

BYLAWS of Candlelight Fellowship, Inc.

Purpose and Mission Statement

The mission of Candlelight Christian Fellowship is to communicate the good news of God's grace, to all men, through the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ and to equip believers through the literal interpretation of the Scriptures, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through an expositional, pre-millennial, pre-tribulational, dispensational hermeneutic.

We purpose to teach and train believers to be men and women who worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth. We desire to see all whom we serve firmly established in the faith, able to defend the truth, and engaged in the work of ministry.

Fellowship

Candlelight Christian Fellowship is a body of believers gathering together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ to worship Him, to be instructed in His Word, to grow in our love for one another, and to be equipped for the work of the ministry. We intend to share the good news of Jesus Christ and declare the Gospel to all men, both at home and abroad.

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ: the habitation of God through the Spirit. Every born again believer is an integral part of His body. We believe the Church belongs to Jesus. It is His work. Jesus said, *"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18)

Paul the Apostle said that God has placed men and women in the Church to assist others as they grow in the faith. He told the Ephesians that, *"...He Himself (Jesus) gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."* (Ephesians 4:11–16)

Vision

It is God's will that men and women are matured and become fruitful as members of the body of Christ. Therefore, the vision of Candlelight Christian Fellowship is to equip saints for the work of the ministry. The Lord has set into His Church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for this very purpose.

Some people are convinced that the work of the ministry is the work of the Pastor(s) and Elder(s). However, Paul clearly states that the responsibility of the Pastor(s) and Elder(s) is to equip *the saints* for the work of the ministry. As Believers grow and mature in the faith they are directed by the Holy Spirit into various areas of service. Every believer in Jesus has gifts, talents, and a calling that the Lord has specifically designed for their usefulness and fruitfulness in His work.

Paul the apostle revealed a four-fold replication process of seeing believers come into fruitfulness in the ministry. It is found in his exhortation to Timothy. *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)*

Paul, as an elder in the Church, found Timothy faithful in his service to the Lord. Timothy became Paul's student in pastoral ministry. As part of the training process, Paul gave Timothy the responsibility to seek out other *"faithful men"* who could be trained to repeat the process.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Pastor(s) and Elder(s) to equip members of the body to serve. They oversee, teach, encourage, administrate, pray for, and support the local body.

Goals

Prayer

We are called to develop a consistent and habitual life of devotional and intercessory prayer. *"He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart," (Luke 18:1)*

Worship

We are called to grow in ministry to the Lord as worshippers who: *"worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."* (John 4:23)

Doctrine

We are called to *"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"*, (2 Peter 3:18) and to understand the Word of God to the extent that they might: *"give an [answer] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."* (1 Peter 3:15) We are called to *"Study [and] be diligent to present [ourselves] approved to God, a worker*

who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15) and to know how we *"ought to walk"* (1 Thessalonians 4:1) as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Fellowship

We recognize that God has redeemed us out of this world as a unique and peculiar people unto Himself. (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9) We are a single body, with Christ as the head. (Ephesians 1:22–23) Every member though distinct is important, (Ephesians 4:15–16) and is called to encourage, build up, and selflessly minister to the others. (Colossians 3:16)

Evangelism

We share the privilege of communicating the Gospel with this world. We know that Jesus is the only Way, the only Truth and the only Life. (John 14:6) He is the only Savior and there is no other. (Isaiah 43:11; Isaiah 45:21)

Ministry Development

We believe that the ministry involves equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Therefore, we believe that a healthy church will see persons from the assembly develop their gifts and engage in active ministry. This includes the development of missionaries, other Christian organization, and the planting of other churches.

Specifics

Specific and distinct vision, plans, goals and directives are given to elders and deacons for corporate direction. Individual members of the body who participate in personal ministry will likewise receive direction from the Lord, through the Bible, and/or through the elders. We believe every believer is gifted and called to do as the Lord directs.

Statement of Faith

(Part 1) Bibliology

The Bible

We believe in the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. We believe it is the (1) inspired, inerrant, authoritative, Word of God. The Bible is sufficient in and of itself to provide us with (2) all that pertains to life and Godliness.

(1) 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

2 Peter 1:20–21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

(2) 2 Peter 1:2–3 "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."

(Part 2) Theology

God

We believe (1) in God. He is the personal, (2) transcendent, (3) eternal, (4) Sovereign Creator of all things. We believe (5) He alone is God, (6) He is the first and last, there is no other. We believe He created the heavens and the earth as described in the book of Genesis and embrace a literal six-day creation model.

(1) Genesis 1:1,31 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

(2) Romans 11:33–36 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?' 'Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?' For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."

(3) Isaiah 57:15 "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'"

(4) Psalm 115:3 "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."

(5) Isaiah 43:10 "'You are My witnesses,' says the LORD, 'And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.'"

(6) Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

The Trinity

We believe that God is (1) eternally self-existent and has revealed Himself as a (2) Tri-unity of three persons: (3) Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as three persons in the (4) Godhead and yet one Lord God Almighty.

(1) Exodus 3:14 "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

(2) Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

(3) 1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."

(4) Colossians 2:8–9 "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Jesus

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, He is the (1) only begotten Son of God, He Himself is (2) God (3) incarnate and in Him the fullness of the (4) Godhead is revealed to man. Therefore, He is appropriately called God the Son.

(1) John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(2) Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:23 "'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

(3) 1 Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

(4) Colossians 2:9 "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Savior and that all who wish to come to God must (1) come through Him. Therefore, (2) any and all who reject Jesus as both Lord and Christ have no possibility of acceptance by God the Father.

(1) John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

(2) 1 John 2:22–23 "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also."

We believe that (1) Jesus Christ came in the flesh as both God and man. He never ceased being God and yet in His humanity was fully man.

(1) Philippians 2:5–11 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

We Believe Jesus Christ was (1) born of a virgin, (2) lived a sinless life, (3) worked miracles, (4) provided for the atonement of our sins by His vicarious death on the cross, (5) after three days and three nights in the grave was physically raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit, (6) ministered to and (7) commissioned His disciples, (8) ascended bodily back to the right hand of the Father and (9) ever lives to make intercession for us.

(1) Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

(2) 1 Peter 2:21–22 "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.'"

Hebrews 7:26–27 "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself."

(3) Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know."

(4) 2 Corinthians 5:20–21 "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(5) 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

(6) Acts 1:2–11 "...until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'"

(7) Matthew 28:18–20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

(8) Romans 8:34 "Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."

(9) Hebrews 7:25 "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

The Holy Spirit

We believe that after Jesus ascended to heaven (1) He poured out His Holy Spirit upon the believers: His Church, at which time they were empowered to live a godly life and fulfill His command to preach the Gospel to the entire world (Acts 1:8–2:4), a privilege shared by all believers today.

(1) Acts 1:8–2:4 "'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.' Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, 'Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.' (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) 'For it is written in the Book of Psalms: "Let his dwelling place be desolate, and let no one live in it"; and, "Let another take his office." 'Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.' And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, 'You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.' And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

We believe in the present work of the Holy Spirit in the world today. Jesus said: (1) "when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment".

(1) John 16:7–8 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

We Believe the Holy Spirit works in (1) regeneration, (2) permanently indwelling, (3) sealing the believer unto the day of redemption, (4) teaching, (5) empowering for service, and (6) guiding the believer into maturity and fruitfulness.

(1) Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

(2) 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*"

Romans 8:9 "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

(3) Ephesians 1:13–14 "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

(4) John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

1 John 2:27 "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him."

(5) Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(6) Galatians 5:22–25 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

We believe in the (1) gifts of the Holy Spirit and their operation in the Church today (1 Corinthians 12–14). We believe the purpose of these gifts is to edify the body of Christ: His Church, to equip us for the ministry and above all to glorify Christ. We believe these gifts are to be disciplined as prescribed by the scriptures, should never be used to draw attention to or to glorify man, should be practiced in a decent and orderly fashion, and must always be operational in a spirit of love.

(1) 1 Corinthians 12

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."

1 Corinthians 13

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but

have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 14

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. There are, it may be, so many kinds of languages in the world, and none of them is without significance. Therefore, if I do not know the meaning of the language, I shall be a foreigner to him who speaks, and he who speaks will be a foreigner to me. Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel. Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature. In the law it is written: 'With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,' says the Lord. Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe. Therefore if the whole church comes together in one

place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you. How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion but of peace,

as in all the churches of the saints. Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. Or did the word of God come originally from you? Or was it you only that it reached? If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant. Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order."

(Part 3) Soteriology

We believe that all people are by nature (1) sinful, (2) separated from God and (3) responsible for their own sin. We believe that man in and of himself has (4) nothing to offer God in exchange for his soul and will (5) spend eternity in hell should he reject the provisions provided for him in Jesus Christ our Lord. (6) Salvation: (6a) redemption, (6b) justification, (6c) forgiveness and (6d) sanctification, are (7) freely offered (8) to all (9) through the grace of God by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1) Romans 3:10–23 "As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one.' 'Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit'; 'The poison of asps is under their lips'; 'Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.' 'Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

(2) Isaiah 59:1–4 “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity. No one calls for justice, nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.”

(3) Ezekiel 18:20–23 “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. ‘Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?’ says the Lord GOD, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’”

(4) Matthew 16:25–26 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

(5) Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Revelation 20:12–15 “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

(6) Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

(6a) Ephesians 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

(6b) Romans 4:25–5:1 “Who [Jesus] was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(6c) Colossians 1:14 “In whom [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

(6d) Hebrews 10:10 “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

(7) 1 Corinthians 2:12 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

Revelation 21:6 “And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.’”

(8) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Titus 2:11 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.”

(9) Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

When a person understands his or her need for a Savior (1) and trusts Christ for salvation (2) that person is immediately (3) born again and (4) sealed by the Holy Spirit; (5) all sins are forgiven and (6) he or she becomes a child of God (7) destined to spend eternity with the Lord.

(1) Isaiah 45:21–22 “Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

1 John 4:13–15 “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

(2) John 19:30 “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Hebrews 10:1–14 “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: ‘Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, “Behold, I have come—In the volume of the

book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.”’ Previously saying, ‘Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them’ (which are offered according to the law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

Colossians 2:8–10 “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

(3) John 3:1–8 “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.” The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”

1 Peter 1:18–23 “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

1 John 5:1–5 “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

(4) Ephesians 1:1–14 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

(5) Colossians 2:10–13 “And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”

Isaiah 55:7 “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

(6) John 1:12–13 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

1 John 3:1–3 “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

(7) John 3:16–17 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 14:1–4 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

We believe that (1) salvation is offered by grace through faith alone. Salvation is not of ourselves, it is a gift of God, not granted by any human merit or offering of good works. (2) Any offering of salvation granted by human achievement, be it all or in part, is not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and should be rejected as heresy.

(1) Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

(2) Galatians 1:3–9 “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

Galatians 2:16–3:14 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain. O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? — Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? Have you suffered so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and

works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? just as Abraham 'believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.' But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for 'the just shall live by faith.' Yet the law is not of faith, but 'the man who does them shall live by them.' Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Comments: (Many believers don't really understand the power of the Gospel and are trapped in a game of performance-based Christianity. Here is the scenario.

When many respond to Christ they are taught to believe that being a Christian involves "asking Jesus into their lives" and then making every effort to live a life pleasing to the Lord. They expel great energy "working" and "trying" to please God, make good choices, and refuse the impulses of the flesh. They focus their energy warring with the devil/demons, fleshly habits and the lure of the world —always with little to no success, and always with great discouragement. However, they believe that this effort is pleasing to the Lord and He therefore "makes up the difference" for their weakness by an act of His grace. Thus they are "saved." Oh how far this strays from the true Gospel message.

The good news of the Gospel is that God, in accordance with the good pleasure of His will, made provision for the total forgiveness of our sin/s. Jesus gave His life that we might have redemption through His blood. Jesus took the penalty we deserve upon Himself and died in our place. His life —the only acceptable payment for sin, given by the shedding of His blood, provides total cleansing of our sin/s. It is by the offering of Jesus' life and through the power of His resurrection we have forgiveness of sin/s and a new life in Him. By faith alone in Christ alone our sin is forgiven and exchanged for His righteousness.

Nowhere in Scripture are we told to "ask Jesus into our lives." However, we are instructed to surrender ourselves to Him. As Christians (born again by the Spirit of God) we are made the righteousness of God in Christ. We don't spend our lives "working" and "trying" to please the Lord. We surrender ourselves to His leadership and rest in His holiness. Our human effort to "please the Lord" by "trying harder" is an affront to His grace and power working in us. The Christian enters into the "Sabbath Rest" of a relationship with Jesus and ceases striving to please the Lord; thus enjoying a continual maturing by God's Spirit within. "For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:10)

God will deliver us, direct us, change us, and mature us. Let Him do the cleanup. Trust Him, surrender to His leadership, and give Him all the glory.)

We believe (1) obedience to the Lord is the natural outflow of genuine regeneration. We understand that (2) all believers fall short of God's glory and (3) are capable of disobedience. However, we believe that (4) disobedience in the life of a believer is sin and should be avoided.

(1) 1 John 3:3–10 “And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”

1 Peter 1:13–16 “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

(2) Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

(3) Romans 6:1–14 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Colossians 3:8–9 “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.”

Ephesians 4:20–24 “But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

(4) 1 Corinthians 6:20 “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

We believe that (1) imputed holiness is the experience of all believers and that (2) those who have been regenerated shall obtain everlasting life.

(1) Hebrews 10:10 “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

(2) 1 Peter 1:3–5 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

We believe in the ordinance of (1) baptism in water by immersion, a public expression of our faith and identification in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(1) Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

Comment: We do not believe in water baptismal regeneration.

We believe in the ordinance of (1) communion: The Lord’s supper, consisting in the elements of bread and wine, representing the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This serves as a memorial to His suffering and death, is a prophesy concerning His second coming, and is to be enjoyed by all believers until He comes.

(1) 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is

the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

(Part 4) Eschatology

We believe in the pre-tribulation (1) rapture of the church: the (2) imminent and blessed hope of all believers. The dead in Christ shall rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

(1) 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

(2) Titus 2:13–14 "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Philippians 4:5 "Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand."

Revelation 22:12–13 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Comment: The *Rapture of the church*, which precedes the Tribulation, and the *Second Coming of Christ*, following the Tribulation, are distinct events.

We believe in the Great Tribulation – (1) A judgment upon Israel (2) and the unbelieving world whom have rejected the offer of Salvation. (3) During this seven-year period, (4) God shall pour out upon the inhabitants of the earth, sore judgments and afflictions such as the world has never known. (5) Those who refuse the Gospel shall be blinded from the truth and damned to destruction, while (6) those who respond shall have an opportunity to believe through the testimony of the 144,000 chosen sealed Jews, (7) the preaching of the two prophets, (8) the angel who proclaims the truth from the heavens. Many of (9) these who turn to the Lord shall be murdered by the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet, and those of his kingdom, but (10) shall be raised up again by the Lord to reign with Him during the Millennium and enjoy life everlasting.

(1) Jeremiah 30:3–11 "'For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to

the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.' Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. 'For thus says the LORD: "We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.' 'Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,' says the LORD, 'Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid. For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.'"

Matthew 24:4–31 "And Jesus answered and said to them: 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There!" do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, "Look, He is in the desert!" do not go out; or "Look, He is in the inner rooms!" do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great

sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.’”

(2) 1 Thessalonians 5:9 “For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(3) Daniel 9:26–27 “...and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

(4) Revelation 6:15–17 “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’”

(5) 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

(6) Revelation 7:4–8 “And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed: of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand were sealed.”

(7) Revelation 11:3–12 “And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called

Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them."

(8) Revelation 14:6–7 "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people — saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"

(9) Revelation 6:9–11 "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."

(10) Revelation 20:4–5 "And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

Comment: See all of Revelation 4–19

We believe in (1) the visible second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2) at which time the battle of Armageddon shall occur. (3) Jesus will then set up His millennial kingdom and will reign here on the earth for 1000 years. (4) We, His blood-bought church, will reign with Him. (5) At this time Jesus will be recognized by national Israel as Messiah. (6) The Jews living at that time will turn to Jesus as Lord. (7) As the Prince of Peace, Jesus will by His rod of iron rule the nations. (8) Satan will be bound for the 1000 years (9) during which time the curse will be restrained.

(1) Matthew 24:29–30 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Acts 1:9–11 “Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”

Revelation 1:7 “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.”

Revelation 19:11–14 “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”

(2) Revelation 16:16 “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

Revelation 19:17–21 “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

(3) Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him [Jesus] a thousand years.”

(4) Revelation 5:8–10 “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’”

(5) Zechariah 13:1–2 “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. ‘It shall be in that day,’ says the LORD of

hosts, 'that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.'

Zechariah 13:8–9 “‘And it shall come to pass in all the land,’ says the LORD, ‘that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”; and each one will say, “The LORD is my God.”’”

(6) Romans 11:25–36 “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

(7) Revelation 19:15–16 “Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

(8) Revelation 20:1–3 “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

(9) Isaiah 11:6–9 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

We believe in (1) the final judgment. (2) Those who have placed their faith in Christ for salvation will never suffer any future disciplinary judgment. The entirety of the judgment we deserve has been placed on Jesus at the cross. (3) He sacrificially suffered the wrath of God, in our place, for our sin. For this reason, the believer does not anticipate future judgment but looks forward to rewards, blessing, and peace. Jesus paid the price for us, therefore we will not suffer the wrath to come. With great expectation we can look forward to seeing Jesus face to face. (4) In the fullness of time every believer's "work" will be tested, but NOT the believer. Believers in Jesus have passed from death to life and should never fear seeing the Lord nor standing before Him. Believers in Jesus have been made the righteousness of God in Him! (5) Those who have rejected the Gospel will be raised and judgment will be passed at the Great White Throne. Whoever's name is not found written in the book of life, together with the Devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

(1) 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

(2) John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

(3) 1 John 2:2 "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

(4) 1 Corinthians 3:9–15 "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."

(5) Revelation 20:10–15 "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to

his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

We believe that after the 1000-year reign of Christ and after the Great White Throne Judgment, there will be a New Heaven and New Earth wherein righteousness dwells. (1) We who have trusted in Christ as Savior will live therein with Him forever.

(1) Revelation 21:1–7 “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”

(Part 5) Israelology

We believe in (1) the election of Israel as God’s chosen nation, and (2) in the people of Israel as covenant descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (3) God has an irrevocable and eternal plan for the land of Israel and has promised the land as an inheritance to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by covenant. (4) God also has a future plan for the People of Israel. The covenant with the people and land will not be realized in its fullness until the literal, physical, Millennial Reign of Christ.

(1) Deuteronomy 7:6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”

(2) Genesis 15:1–6 “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ But Abram said, ‘Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.’ Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.”

Jeremiah 31:35–36 “Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): ‘If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.’”

(3) Genesis 15:7–21 “Then He said to him, ‘I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.’ And he said, ‘Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?’ So He said to him, ‘Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.’ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. Then He said to Abram: ‘Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.’ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying:

‘To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates —the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.’”

(4) Jeremiah 31:31–37 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

We believe there is a distinction between Israel and the Church. Seeing this distinction is critical to the correct interpretation of Scripture. The fact that God has an eternal plan with Israel as a people and nation, calls us to reject what is known as “Replacement Theology.” Jews and Gentiles alike who believe the Gospel in the Church Age are all made one—the Church. This by no means suggests that God has replaced or revoked His covenant with Israel.

Romans 11:1 “I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!”

Ephesians 2:11–22 “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

We (1) **reject** the teaching that claims God has or does offer eternal salvation to the Jews without the need for faith in Christ, yet requires all Gentile people to believe on Christ for the same salvation. This doctrine is known as “Dual Covenantalism.” We believe neither Jew nor Gentile will be saved apart from faith in the finished work of Christ. (2) All people prior to the cross were saved by faith in God, looking forward with expectation to the fulfillment of prophecy, by God in Christ. (3) Jews alive at the time of Christ were saved by faith in Jesus, as are all people from the time of Christ, through the Church Age, and through the Tribulation. (4) All living Jews at the time of the Second Coming of Christ shall miraculously be brought to faith in Christ and shall all be saved.

(1) Acts 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

(2) Hebrews 11:1–2, 13–16 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony....These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

(3) John 3:16–18 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

(4) Zechariah 13:1–2 “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. ‘It shall be in that day,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.’”

Zechariah 13:8–9 “‘And it shall come to pass in all the land,’ says the LORD, ‘that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, “This is My people”; and each one will say, “The LORD is my God.”’”

Romans 11:25–36 “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

We believe that (1) God loves the land and people of Israel. Therefore, we too love and honor God’s chosen people and likewise value the land as the Lord’s. (2) We make every effort to support Israel, support missions in and to Israel. We believe the Gospel is to be proclaimed to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles.

(1) Joel 3:2 “I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land.”

(2) Romans 1:16–17 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

(Part 6) Ecclesiology

We believe the Church is the (1) Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit. Every born again believer is an integral part of His body. Jesus said, (2) “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

(1) 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”

Ephesians 1:22–23 “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 2:21–22 “...in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

(2) Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

We believe the mission of the Church is to be a family of those who (1) worship the Lord in spirit and truth, to be a body of believers who (2) study the Scriptures and grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, fashioned into the image of Jesus. We are a body of believers who (3) gather together for fellowship, encouragement, and instruction. We are an agency for the (4) evangelization of the world.

(1) John 4:23–24 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

(2) 2 Timothy 2:15 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

(3) Hebrews 10:25 “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

(4) Matthew 28:19–20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

We believe that every member of the Church is the Bride of Christ. Furthermore, we believe in the sanctity of marriage, between one man and one woman, as it is a model of the relationship the Church has with Christ.

Ephesians 5:22–33 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as

their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

We believe in a divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry provided by our Lord for the maturing of the saints. (1)

(1) Ephesians 4:11–12 "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

We believe in the financial support of ministry. The principle of giving has been woven throughout the entirety of Scripture. It is the joy of every true believer to give to the work of ministry. We understand that God does not need our help but that we honor the Lord with the blessings we receive of Him. Giving signifies and demonstrates our trust in the Lord and recognizes God as our provider. (1)

(1) Proverbs 3:9–10 "Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

Proverbs 11:24–25 "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."

1 Corinthians 16:2 "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

2 Corinthians 9:6–7 "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, ... So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualification and Reception to Membership

- The membership of this corporation shall be open to any believing and confessing Christian, eighteen (18) years or older, who has trusted Christ for salvation, who desires to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and who is willing to subscribe to the Philosophy of Ministry, Mission Statement, and Statement of Faith. Moreover, those recognized into membership are encouraged to attend our membership classes and complete the Voluntary

Membership Form, support the church leadership, and financially support this ministry. Persons desiring membership may apply by contacting the body ministry pastor/director, a staff secretary, or any elder. The form must then be signed and submitted to a staff secretary or the body ministry pastor/director. Upon receiving confirmation of reception, a pastor or secretarial staff member shall inform the membership candidate of membership inclusion.

Any and all prerogatives of membership shall be subject to elder approval with the exception of that stated in Article I. Membership Section 5. Furthermore, any member who is in open or persistent disagreement with or has disregard for the Philosophy of Ministry, Mission Statement, or Statement of Faith shall be subject to revocation from membership.

Those who desire removal from membership shall request said removal in written form. Removal from membership shall be acknowledged in written form following.

Section 2: **Quorum**

A quorum for any meeting of the members shall be by presence of any number of the voting members present. However, a public invitation must be made at least two weeks in advance of any gathering(s) to allow members of the fellowship ample time to plan for attendance.

Section 3: **Membership Rolls**

A list of active members who attend and give support shall be maintained by the staff secretaries, board members or body ministry team. This list may be reviewed and updated at any time.

Section 4: **Membership may be discontinued due to one or more of the following:**

1. Request of said member.
2. Evident non-support of this ministry.
 - 2a. Non-attendance for a period of 183 days or more,
 - 2b. Continued attendance or membership at another fellowship.
3. Other Scriptural grounds.

In accordance with guidelines given by our Lord Jesus Christ, (Matthew 18:15–17) and by the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 5:1–13).
The members will be contacted and counseled by the elders (when possible) before any action is taken.

Section 5: **Voting Rights of Active Members**

Active members shall be entitled to vote on the termination of the Pastor as provided in these Bylaws. Each active member shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 6: **Meetings for Business**

A. Annual Meetings

(1) The church membership shall hold meetings for business at least once a year and as called for by the Pastor or the Church Board.

B. Special Meetings

(1) Special meetings of the members of this corporation for any purpose or purposes, may be called at any time by the president of the corporation. Official notice of the time and place of the special meetings of the members must be given two regular Sunday services prior to the special meeting.

ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT

Section 1: **The Headship of Jesus Christ**

A. Jesus as the head

The government of the Church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His body. All those in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

B. The Word of God as the authority

The Word of God (with a literal, grammatical, and historical interpretation) is the final authority for this Church. If there are any seeming discrepancies between the Bible and these Bylaws, the Bible is the final authority.

Section 2: **The Elders**

A. Attributes and Responsibilities of an Elder

Elders are overseers. They pastor and teach. The Elders are responsible for the overall health and spiritual leadership in the Church. They are called to teach the Scriptures and equip the body. They lead the congregation in worship and prayer. They provide encouragement, counsel, prayer for the sick, and, when necessary, the administration of Church discipline. They are called upon to counsel, admonish, and hold accountable the Senior Pastor—as he leads.

Candlelight Christian Fellowship is not an elder-run church in the sense that the elders are a separate entity and the pastor is hired or retained by the eldership. At Candlelight the pastor serves as chairman of the "Elder Board" and serves as one of the elders.

The Senior Pastor seeks the counsel of the other members of the "Elder Board" and may seek counsel from other senior pastors in the community or abroad.

The Elders shall oversee and guide the ministry of the church by precept and example. They shall pray together regularly seeking the mind of God and shall meet regularly to review the progress of the spiritual well-being of the fellowship. They shall review the progress, informally, as frequently as needed for mutual counsel. The Elders shall minister to the body in roles such as teaching, counseling, evangelism, leading in worship, etc. They shall also disperse themselves throughout the body in its various gatherings so as to enable and encourage the worship of God, the spiritual growth of the members, and the winning of the lost to Christ.

It is necessary to have those who serve as leaders in the local assembly share a common view on the fundamental doctrines of the Bible as described in our "Statement of Faith". We also believe it is important to share a common philosophy of ministry. (Amos 3:3)

Paul mentions in his comments to Timothy and Titus, that one of the distinguishing marks of an elder is that they are *"able to teach."* (1 Timothy 3:2) Therefore, those who serve together as elders, work together and in harmony for the common good of the body.

Paul exhorted, *"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."* (1 Cor. 1:10) *"But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine."* (Titus 2:1)

Because there are various and distinct methods of leadership in the churches today, it is necessary that those who serve as leaders agree upon the methods and mannerisms employed. These bylaws are designed to help avoid confusion in the body and avoid discouragement. All who serve as elders at Candlelight must agree to these bylaws.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1) *"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Spirituality

It has become increasingly popular to utilize methods developed by humanistic and secular society to dictate the programs, methods and directives of the local Church. However, we believe that the local Church is to be led by the Spirit of God. Therefore, men who serve as leaders in the local assembly are to be men who, first of all, are men of the Word. We are called

to "study" (2 Timothy 2:15) the Scriptures and "*always be ready to give [an answer] to everyone...*" (1 Peter 3:15). We are to be men whose lives are directed by and submitted to the Holy Scriptures.

Secondly, men in leadership should be men who are in the habit of spending time in prayer, waiting in the presence of God. An elder should be a man who faithfully brings up the needs of the fellowship before the Lord in prayer. Paul said, "*(We)...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*" (Colossians 1:9–12)

Jesus is the ultimate example of Christian leadership and has left for us an example of His discipline and dependence upon His Heavenly Father—spending time in prayer. If He spent time in the presence of His Father, consider the greatness of our need to do the same.

Accountability

Men in leadership should be men who humbly adhere to counsel and make themselves accountable to fellow believers. No man will ever be a great leader who has not first learned to be a faithful follower. It is of greatest importance to understand that a leader in the body of Christ is a servant to the body of Christ, not a ruler who dictates to and lords over the flock of God. An independent, glory seeking, power hungry and/or self-willed spirit must be set aside if one is to be a servant/leader to the body of Christ.

Because people look to the elders and deacons in the local assembly as examples, it is important that their lifestyle depicts integrity, consistency and faithfulness. Paul told Timothy to "*...be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" (1 Timothy 4:12)

Commitment

An elder should be a man who is committed to the flock, not a hireling who, when persecution, opposition, and difficulty arises, flees and leaves the body unprotected and unnourished.

Jesus said, "*The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.*" (John 10:13) He went on to say that He is "*the good shepherd; and (that He) know(s) (His) sheep, and (is) known by (His) own.*" (John 10:14) We are called to follow this model.

Men in leadership at Candlelight are those found in the habit of regularly attending Sunday services, Wednesday evening prayer meetings, and small groups. We look for those who are willing servants and who are generally among the first to arrive and last to leave. There are

always things to do and people to serve. Those in leadership are willing to do any task that serves the Lord and His Church.

Secondly, as leaders and examples to and for the local Church, men in leadership should be men who faithfully support the local assembly through the giving of financial support.

The Old Covenant principle declares, *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."* (Malachi 3:10)

It is obvious to everyone that there are financial responsibilities that accompany the work of the ministry. We are of the opinion that "where God guides, He provides". However, it is clear from the Scriptures that in the Church Age, God has chosen to use the body of Christ as the primary avenue by which He provides the needed finances for the operation of the ministry.

Visibility and Availability

Serving in leadership is much more than filling a position in the church. It is a passion for the body of Christ. Therefore, we believe that elders and deacons should be available (as much as is possible) 24 hours a day, ready to serve in times of crisis and as under-shepherds ready to assist the local body with its growing need.

Peter said, *"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."* (1 Peter 5:2–5)

B. Protocols for Decision Making

The Elder Board does not function on a percentage vote to pass a decision. However, in practice, we seek a unanimous decision protocol. If there is a shortfall of unanimous agreement, the protocol is to wait and pray until there is full harmony on a decision. With that in mind, if and when a time should come that a final decision must be made on an action item, someone must be able to lead and make a decision. That person is the pastor as the primary/lead shepherd. The elder board is, by purpose, to counsel and hold accountable the pastor as he leads or in the event he goes against the Scriptures.

C. Biblical Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:1–7 NKJV

"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

Titus 1:5–9 NKJV

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you; if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

D. Number of Elders

The number of Elders shall consist of no more than twelve (12) members and no less than three (3) members. The required number of Elders may be changed by amendment of these Bylaws. The Pastor shall serve as a member of the Elder board.

E. Appointment and Term of Office of Elders

Elders will be appointed by the Pastor with the counsel of the Elders then in office. An Elder, with the exception of the Pastor, is appointed for a one (1) year term which may be repeated at the discretion of the Pastor.

F. Vacancies

A vacancy occurring within the Board of Elders shall be filled by the Pastor’s recommendation and with the counsel of the remaining Elders then in office.

G. Quorum

A quorum for any meeting of the Elders shall be a majority of all Elders then in office. However, a notification of an elders’ meeting must be sent to all Elders then in office.

H. Place and Time of Meeting

Regular meeting of the Elders may be held at any place that has been designated by the Pastor and at any time designated by the Pastor, but not less than one every quarter.

I. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Elders for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Pastor or any two of the Elders. Each Elder must receive written notice two days prior to the specially called meeting. Written notice may be supplied via email.

The transactions of any special meeting of the Elders, however called and noticed and where held, shall be as valid as though at a regularly held meeting, if a quorum is present and, if either before or after the special meeting, each of the Elders not present signs a written waiver of notice or a consent to hold the special meeting or an approval of the minutes. All such waivers, consents, or approvals shall be filed with the records or made a part of the minutes of the special meeting.

J. Removal

An Elder other than the Pastor may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Elders. The Pastor may only be removed by a 3/4 vote of the voting membership of the church.

Section 3. Deacons

Deacons are servants to the Lord and His Church. They are responsible for administrative and task oriented duties in the Church. Generally, they are the ones who handle the church finances, administrate the benevolence ministries, and attend to natural functions of the Church. They may also be charged with the care and oversight of the church building and grounds, transportation, etc.

The Deacons shall counsel with the Pastor, Pastoral staff, and Elders regarding physical needs which arise in the body; they shall pray for any in the flock for whom they are caring; they shall serve the flock by exercising hospitality, love, care, and good counsel.

A. Biblical Qualification

1 Timothy 3:8–13 NKJV

“Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH, (AKA Board of Directors)

Section 1: **Officers**

The officers of this corporation shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and such other officers as the Pastor may appoint. No person may hold more than one of these offices. The officers shall serve as elders.

Section 2: **Election**

The Pastor shall appoint all officers of the corporation other than the President for terms of one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. The Pastor shall serve as President of the corporation.

Section 3: **Vacancies**

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by the Pastor. In the event of the Pastor's death, the Elders shall by unanimous decision appoint a new Pastor/President.

Section 4: **Pastor (President)**

With the counsel of the Elders, the Pastor (President) shall have general supervision and direction of the business and affairs of the corporation. He shall preside at meetings of the Members, Elders, Deacons and Officers, and shall have such other powers and duties as may be required from time to time. The Pastor may appoint a Chair Person to preside over any meetings where he will not be in attendance.

A. His Ministry

(1) The Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and Prayer (Acts 6:4), and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

(2) The Pastor shall be the teaching-shepherd of the church. He shall give considerable time to the study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall aim to feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry, and guard the church against the attack of the enemy.

(3) The Pastor shall be the President of the corporation, its Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to the Assistant/Associate Pastors, the Elders, the Deacons, the Officers, the general church body and its ministries. The Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings, and meetings.

B. His Qualifications (See 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9)

(1) The Pastor shall be generally qualified according to the qualifications for elder as described in these bylaws.

(2) The Pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, ordained of God, of good reputation, biblically conservative in theology, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests.

C. His Appointment

(1) Should a vacancy occur, the Elders shall seek a new Pastor, and they are the nominating committee. They shall seek first among the Associate or Assistant Pastors from within the fellowship. Appointment shall be by unanimous vote of the Elders then in office.

(2) The resigning or retiring Pastor may nominate a successor and/or participate in the selection of his successor.

D. His compensation

The Pastor's initial compensation shall be specified by the Officers/Board of Directors at the time of his calling. The church shall provide, as far as possible, adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference funds, continued education, and other special funds as needed for his ministry. The church shall also defray the costs of sending the Pastor to out-of-town conferences or conventions attended for the church, as approved by the Officers.

E. Potential Termination

For the purpose of potential removal from office of the Pastor, any two Elders may call a meeting of the Elders. The meeting shall be called in accordance with the procedure outlined for calling special meetings. Should 2/3 of the elders concur that the Pastor should terminate his pastorship of the church and he does not resign, it shall be brought before the voting membership at a duly called meeting. A 3/4 majority of the voting membership will terminate the Pastor.

Section 5: **Assistant/Associate Pastors**

A. Their Ministries

(1) An Assistant/Associate Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

(2) An Assistant/Associate Pastor must be there for the specific purpose of being an Assistant/Associate to the Pastor. The mind and heart must remain as a servant at all times.

(3) The Pastor shall define an Assistant/Associate Pastor's ministry upon his appointment. He shall serve under the Pastor's direction and with the Pastor in other pastoral duties. Associate/Assistant pastors may also serve as an elder by appointment per Section 2, Article D.

B. Their Qualifications

An Assistant/Associate Pastor shall meet the same qualifications as the Pastor.

C. Their Appointment

The Pastor shall appoint and shall ordain all Assistant/Associate Pastors.

D. Their Compensation

The Assistant/Associate Pastor's compensation shall be specified by the Board of Directors at the time of His calling. For a full-time Assistant/Associate Pastor, the church shall provide, as possible, adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference and continued education funds. For a part-time Assistant/Associate, the church shall provide as seems appropriate to the Board of Directors.

E. Potential Termination

It shall be the prerogative of the Pastor, with confirmation of the Elders, to terminate the Pastoral Assistant/Associates if deemed necessary. In the event that one of the associate/assistant pastors serves as an elder, the role of Elder shall be terminated along with employment.

Section 6: **Board of Elders Action in the Absence of a President**

In the prolonged absence or disability of the President, the Board of Elders shall perform all the duties of the President with the help of the Associate/Assisting Pastors, and in so acting, the Elders shall have all the powers of the President. In such a case, the pastor having served the longest time on the elder board will act as chairman of the elder board. (Prolonged absence or disability shall be defined as lasting no less that 6 months in duration.)

Section 7: **Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of all the proceedings of the officers, shall keep the seal of the corporation and affix it to such papers as may be required in the regular course of business, shall make services of such notices as may be necessary and proper, shall

supervise the keeping of the records of the corporation, and shall discharge such other duties as prescribed by the Pastor.

Section 8: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the reception and safe keeping of all funds of the corporation and shall see to it that all monies are deposited into the bank or banks as designated by the officers. The Treasurer may secure the help of a bookkeeper in the daily routines. However, he shall regularly review and oversee all financial activity.

ARTICLE IV. RIGHTS OF ORDINATION

Section 1: Principles of Ordination

Candidates for ordination recognize that only our Sovereign Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for services in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling of a minister is not the result of a title, rather the title is a result of His calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is a man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the overseers of the true Church of Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such calling is obviously placed upon a man's life. The Purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination rites of ministers of the Gospel of Candlelight Fellowship.

Section 2: Qualifications for Ordination

A. A candidate for ordination must be a "Born Again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.

B. A candidate must believe that there is only one God who manifests Himself in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

C. A candidate must meet the Scriptural requirement for the office of Elder as described in the Holy Bible; references are 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9.

D. A candidate must believe and render evidence of his belief that the Holy Bible is the complete and divinely inspired Word of God and that God has not added to, or otherwise, altered this work with subsequent writings and revelations.

E. A candidate must have completed adequate Bible study and have demonstrated to the Pastor and Elders a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures.

F. A candidate for ordination must subscribe to the statement of faith as described in the Preamble of these Bylaws.

G. A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God upon his life in terms of ministerial experience and report to the satisfaction of the Pastor and Elders.

THE PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. Each person fulfilling the above qualifications, and upon their proper presentation to the Pastor and Elders of this body, will receive full consideration for ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

B. The Pastor and Elders may make exceptions to these qualifying standards wherein the unanimous opinion of the Pastor and Elders and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit such exception is according to the will of God and consistent with His Word.

C. Upon unanimous approval of the Pastor and Elders, the candidate will be ordained as a minister of the Gospel with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of God's Holy Word with all prerogatives of such calling and office.

D. Candidates, successful or otherwise, will be notified of the Pastor and Elders' decision in writing of the final action.

Section 3: Certificate of Ordination. (See Certificate of Ordination)

The following is a suggested text for the Certificate of Ordination to be issued to each successful candidate:

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that _____ was duly recognized for ordination by Candlelight Christian Fellowship as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has completed the requirements of this body for recognition of such office;

further, by rite of ordination this date, he is duly ordained by the laws of the land and in compliance with the ordinances of the Church as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

Given this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord, _____.

Pastor

Elder

Assisting Pastor/Elder

(SEAL)

ARTICLE V. MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1: Execution of Documents

The Board of Directors having counseled with the Elders when deemed appropriate may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the church and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent or other person shall have any power or authority to bind the church by any contract or engagement to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 2: Inspection of Bylaws

The church shall keep in its principal office the original or a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date, certified by the Secretary which shall be open to inspection by the members at all reasonable times during the office hours.

Section 3: Construction and Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provision, rules of construction, and definitions contained in the Idaho General Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

Section 4: Property Rights

The title to all real property of the corporation shall be in the name of the corporation and no member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the corporation.

In the event that the corporation is dissolved, the properties shall be sold and all proceeds, above liabilities, proportioned on the basis of current support, shall be divided among other non-profit organizations as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Rules of Order

The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order Revised* shall govern all business Board meetings of the church, except in instances of conflict between said Rules of Order and Articles or Bylaws of the church or provisions of the law.

ARTICLE VI. AUXILIARIES

Any organization, group, or club whose membership is primarily for a church activity shall be considered an auxiliary of the church and shall be subject to the constitution and Bylaws of the church. An auxiliary organization shall exist only in cooperation with the Pastor and Elders.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

A. The Bylaws may be amended or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by the unanimous vote of all officers at a meeting called in accordance with the procedure outlined for calling special meetings.

B. A public announcement of all changes to the Bylaws will be made to the Candlelight Fellowship congregation if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VIII. ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD

The annual accounting period for this corporation shall begin on the first day of January and shall end on the last day of December.