

**CONSTITUTION OF
BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH
GREENE, NEW YORK**

PREAMBLE

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we band ourselves together as a body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and adopt for our government and plan of worship and service the following articles:

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

This church shall be known as BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH of the town of Greene, New York and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, Article 10 of the Religious Corporation Laws.

Section 2. Mission Purpose Statement

Believing that Berean Bible Church has been raised up by God to make disciples, it is our purpose to be an instrument of the Lord to impact our community of Greene, and ultimately the whole world, with the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ, without partiality or prejudice. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

We are committed to leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, teaching believers the Biblical disciplines of the Christian life, and equipping believers to serve with their God-given gifts and talents under the leadership of the Board of Elders. (Eph. 4:11-16; II Tim. 2:2).

Through inspirational worship, fervent prayer, practical teaching, caring benevolence, loving fellowship, and consistent outreach, we anticipate God's blessing in the salvation of the lost and the spiritual maturing of believers which will result in the growth of the church, locally and universally.

ARTICLE II - DOCTRINE

Section 1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the foundation of the faith and practice of Berean Bible Church. We believe that every word in the original writings of the Holy Scriptures is inspired of God and without error. (I Cor. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

Section 2. God

We believe that the Godhead exists eternally in three Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - and these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:18,19; John 4:24; John 10:30; Acts 5:3,4; II Cor. 13:14).

Section 3. Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners, hopelessly sinful in themselves apart from the grace of God. (Gen. 1:26, 27; Rom. 3:10-19; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1).

Section 4. Jesus Christ

a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God, and redeem sinful men. (Luke 1:30-35 John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:5-8; I John 5:20).

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Rom. 4:25; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Peter 2:24; I Peter 3:18).

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Intercessor and Advocate. (Acts 1:9, 10; Heb. 7:25; Heb. 9:24; I John 2:1,2).

Section 5. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Rom. 4:4,5; Eph. 1:7; Eph. 2:8,9; I Peter 1:18,19).

Section 6. Assurance

We believe that all who are born of the Spirit through faith in Christ can have assurance of salvation and are eternally secure in Christ, being kept by God's power. (John 10:28, 29; Rom. 5:1; Rom. 8:1, 38, 39; I John 5:13).

Section 7. Sanctification

We believe that every true believer is promised sanctification, which is a setting-apart unto God, and that his sanctification is three-fold:

a. Positional sanctification. We believe that this is already complete for every saved person because his position toward God is the same as Christ's position. Since the believer is in Christ, he is set apart unto God in the measure in which Christ is set apart unto God. (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 10:10, 14).

b. Progressive sanctification. We believe that although the believer's position in Christ is perfect, his present condition is no more perfect than his experience in daily life, because he retains his sin nature, which cannot be eradicated in this life. There is, therefore, a progressive sanctification where in the believer is to "grow in grace" and to "be changed" by the unhindered power of the Spirit (II Cor. 3:18; II Cor. 7:1; I Thess. 4:3,4).

c. Ultimate sanctification. We believe that the believer will yet be fully sanctified in his position in Christ when he shall see his Lord and shall be "like Him." (Eph. 5:27; I John 3:2).

Section 8. Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, is a Divine Person who restrains evil in the world until God's purpose is fulfilled; who convicts the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; who regenerates, indwells, baptizes, and seals all true believers in Christ and fills those yielded to God. (Mat. 28:19, John 3:6; John 14:16,17; John 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 2:12; I Cor. 12: 13; Eph. 4:30; Eph. 5:18; II Thess. 2:7; Titus 3:5).

We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit such as speaking in tongues and miraculous healing were temporary. They were sign gifts in the days of the apostles. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common nor necessary sign of the baptism nor of the filling of the Spirit. We believe that all Christians are baptized by the Spirit at the time of salvation which joins them to the body of Christ. While we believe that God may heal a person supernaturally, we do not believe individuals today have the gift of healing, that is, the power to lay hands upon another person to be the instrument for that person's healing. When believers are in heaven, then they will have glorified bodies that experience no sickness or death. (I Cor. 14:21,22; I Cor. 13:8; Heb. 2: 3, 4; I Cor. 12: 13; Rom. 8:23).

Section 9. The Church

a. We believe that the church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism composed of all true believers in Christ. We believe that all true believers are baptized into the one body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at the moment they trust Christ as Savior. (I Cor. 12: 12,13; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22,23).

b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. We believe that a local church is a group of baptized believers in Christ who have organized themselves for the purpose of worship, fellowship, instruction, and proclamation of the Gospel at home and abroad. We believe that the officers of a local church are elders and deacons whose qualifications and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. (Acts 2:41,42; Acts 14:27; Acts 20:17, 28-32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

Section 10. Ordinances

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the Scriptural ordinances of the church for all true believers in Christ. We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in symbolic form his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in the believer's death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's death until He comes. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:12, 36-38; Acts 9:18; Acts 16:32,33; Rom. 6: 11-13; I Cor. 11:23-28).

Section 11. Christian Life

We believe that Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, who bestows divine enabling gifts for service upon all who are saved. (Rom. 6:11-13; Rom. 12:6-8; I Peter 1:14-16).

Section 12. Angels

We believe that angels were originally created as holy, sinless, spiritual beings, but that one, "Lucifer, son of the morning", sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan. We believe that a great company of the angels followed him in his moral fall and that a great company of angels kept their holy estate. We believe Satan is a fallen angel who is the originator of sin, who rules as the unholy god of this age, and who is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:1-3; Eph. 2:2; Eph. 6:11, 12; Heb. 1:14; Col. 1:16; II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10).

Section 13. Dispensations

We believe that God has revealed different dispensations or stewardships with corresponding rules of life, of which the present dispensation is the age of grace. (Rom. 6:14; Eph. 3:2-6, 9-11; Col. 1:25-27; Heb. 7:18,19).

Section 14. Second Coming

We believe that the blessed hope of the imminent return of the Lord for His church is to be followed by the tribulation, the second coming of Christ to the earth after the tribulation and the establishment of the reign of Christ on earth for one thousand years. (Titus 2:13; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51,52; Rev. 3:10; Matt. 24:21, 29,30; Matt. 25:32).

Section 15. Eternal State

We believe that at death the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His church, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory; but the souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19-26); II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20: 11-15).

ARTICLE III - COVENANT

Covenant has been removed from the Constitution per congregational rule procedure at the Annual Business Meeting of January 21, 1996.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Reception of Members

All applicants for membership who have received by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who have been baptized by immersion, and who have upon examination been approved by two-thirds of the full Board of Elders shall be received into membership of this church. This examination shall include a statement by the applicants of their agreement with the doctrinal statement and of their commitment to the policies of this church in order to be approved for membership.

Section 2. Duties of Members

a. All members are urged to attend the regular services of the church, pray and read the Bible regularly, and to assist in the winning of the lost to Christ. All members are urged to attend and participate in all business meetings of the church.

b. Since systematic and proportionate giving is clearly set forth in the Scriptures (Mal. 3:8-11; I Cor. 16:2), members shall be encouraged to give as God prospers them to the work of this church and its missions enterprises.

c. Every member shall be encouraged to honor and esteem the church leadership; to pray for them; to submit to scriptural authority; to cooperate with them in the work of the church; and to manifest a tender regard for their reputation. (Heb. 13;7, 17).

d. Members are also urged to cultivate and cherish love for all people in the church, and show this love by seeking to promote their spiritual growth.

e. Members shall be expected to be loyal to this church and its world-wide ministry; to stand behind it in every way, and to work with it faithfully in its endeavor.

Section 3. Inactive membership

a. Members who have not attended the church for a period of six months shall be contacted by the Elders or their designees. Inactive members shall, upon a recommendation and by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elders, be transferred from the Active Membership Roll to the Inactive Membership Roll of the church.

b. After remaining on the Inactive Roll for a period of six months, if the inactive member is not returned to active status he or she may be removed from the rolls by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elders.

c. Any individual on the Inactive Membership Roll shall not be granted privileges of voting.

Section 4. Discipline of Members

The discipline of church members shall be under the charge of the Elders, and shall be conducted in accordance with Matt. 18: 15-17; Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 5:11, 13; I Thess. 5:14; II Thess. 3:11, 14, 15; Titus 3:10.

a. A member under discipline is deemed to be so by 2/3 vote of the Board of Elders after being approached to deal with sin which is bringing reproach to the Lord's name and work.

b. A member under discipline shall be notified in writing. He or she may attend the services of the church, but may not have opportunities to serve the Lord in the church, and must not vote in any business meeting until restored to fellowship.

c. Dismissal. The following shall be sufficient cause for dismissal from the membership of this church: (1) recanting one's previous expressed agreement with the doctrinal statement; (2) causing dissension and strife among the brethren; (3) bringing reproach to the Lord's name and work, and/or (4) other speech or action deemed unacceptable by the Board of Elders. A member may be dismissed from the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Elders after sufficient notice is given to the person whose dismissal is proposed. Dismissal shall not be proposed until due admonition has been given by the Board of Elders, and after sufficient effort has been made to effect his or her restoration (Gal. 6:1).

d. Restoration. Persons who have forfeited their membership in the Church may be restored to membership in accordance with the regulations which govern the reception of new members.

Section 5. Termination of Membership

- a. By transfer. Members of good standing shall be granted, upon written request, a letter of transfer to an evangelical church of their choice. Termination of membership shall be by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Elders.

- b. By request. Any member may have his or her name removed from the membership by making a written request to the Board of Elders.

- c. By exclusion. Inactive members may be removed from membership according to Article IV Section 3 of this Constitution. Members under discipline may be removed from membership according to Article IV Section 4 of this Constitution.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Spiritual Leadership

This church acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its head, the Holy Scriptures as the infallible guide in the matter of faith, church order, and discipline; the Holy Spirit as its teacher; and is neither accountable to nor under the jurisdiction or supervision of any other ecclesiastical body.

Section 2. Congregational Authority

Under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, the government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose its voting membership.

Section 3. Executive authority

Executive authority in all matters of this church is vested by the membership in the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall have oversight of the spiritual life and direction of the church. Elders will have authority over the Deacons and Ministry Team Leaders.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1. Board of Elders

a. Election: The Board of Elders shall consist of a minimum of four (4) men plus the Senior Pastor, and each man shall be individually elected from the membership. The Senior Pastor shall automatically be a member of the Board of Elders upon his election to the Senior Pastor position. Each Elder shall serve indefinitely unless he chooses to resign or is removed by proper procedures as defined in Article VI, Section 1, d. of this Constitution.

b. Vacancies: Any vacancy on the Board of Elders must be replaced by a 2/3 majority vote of the voting members, not by appointment of the Elder Board. New members on the Elder Board may be elected at any time at a duly convened congregation business meeting.

c. Organization: All business of the Board of Elders shall require a quorum of greater than fifty percent (50%) and shall be conducted by majority vote unless otherwise specified in this Constitution. At the first meeting of each year, the Board of Elders shall elect the following officers from its members:

c.1. Chairman. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders. He shall have the authority to sign all legal documents and papers on behalf of the Board of Elders and church congregation.

c.2. Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall exercise the powers of the Chairman in the absence of said Chairman.

c.3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep complete and accurate minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Elders meetings. He shall conduct official correspondence; preserve all papers, letters, and documents coming into his hand, delivering same and the records kept by him to his successor, as well as issue such notices as provided for in this constitution.

d. Termination: Any member of the Board of Elders, including the Senior Pastor, may resign, or he may be dismissed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members at any duly called congregational meeting. By a 2/3 vote of the Elder Board, a recommendation to dismiss an Elder shall be presented to the congregation.

e. Meetings: The Board of Elders shall meet regularly. Special meetings may be called at any time by any member of the Board of Elders. All members of the Board of Elders have equal voting privileges in all meetings of the Board of Elders.

f. Duties: The Board of Elders shall oversee the spiritual life and direction of the church. They shall have executive authority over all matters of the church but shall delegate to the Deacon Board and other church members as needed. Other duties of the Board of Elders shall be in accordance with those duties found in their Berean Bible Church job description. The Board of Elders shall define and/or approve all job descriptions.

Section 2. Board of Deacons

a. Election. The Board of Deacons shall consist of a minimum of five (5) men and each man shall be elected individually by the membership. Deacons shall serve three-year terms and may be re-elected indefinitely. The Business Manager and/or the Financial Secretary are eligible to be Deacons but may not comprise more than 1/3 of the total members of the Board of Deacons at any time.

b. Organization. All business of the Board of Deacons shall require a quorum of greater than fifty percent (50%) and shall be conducted by majority vote unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

At the first meeting of each year, the Board shall elect the following officers from its members:

b.1 Chairman. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to preside at all meetings of the Board of Deacons and perform all such duties as prescribed by law (as a legal trustee). He shall have the authority to sign all legal documents and papers on behalf of the Board of Deacons and church congregation.

b.2 Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall exercise the powers of the Chairman in the absence of said Chairman.

b.3 Secretary. The Secretary shall keep complete and accurate minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Deacons meetings. He shall conduct official correspondence; preserve all papers, letters, and documents coming into his hand, delivering same and the records kept by him to his successor; as well as issue such notices as provided for in this constitution.

c. Vacancies: Any vacancy on the Board of Deacons may be filled by a majority vote of the Deacons. The appointee shall serve until the next annual meeting of the membership, at which time the appointee is eligible to be nominated and elected to complete the vacated term.

d. Meetings: The Board of Deacons shall meet regularly. Special meetings may be called at any time by any member of the Board of Deacons.

e. Termination: Any member of the Board of Deacons may resign, or he may be dismissed by 2/3 vote of the voting members at any duly called congregational meeting. By a 2/3 vote of the Elder Board, a recommendation to dismiss a Deacon shall be presented to the congregation.

f. Duties. The Board of Deacons shall perform the functions of Trustees in compliance with the laws of the State of New York. Other duties of the Board of Deacons shall be in accordance with those duties found in their Berean Bible Church job description.

The following shall be elected by the majority vote of the Board of Deacons; however, they need not be members of the Board of Deacons, but must be members of the Church.

a. Treasurer/Business Manager. The Treasurer/Business Manager shall pay out funds as directed by the Board of Deacons and by the church membership. He/she shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and shall maintain a file of all supporting documents for payments made.

b. Financial Secretary. It shall be his/her duty to maintain a record of all receipts.

Section 3. Senior Pastor

a. Calling. The Senior Pastor shall be called by a vote of members of the church and shall continue office as long as both parties are agreed to continue the relationship. The Senior Pastor shall automatically be a member of the Board of Elders upon his election to the Senior Pastor position. The motion to call a Senior Pastor shall come from the membership at a duly convened business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been given from the pulpit and/or announced in the bulletin for two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members present and not abstaining shall be necessary to call a Senior Pastor.

b. Duties. The duties of the Senior Pastor shall be in accordance with those duties found in his Berean Bible Church job description.

Section 4. Additional Pastoral Staff

a. Calling or dismissal. The Pastoral Staff shall be called by a vote of the members of the church and shall continue in office as long as both parties are agreed to continue the relationship. The calling or dismissal of additional pastoral staff shall come from the membership at a duly convened business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been given from the pulpit and/or announced in the bulletin on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members present and not abstaining shall be necessary either to call or dismiss Pastoral staff.

b. Duties. The duties of the Pastoral Staff shall be in accordance with those duties found in the Berean Bible Church job description of said position.

c. Pastoral Staff other than the Senior Pastor are not automatically Elders or Deacons, but are encouraged to accept such position if elected by nomination and vote of the membership.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Elder Nominating Committee

a. Membership. Three months prior to the annual meeting each year, the Board of Elders shall select two representatives from the Board of Elders and two representatives from the qualified voting membership to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall elect a Chairman and other officers as needed.

b. Duties. The Nominating Committee shall present at the annual membership meeting nominations for the Board of Elders, if any. Written nominations will be received by this committee from qualified voting members two months prior to the annual meeting. These nominations will be reviewed by this committee. Those nominees who are considered by this committee to be qualified for the office of Elder and are willing to serve shall be presented at the annual meeting. No additional nominations will be received at the annual meeting.

c. In the event of a mid-year vacancy which reduces the Elder Board below the minimum required number, a nominating committee shall be formed. The Nominating Committee shall use procedures above as a guideline.

Section 2. Deacon Nominating Committee

a. Three months prior to the annual meeting each year, the Board of Deacons shall select two representatives from the Board of Deacons and two representatives from the qualified voting membership to serve on the Deacon Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee shall elect a chairman and other officers as needed.

b. Duties. The Nominating Committee shall present at the annual membership meeting nominations for the Board of Deacons, if any. Written nominations will be received by this committee from qualified voting members two months prior to the annual meeting. These nominations will be reviewed by this committee. Those nominees who are considered by this committee to be qualified for the office of Deacon and are willing to serve shall be presented at the annual meeting. No additional nominations will be received at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Auditing Committee

a. Election. The Auditing Committee shall consist of not less than two qualified voting members who are appointed by the Board of Elders and assisted by the church Business Manager and/or Financial Secretary. The auditing committee shall be announced at the annual meeting to serve for the following calendar year.

b. Duties. The Auditing Committee shall audit the books and accounts of the church for the preceding fiscal year and shall make a report at the membership meeting. The auditing committee shall also audit the books and accounts of the church periodically throughout the year and shall make each report to the Board of Deacons with a copy to the Board of Elders and a copy on file in the church office to be available to any church member upon request.

Section 4. Pastoral Search Committee

a. Membership. When Board of Elders determine that Pastoral staff is needed, they shall form a Pastoral Search Committee as follows:

- a.1. Two representatives from the Board of Elders chosen by the Elders
- a.2. One representative from the Board of Deacons chosen by the Deacons.
- a.3. Two congregational members chosen by the Elders.

The Pastoral search committee shall elect a chairman and other officers as needed.

b. Term of Office. This committee shall function until a new Senior Pastor or other Pastoral Staff has come to serve the church.

c. Duties. This committee shall seek a suitable Senior Pastor or other Pastoral Staff to be represented to the membership for consideration. Only one candidate shall be voted upon at a time.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The regular services of the church shall include at least one morning worship service each Sunday, and members are encouraged to attend other meetings throughout the week. Communion shall be observed once each month.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January first and end on December thirty-first. The annual meeting of the church shall be held in December, notice of which shall be given in the bulletin and/or from the pulpit two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting. The agenda shall minimally include: approval of previous annual meeting minutes, Treasurer/Business Manager report, Auditing Committee report, adoption of budget for the ensuing year, and election of Elders and Deacons if applicable.

Section 3. Annual Reports

A summary of the year's work shall be made by written reports from each active organization of the church and from the pastoral Staff.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Special business meetings of the church may be called by the Board of Elders or by the Board of Deacons. Each special meeting shall be announced from the pulpit and/or announced in the bulletin for two consecutive Sundays prior to the called meeting.

Section 5. Quorum

Greater than fifty percent (50%) of voting members shall constitute a quorum at any called meeting. Quorum shall be based on the roll call taken at the beginning of each meeting. As per *Roberts Rules of Order*, quorum refers to the number present, not the number voting. All congregational meetings shall be announced from the pulpit and/or published in the bulletin for two weeks or longer prior to the called meeting.

Section 6. Voting

Active members 18 years of age and older are entitled to vote. A majority vote shall be required for rendering final decision in any matter under consideration except where it is otherwise stated in this constitution. An absentee ballot shall be accepted from any active member if it is submitted in writing to the Board of Elders and it includes the vote, a signature, and a valid reason why the member cannot be physically present at the meeting. Members voting by absentee ballot shall not be included in the quorum.

Section 7. Parliamentary Procedure

In business meetings, any parliamentary question not covered by this constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

ARTICLE IX – BUDGET

As to items not provided for in the budget, the Board of Deacons must have approval from the membership for any unbudgeted expenditures exceeding 2% of the total budget.

ARTICLE X - CHURCH ASSETS

All real estate and personal property purchased by or donated to Berean Bible Church shall be the property of Berean Bible Church, and shall be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XI - ORDINATION

Section 1. Application

When a male member of this church or other male applicant feels that God has called him to the Christian ministry, he may make application of ordination. The application shall be considered by the Board of Elders.

Section 2. Ordination Council

If the Board of Elders feels that the applicant should be ordained to the gospel ministry, the Board may call an ordination council which shall thoroughly examine the candidate as to his call to the ministry, his education, Christian experience and doctrinal belief. The candidate shall be publicly ordained to the Christian ministry upon the recommendation of this council.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

If it does not infringe upon the doctrinal principles of this church, this constitution may be altered or amended at a duly announced meeting of the congregation providing the proposed alteration or amendment has been conspicuously posted in written form for at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The meeting to consider alterations or amendments to this Constitution shall be announced from the pulpit and notice published in the bulletin for a period of two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active membership voting (and not abstaining) shall be required to pass an alteration or amendment.