK

ARTICLE FOUR: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION ONE: RECEPTION OF MEMBERS (one of the following)

A. By Baptism: upon profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and by accepting the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant, upon Baptism, be received into the membership.

B. By letter, from another Baptist Church of like faith and practice.

C. By Statement of Faith, having already professed Jesus as Savior and having been scripturally baptized (immersed) by another church of like faith and practice.

D. By restoration, excluded members may be restored to membership on confession of their error and giving evidence of repentance.

SECTION TWO: PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Having received instruction concerning the Church Constitution and recommendation of the deacons, every candidate for admission to the church shall relate his Christian experience to the membership of the church for vote. Two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present will be required for acceptance. Each candidate must give verbal agreement to the Articles of Faith and Church Constitution. New members may be voted on at any regular church service.

SECTION THREE: DISMISSAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

A. Death

B. Transfer: A member leaving this church for good and proper reasons may be granted, by vote of the church, a letter of transfer to unite with another church of like faith and practice.

C. Discipline: Discipline is that procedure including Christian teaching, training, admonition and rebuke both private and public, with the view to helping the individual grow in grace, mature in the faith, break off from worldliness and live wholly for the Lord. At such time that a member shall refuse to receive such help, it will be necessary for the church to exclude him from the membership.

1. When differences occur between individuals or sins not generally known, the wronged party shall follow Matthew 18:15-17. A person bringing a formal accusation before the church without following this Scripture shall be subject to rebuke.

2. Matters of formal accusation shall be:
 - a. public sins or sins known by the church or the general public
 - b. holding and persistently propagating false doctrine
 - c. failure to abide by the church covenant
 - d. failure to be reconciled to another member, etc.
3. Charges must be made in person at any Pastor, Deacon meeting. Upon review of the charges and determination that the charges are valid, the Pastor and Deacons are to give at least one weeks notice to the accused member to appear at the designated meeting for the hearing. The accused must be notified in person by special delegation from the church as to charges. The hearing shall be held no later than two weeks after the presentation of charges. If the accused member fails to appear, the church may proceed. The accused may call to his aid another church member to speak for him.
4. If the charges are found to be valid by the Pastor and Deacons the member is automatically released from any office or position, cannot speak at business meetings except at the hearing, and is deprived of his right to vote.
5. At the close of the hearing, the congregation shall vote by ballot to determine if the accused is guilty. If the accused is not present he will be informed by a visit (if possible) from an official delegation of the church.
6. If the accused is found guilty, the leadership will recommend disciplinary action at another special meeting called for this purpose within two weeks.
7. An excluded member can be received back into membership only after repentance and public apology of the sin (s) and following the constitutional procedure for being admitted.

D. Removal of unfaithful members:

1. After repeated unsuccessful attempts to restore unfaithful members to active participation in worship services and fellowship with the church family, it will be the responsibility of the Deacons to recommend to the church to remove the unfaithful members at a regular scheduled business meeting of the church.
2. The recommendation to remove members for non-participation will follow this procedure: After six months of non-participation, the deacons “may” recommend to place those who have not been successfully restored on an Inactive Membership Roll. After one year on inactive membership, the deacons “may” recommend to the church the removal of the inactive members.

3. Inactive members are NOT considered voting members.

ARTICLE FIVE: ORGANIZATION

SECTION ONE:

The government of this church shall always be vested in its membership.

SECTION TWO:

The Biblical offices of this church shall be pastor(s) and deacons.

SECTION THREE: THE PASTOR

A. The duties of the pastor shall be the spiritual financial oversight of the church ministries and all staff; administer the Word of God and the ordinances of the church; assist the families of the church in normal pastoral duties which include: organizing special meetings; missions conferences; counseling; leading the church to accomplish set goals; calling ministries; making sure the ministries of the church meet Biblical standards; has charge of worship services.

B. The qualification of the pastor are those given in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and Acts 6:4. We are a Baptist Church, therefore the pastor must be a Baptist and in agreement with the doctrine and practice of this church, as stated in the Church Constitution.

C. The pastor shall be a member of all organizations and committees. The pastor shall act as the moderator in all business meetings of the church unless the church is without a pastor, then the deacons will elect a moderator. In difficult situations the deacons will choose a moderator.

D. The pastor shall be called after he has ministered in the pulpit at the church and received an affirmative of two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at a business meeting called for this purpose. Only one candidate at a time will be considered. Public notice must be given to the church at least two (2) Sundays in advance of his coming to candidate. The business meeting to consider extending a call will be during the following week. The pastor shall be called for an indefinite term. The relationship may be dissolved at the option of either party by giving one months notice or otherwise by mutual consent. The church may terminate the ministry of the pastor by a two thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at a special business meeting called for this purpose. The moderator of this business meeting will be a deacon chosen by the other deacons.

E. In the event the church is without a pastor, the deacons shall act as a pulpit committee. The church may choose to have other members assist on this committee.

SECTION FOUR: DEACONS

A. The duties of deacons are to be servants to the pastor and the church. The deacons shall appoint one of their members to be a member of each committee of the church preferably as chairman of the committee. They will assist the pastor in areas of church ordinances; developing and maintaining ministries; decision making; goal setting; maintaining harmony in the church and discipline. The deacons should assist the pastor as an advisory council. They are to serve under the pastor's leadership to meet the needs of church families. They are representatives of the church membership to assist the pastor in church ministries. They shall present a proposed budget at the annual meeting. They shall review membership every month and follow up on all unfaithful members.

B. Qualifications of the deacons are those found in Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-13. They must be spiritual men. They must hold to the same convictions as the church. They should be men who are in agreement with the pastor and his general plan and program for ministry. Because of the Biblical qualifications for the office of deacon, all nominations for deacon must come from the nominating committee. All nominated deacons must be a member of this church for at least one year.

C. The term of office for deacon shall be three (3) years at which time they may be re-elected if qualified. The term of office should end alternately so one third (1/3) of the group of deacons are elected each year.

D. The deacons shall be the trustees of the church, functioning in the legal capacity of the trustees according to the Religious Corporation Law of New York State.

E. When the office of deacon is not completed, the Church may elect at any quarterly business meeting a man to fill the term of office left vacant.

ARTICLE SIX: MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION ONE:

The church shall hold regular quarterly business meetings.

SECTION TWO:

The annual business meeting shall be held during the first full week of January. The fiscal year of the church will be the calendar year. The church will elect official positions and vote on the budget. The church will elect from its membership at the annual meeting: deacons, a church clerk, treasurer, financial secretary and committees deemed necessary.

SECTION THREE:

Special business meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacons (when the church is without a pastor), or at the written request of ten voting members. Notice of the special business must be given from the pulpit for two consecutive Sunday meeting dates.

SECTION FOUR: VOTING AGE

Those members 18 years old and over may vote. (Inactive members can not vote.)

SECTION FIVE: QUORUM

Quorum: One fourth (1/4) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. A majority of the voting members voting at a meeting shall be necessary to carry action, except in the case of calling or dismissing a pastor, buying, selling or encumbering property; then two thirds (2/3) vote will be necessary for action.

SECTION SIX: OFFICIAL POSITIONS

All official positions must be held by members of Faith Baptist Church. All positions other than pastor and deacon shall be for one year, all may succeed themselves at subsequent elections.

SECTION SEVEN:

In the event any position is vacated, the pastor and deacons may appoint someone to fill the position for the remainder of the original term.

SECTION EIGHT:

Except where it is contrary to this constitution, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of the business meeting.

ARTICLE SEVEN: COMMITTEES AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION ONE:

No auxiliary group or committee shall organize without receiving authority from the church.

SECTION TWO:

Committees to help carry out the ministries of the church shall be developed as deemed necessary by the deacons and approved by the church.

SECTION THREE:

Every committee should meet at least four times per year or the committee will be subject to dissolution.

SECTION FOUR:

All committees must give a written report to the church for the annual business meeting.

SECTION FIVE:

A deacon shall be a member of every committee.

SECTION SIX:

A. **CLERK:** The Clerk shall have custody of the church records and it shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct account of the business proceedings of the church and the official register of its members and their addresses. The Clerk shall also receive and issue church letters in connection with the reception and dismissal of members, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the church.

B. **TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall have the custody of all funds of the church, except the Deacon's fund. The Treasurer shall disburse the same as authorized by the Deacons, subject to the rules of this Constitution. The Deacons shall present a detailed report of such funds at each quarterly business meeting of the church. At the annual meeting of the church, a report of such funds shall be presented for the fiscal year. The Treasurer's books shall be presented for the fiscal year. The Treasurer's books shall be internally audited annually. The Deacons may at their own discretion have the books of the church audited by a Certified Public Accountant either in place of or in addition to the work of the Internal Auditing Committee.

C. **ASSISTANT TREASURER:** The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer by becoming familiar with the journals and the operations of the Treasurer's office so as to be capable of taking over the duties of the Treasurer in case of the Treasurer's absence.

D. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of the amounts received from each contributor. The Financial Secretary shall issue to each contributor an annual record of their giving upon request.

E. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members elected at the October business meeting. (Two of which must be Deacons. (Trustees)) It shall be their duty to prepare a slate of elective officers to be presented at the annual meeting and to post the same conspicuously at least two weeks before the election of officers takes place.

The names of any Deacon (trustees) whose successors are to be elected at the annual corporate meeting of the church shall be publicly read at a regular meeting of the church for public worship on the two Sundays preceding such meeting.

- F. **COMMITTEES:** Such standing committees as the church may require from time to time shall be appointed annually by the Deacons, and shall serve until their successors shall be appointed, unless otherwise provided.(e.g. Missionary committee, Music committee, Christian Education Committee, Social Committee)

ARTICLE EIGHT: CHURCH STAFF

SECTION ONE:

All church staff shall be responsible to the pastor.

SECTION TWO:

All paid staff must be recommended to the church by the pastor and deacons for approval.

SECTION THREE:

The pastor with the deacons, can dismiss any paid staff member whenever deemed necessary.

SECTION FOUR:

Duties of the church staff will be determined by the pastor and deacons. A job description will be given to all staff members.

SECTION FIVE:

All paid and regular teaching staff for Sunday School, youth programs, etc. must be members of this church and agree to any standard of conduct the church may adopt.

Any non-member wishing to participate in a teaching or helping ministry will be subject to the following conditions: A. Must be in agreement with the doctrine and practice of this church. B. Must meet with the Pastor and deacons for approval of terms.

ARTICLE NINE: MISSIONARY PROCEDURE

SECTION ONE:

Prospective missionaries shall meet with the missionary committee. They shall be interviewed as to conversion, call to missionary service, goals, objectives on the mission field, financial needs, policies and positions of the board under which they serve.

SECTION TWO:

Missionaries shall be primarily involved in Biblical evangelism of church planting or church planting assistants. They must be in agreement with the doctrine and practice of this local church.

SECTION THREE:

The missionary committee shall recommend to the church, missionaries meeting the requirements. A majority vote shall be required to begin support.

SECTION FOUR:

All guest speakers including missionaries must be in full agreement with the Articles of Faith of this church. It will be the pastor's responsibility to schedule missionary speakers. Pastor will take counsel from the deacons on this matter.

SECTION FIVE:

All supported missionaries must correspond with the church regularly or support may be withheld until reports are received.

SECTION SIX:

The missionary committee will be responsible for missionary support recommendations at the annual business meeting.

SECTION SEVEN:

Any change in a missionary's status will result in a review of their support by the missionary committee.

ARTICLE TEN: FINANCIAL POLICY

SECTION ONE:

All properties and equipment are property of the church. At no time may the pastor or deacons (acting trustees) sell, mortgage, lease or transfer property without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action. (Two thirds (2/3) vote required for real estate.)

SECTION TWO:

The Deacons (trustees) may disburse up to \$500.00 per month of non-budgeted moneys for urgent situations. All other disbursements must have church approval.

SECTION THREE:

All moneys shall be raised through tithes and offerings. No unscriptural methods will be used to secure funds. The church may borrow money for alterations, construction of buildings, or purchase of property.

ARTICLE ELEVEN: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting, provided notice has been given of the anticipated amendment. Such notice must be presented at two regular services of the church and also the proposed changes must be conspicuously posted in the church two weeks in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE TWELVE: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of this organization, proceeds shall be given to non-profit organizations in agreement with the Articles of Faith of this Constitution.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN: POLICIES

As the church develops the need for other policies, they will be discussed and voted on by the church membership. At the annual meeting, a copy of the policies approved by the church will be given to each church family.

Church Covenant
Faith Baptist Church
Fredonia, New York

Having been lead by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, in holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to give it sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; 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 spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God; 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, exemplary in our conduct. We also purpose to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating beverages and illegal drugs; and to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ. We further purpose to avoid being a cause of stumbling to a fellow believer or a hindrance to the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior; and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; 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 words of our Savior, to seek it without delay.

We moreover purpose that when we leave this fellowship, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry

out the spirit of the covenant and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one.