

***CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS***

AND

***STATEMENT OF
FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS***


2016

THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
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MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5N 5Z6

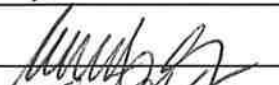
**The CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
OF
CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Incorporated in the Province of Ontario
August 19th, 1988**

St. Catharines, Ontario

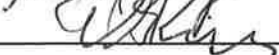
Adopted this 1st day of May 2016



Certified by:
(Chair of the Church Board)



(Secretary of the Church Board)



(Member of the Church Board)

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith where the Holy Spirit may be honoured according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands, we, the partners of Central Community Church, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local church in fellowship with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and shall adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

While recognizing its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of their own affairs, this local church shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with churches of like precious faith associated in the Western Ontario district conference and the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, with headquarters at Mississauga, Ontario; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 NAME

1.1 The name of this Church shall be “Central Community Church,” hereinafter referred to as the “Church” operating in the Province of Ontario under Letters Patent issued in accordance with the Corporations Act dated August 19, 1988 and revised on July 4, 2009.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

The following shall be the definitions of terms and words used throughout this Constitution and By-Laws:

- “A Call” means to extend an invitation to the person who has been selected to become the Lead Pastor;
- “Annual Business Meeting” means a duly called meeting to conduct official business by the partners in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Constitution;
- “Assembly”, “congregation” and “local church” all mean the Partners and adherents of the Church.
- “Business Meeting” means either the Annual Business Meeting or a Special Business Meeting;
- “By-Laws” means the By-Laws of the Constitution;
- “Church Board” means those who serve the Congregation and make up the Church Board as defined in Article 7.2, who serve to give oversight to the temporal and spiritual work of the church;
- “Constitution” means the Constitution of Central Community Church;
- “Corporations Act” means the Ontario Corporations Act, RSO 1990, c. 38. The Church was incorporated as a Provincial Corporation Without Share Capital (not-for-profit) in 1988 (revised in 2009) and governs its temporal affairs in accordance with this Act.
- “Directors” means the voting members of the Church Board as elected by the voting partners at a duly called Annual Business Meeting. Directors are charged with the oversight of the church, its ministries, and its temporal affairs.
- “District” means the Western Ontario District Conference of the PAOC;
- “District Superintendent” means the person elected to serve in this office by the voting members of the Western Ontario District Conference of the PAOC;
- “Letters Patent” means our legal documents that established the Church as an Ontario Corporation and issued by the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations;
- “National Office” means the international office of the PAOC;
- “Officers” means those members of the Church Board who are appointed by the Directors (see above) to fulfill various duties and tasks on behalf of the Board. Officers serve as non-voting members of the Church Board for a predetermined length of time. See Article 7.2.2;
- “PAOC” means The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada;
- “Partner” means those persons meeting and maintaining the qualifications set forth in Article 6.1 hereof who form the voting body of the Congregation and who have been accepted by the Church Board as a Partner;
- “Pastor” means the person elected lead pastor pursuant to Article 7;
- “Quorum” means the number of people required to be present for a meeting to be held;
- “Scripture” means the Holy Bible as defined in the Statement of Fundamental Faith;
- “Secretary” means the person who has been appointed to hold the office of Secretary by the Church Board;
- “Special Business Meeting” means a meeting duly called to conduct official business by the Partners;

ARTICLE 3 PREROGATIVES

Central Community Church, along with the objectives and special provisions as listed in the Letters Patent:

- 3.1 Shall have the right to govern itself according to Biblical standards.
- 3.2 Will preach, teach, disseminate, advance, demonstrate, and implement the Gospel of Jesus Christ and related truths of the Holy Bible within the local community, throughout Canada and to people everywhere and thus fulfill the command of our Lord and Saviour that His Gospel be preached in all the world as a witness for all nations, in accordance with the statement of fundamental and essential truths contained herein.
- 3.3 Shall have the right to govern itself according to the *General Constitution and By-Laws* and district constitutions and by-laws in force by order of General Conference and District Conferences of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
- 3.4 Shall be duly registered as a charity under the *Income Tax Act*.
- 3.5 Shall have the right to develop policies and procedures that guide its operation.
- 3.6 Shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.
- 3.7 Shall have the right to borrow any sum or sums of money from a lender upon the credit of the local church either by way of overdraft, discount, loan, line of credit or otherwise, and upon such terms as they may think proper and as security for any money so borrowed or as security for any advances, reliabilities heretofore made or incurred or that may hereafter be made or incurred, to hypothecate, mortgage, pledge and give to the lender all or any stock, bonds, debentures, negotiable instruments, in action or other real property of the local church or other assets of the local church as they may see fit, or as may be required by or on behalf of the lender, and it is expressly declared that any security given pursuant to this article may be by way of chattel mortgage or in such other form as the lender may require, or as this local church sees fit. *See also Article 9 and Bylaw 2.1.*
- 3.8 The activities of this local church shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives, in accordance with its Letters Patent, constitution, and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.
- 3.9 In the event of dissolution or winding up of the organization, all its remaining assets after payment of liabilities shall be distributed or disposed of to the PAOC and/or charitable organizations which carry on their work solely in Canada.
- 3.10 In order to consider a resolution to withdraw from affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Partnership (excluding Honourary Partners and any Legacy Partners not present) is required at any Business Meeting called for such purpose. The meeting shall be called with no less than ninety (90) days notice given to the Partners. A three-quarters (75%) resolution of the Partners at the said Business Meeting shall be required in order to authorize the Church to withdraw from affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

ARTICLE 4 TENETS OF FAITH

- 4.1 We believe most assuredly that the Holy Scriptures are God's final revelation and constitute our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This local church, by virtue of its affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, shall accept the *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths*, as approved by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and which is appended to this constitution.

ARTICLE 5 ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES

5.1 ORDINANCES

- 5.1.1 The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be offered to all those who have repented of their sins, and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
- 5.1.2 The ordinance of Communion (the Lord's Supper) shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

5.2 PRACTICES

- 5.2.1 Dedication of children
- 5.2.2 Prayer for the baptism with the Holy Spirit
- 5.2.3 Prayer for the sick
- 5.2.4 Christian marriage (as defined by the *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)
- 5.2.5 Christian burial of the dead

ARTICLE 6 PARTNERSHIP

- 6.1 Persons desiring to become Partners of this local church shall give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and live in accordance with Central Community Church's Partnership Agreement and this Constitution. Partnership will be administered through the Church Board and governed by Board established policies and procedures.

6.2 PRIVILEGES

- 6.2.1 It is the privilege of Partners to give oversight to the church by voting on:
 - a. The yearly budget (Article 8);
 - b. Elect members of the Church Board (Article 7.2);
 - c. Approving the Lead Pastor (Article 7.1.2);
 - d. Approving changes to the church Constitution and By-Laws (Article 10, By-Law 3);
 - e. Purchasing church property (Article 9).

6.3 VOTING LIMITS

- 6.3.1 In order to be eligible to vote at an Annual or Special Business Meeting a person must become a Partner of the Church no less than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE 7 LEAD PASTOR AND Church Board

7.1 LEAD PASTOR

- 7.1.1 **DUTIES:** It is the primary duty of the Lead Pastor to give spiritual oversight to Central Community Church.
- 7.1.2 Nominations for lead pastor shall be submitted to the local church congregation by the Church Board, after consultation with the District Superintendent.
- 7.1.3 The Lead Pastor must be one who holds an active credential in good standing with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada or one whom the district executive officers of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada approve.

7.1.4 APPOINTMENT AND CALL: A call shall be extended to a Lead Pastor when the pastor receives a two-thirds (2/3, 67%) majority of the ballots cast by voting partners at a duly convened meeting for that purpose. Upon acceptance of the call or confirmation of the appointment, a ministry agreement shall be established.

7.1.5 RESIGNATION: The Lead Pastor, where possible, shall inform the Church Board of their intention to resign no less than 3 months and no more than 6 months prior to the date they will vacate their position. This is to give adequate time for the church to transition. However, in the event of unexpected reasons (including but not limited to health concerns) the Lead Pastor will give as much notice as possible of their intention to resign.

7.1.6 TERMINATION: In the event of a moral or legal failure, allegations of activity of a concerning nature, or any activity of the Lead Pastor which may bring the church or leadership into disrepute, or unresolvable disagreements between the pastor and the Church Board, the Church Board will report the issue to the Superintendent of the Western District of the PAOC and ask that an investigation be launched. Once the District has conducted their investigation and reported back to the Church Board, the Church Board, in consultation with the District, will then be able to determine if it is necessary to terminate the Lead Pastor.

7.1.6.1 If it is deemed necessary to terminate the Lead Pastor the Church Board shall:

7.1.6.1.1 Inform the Lead Pastor in writing of their intention to terminate.

7.1.6.1.1.1 If the Lead Pastor chooses to resign instead of pursuing a vote then they shall be given the opportunity to do so without regard to any provision of 7.1.5 above.

7.1.6.1.2 Hold a duly called Special Business Meeting of the church Partners in keeping with the requirements of such a meeting (see Article 8.2). The Chair of the Church Board shall chair the meeting. The Superintendent of the Western District of the PAOC may be asked to attend this meeting to offer support to the Board.

7.1.6.1.3 Conduct a vote in which a two-thirds majority (2/3, 67%) majority of the ballots cast by voting Partners must be in favour of terminating the Lead Pastor.

7.1.6.1.4 Inform the Lead Pastor of the results of the vote immediately following the vote. This may be done orally but must be accompanied by a written statement within three (3) days of the vote.

7.1.6.1.5 In the event that the vote is to terminate the employment of the Lead Pastor the Board will ensure that all due compensation is paid out in accordance with the Ontario Employment Standards Act and any other legislation covering the dismissal of employees.

7.1.7 VACANCY: In the event of a vacancy for any reason, the Church Board, in consultation with the Pastoral Staff, shall ensure the continuation of the Lead Pastor's duties until such a time as the incumbent Lead Pastor can return to work or until the vacancy has been filled as per 7.1.2. The Church Board will also notify the PAOC of such a vacancy.

7.2 CHURCH BOARD: The Church Board shall consist of not fewer than three (3) members (if more, the exact number and the resolution authorizing the same must be duly recorded in the church minutes) who will serve as Directors of the Corporation as elected by the Partners at a duly called business meeting.

7.2.1 REMUNERATION: In accordance with Central's Letters Patent, board members shall serve without remuneration, and they shall not directly or indirectly receive any profit from their position as such; provided that directors may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

7.2.2 OFFICERS: The Church Board may elect officers to serve on the board as the need arises. Officers will be non-voting members of the board and will abide by 7.2.

7.2.3 QUALIFICATIONS: The qualifications for service on the Church Board shall be determined and

approved in accordance with the policy of this local church, as guided by such scriptural provisions as are cited in Acts 6:3, I Timothy 3:8-13, and Titus 1:5-9. The official Church Board shall be comprised of members who are of good report and sound judgment, examples to the congregation in matters of stewardship, church attendance, and spiritual maturity, and seeking constantly, as sanctified vessels, to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18).

7.2.4 FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS: As the Church is an incorporated entity within the Province of Ontario all Board members must also meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the Ontario Not-For-Profit Act, Section 23.1. Board Members must either be an existing Member (Partner) of the Church or must become one within 10 days of election to the Board.

7.2.5 DUTIES: The Church Board is chosen to serve the church with the pastor in matters pertaining to the operation of the local church. They shall assist in the ministry of its ordinances and shall act in the examination of applications for membership, and also in the administration of the discipline of the local church. They shall appoint a recording secretary from among their members to record the minutes of their meetings

7.2.6 ACCOUNTABILITY: The Church Board is accountable to the Partners and regular attenders of Central Community Church.

7.2.7 QUORUM: A majority of voting members present in any meeting of the Church Board shall constitute a quorum, provided that all the members have been notified to be present. Despite any vacancy among the board members, a quorum of members may exercise all the powers of the Board.

7.2.8 TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office of all lay members of the Church Board shall be for either one, two or three years, as determined by the local congregation. After a member has served for six consecutive years, the member will not be considered eligible to serve on the Church Board for a period of one (1) year.

7.2.8.1 Termination of membership on the Church Board shall occur if any Church Board member, during the term of office, shall resign, move away, and cease to be a member of the congregation or be disqualified according to Article 6.1 of this Constitution. Provision is hereby made for the remaining members of the Church Board to appoint a successor until the next annual meeting.

7.2.9 CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Church Board members shall not place themselves in a position where there is conflict of interest between their duties as Church Board members and personal interests. Every Church Board member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in, or may become interested in, an existing or proposed contract, transaction, or arrangement with the church or who otherwise has a conflict of interest by virtue of involvement of a family member or the involvement of an employer, partner, business associate, or a corporation that the member is involved with as either a director, shareholder, officer, employee, or agent, then such Church Board member shall declare a conflict of interest fully at a meeting of the board and withdraw from any discussion or vote.

ARTICLE 8 BUSINESS MEETINGS

8.1 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: Central Community Church will hold an annual business meeting that is not more than 15 months from the date of the previous meeting.

8.1.1 NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: Two weeks (14 days) notice shall be given of the annual congregational business meeting with a public announcement in the main service(s) as well as being posted and publicized in the local church. It shall include date, time and purpose of the meeting.

8.1.2 PARLIAMENTARY ORDER: In order to expedite congregational business meetings this local church shall be governed by the spirit of Christian love and fellowship and by the accepted rules of

parliamentary procedure as outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

8.2 SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS: Special business meetings may be called by:

8.2.1 The secretary of the Church Board upon written order of a majority of the Church Board; (Corporations Act Section 293)

8.2.2 By petition of no less than ten percent (10%) of the Partners of the congregation. Such petition shall be handed to the Church Board, whose duty it shall be to give notice and hold such a meeting within 21 days of receipt of the request. Failure to hold the meeting within that time can result in the Partners holding the meeting themselves as long as they hold the meeting within sixty (60) days of their initial request. (Corporations Act Section 293)

8.3 QUORUM: Forty (40) percent of the voting membership shall be required to constitute a quorum. Those members who by reasons of health are unable to regularly attend church meetings may be omitted from the quorum calculation.

ARTICLE 9 PROPERTY

9.1. All real estate owned by this local church shall be held in the name of the local church in its corporate name as a local church of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

9.2 The acquiring and disposal of real property valued at 10% and above of the yearly income of the church shall be decided by a three-quarters (75%) majority of the eligible votes cast by members present at a duly called business meeting.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS

10.1 This constitution may be amended at any Annual Business Meeting of this local church or at any Special Business Meeting duly called for that specific purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the Church Board and to the District Superintendent at least 30 days before the date of the Business Meeting, and providing that notice of said proposed amendment has been given in the announcements of the said business meeting.

10.2 A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be available to any voting member between the time of the announcement and the time of the Business Meeting on application to the secretary of the Church Board.

10.3 An amendment to be adopted shall require a three-quarters (75%) majority vote of the members present and voting at the meeting. Such amendment shall not be contrary to the regulations of the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, other applicable provincial laws, Central's *Letters Patent*, the General Conference of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or the *General Constitution and By-Laws* or District constitution and by-laws or *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* of The PAOC.

BY-LAWS

BY-LAW 1 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF AFFILIATION

- 1.1 Accepting our responsibility under the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, as stated in Matthew 28 and Mark 16, this local church shall support the missionary program and policy of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
- 1.2 Recognizing the important services rendered to this congregation by the international and district offices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, this local church shall support the ministry and fellowship services of the International and District offices, the international missions objectives of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Bible college serving this district, and other responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
 - 1.2.1 This shall be done in accordance with the General Conference resolution that each local church forward an amount equal to ten (10) percent of its general fund offerings (does not include missionary offerings, building fund, or any other special fund) to the District office at regular intervals to support the ministry and fellowship services. The District office will forward ten (10) percent from these funds to the International Office for ministry and fellowship services.

BY-LAW 2 FINANCES

- 2.1 Prior to the making an application for a loan from any source or incurring indebtedness on a purchase plan or otherwise when repayment is not to be made in full within 12 months of the date of the intended loan or where the intended indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the said local church, in the aggregate will exceed ten (10) percent of the total amount of the previous year's gross revenues, this local church shall obtain the approval of its congregation to the proposed action by resolution, passed at a duly called special or regular annual business meeting.
- 2.2 The District executive of the Western Ontario District of the PAOC has the privilege to create policies which will allow local churches to request care and intervention from time to time.

BY-LAW 3 AMENDMENTS

- 3.1 These by-laws may be amended at any Annual Business Meeting of this local church or any Special Business Meeting duly called for that specific purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the Church Board and to the District Superintendent at least 30 days before the date of the business meeting, and providing that notice of said proposed amendment shall have been given in the announcements of the said business meeting.
- 3.2 A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be available to any voting member between the time of announcement and the time of the Business Meeting on application to the secretary of the Church Board.
- 3.3 An amendment to be adopted shall require a three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$, 75%) majority vote. Such amendment shall not be contrary to the regulations of the General Conference or *General Constitution and By-Laws* or district constitution and by-laws or *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or contrary to the *Declaration of Trust*, where applicable.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

Article 5 of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* Amended by General Conference, 2014

ARTICLE 5 STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

PREAMBLE

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church. In common with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ as Saviour and coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer, and it adopts the distinctive position that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence when Christ baptizes in the Holy Spirit. (See Article 5.6.3)

5.1 HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God¹ by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture.² Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible, absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.³

The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures,⁴ but God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.⁵

5.2 THE GODHEAD

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience.⁶

5.2.1 THE FATHER

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all.⁷

5.2.2 THE SON

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man.⁸ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,⁹ and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.¹⁰

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitution sacrifice.¹¹ He rose from the dead.¹² He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.¹³ He will come again to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.¹⁴

5.2.3 THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of the Deity.¹⁵ His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.¹⁶

¹ 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17

² 2 Pet. 1: 20,21

³ Psa. 119:160; Matt. 5:17,18

⁴ 1 Cor. 2:12-14

⁵ Prov. 30:5,6

⁶ Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

⁷ Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:28

⁸ John 1:1,14; 10:30,17; Phil. 2:6,7; Heb. 1:8

⁹ Luke 1:26-35

¹⁰ John 12:49; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

¹¹ Rom. 5:6,8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1Pet. 3:18

¹² Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15:4,20

¹³ Acts 1:9-11; 2:33; Heb. 8:1

¹⁴ Matt. 25:31

¹⁵ Acts 5:3,4

¹⁶ John 16:13-14

5.3 ANGELS

5.3.1 CLASSIFICATION

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.¹⁷ However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God.¹⁸

Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.¹⁹

5.3.2 THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS

Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons.²⁰ The believer cannot be possessed by them because the believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord.²¹

5.4 HUMANITY

Humans were originally created in the image and likeness of God.²² They fell through sin and, as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death.²³ Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race²⁴ with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus.²⁵ Humans can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁶

5.5 SALVATION

5.5.1 ATONEMENT OF CHRIST

Salvation has been provided for all people through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.²⁷ It is the only perfect redemption and substitution atonement for all the sins of the world, both original and actual. His atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.²⁸ Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life.²⁹ Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.³⁰

5.5.2 REPENTANCE AND FAITH

A person can be born again only through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit,³¹ turning a person to God from sin.

5.5.3 REGENERATION

Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which a person is born again and receives spiritual life.³²

5.5.4 JUSTIFICATION

Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of their acceptance of Christ as Saviour.³³

5.6 THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

5.6.1 ASSURANCE

Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ,³⁴ resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.

5.6.2 SANCTIFICATION

¹⁷ Psa. 103:20; Rev. 5:11,12

¹⁸ Isa. 14:12-17, Eze. 28:11-19; Eph. 6:11-12; 1Tim. 4:1; Jude 6

¹⁹ Heb. 1:14

²⁰ Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 4:1-4

²¹ Matt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 6:19,20

²² Gen. 1:26; 2:7

²³ Rom. 5:12; James 1:14,15

²⁴ Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-19, 23

²⁵ Heb. 7:26

²⁶ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5,6

²⁷ Isa. 53:3-6; John 12:32,33; 1 Pet. 2:24

²⁸ Acts 2:36; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:14,17,20; Heb. 10:12; 1 John 2:2

²⁹ Acts 20:21; 1 Pet. 1:23,25

³⁰ Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16b,17

³¹ Isa. 55:7; Acts 17:30; Gal. 3:22,26; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:10-13

³² John 3:3b,5b,7; 2 Cor. 5:17,18a; 1 Pet. 1:23

³³ Rom. 3:24; 4:3-5; 5:1-2

³⁴ John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39

Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil.³⁵ In experience it is both instantaneous³⁶ and progressive.³⁷ It is produced in the life of the believer by the appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the person of the Holy Spirit;³⁸ He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches them through the Word and produces the character of Christ within them.³⁹ Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.⁴⁰

5.6.3 BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in which believers yield control of themselves to the Holy Spirit.⁴¹ Through this the believer comes to know Christ in a more intimate way⁴² and receives power to witness and grow spiritually.⁴³ Believers should earnestly seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁴⁴ The initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.⁴⁵ This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.⁴⁶

5.6.4 THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations.⁴⁷ They serve the dual function of building up the church and of demonstrating the presence of God within His church.⁴⁸

5.6.5 DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing provided in the atonement of Christ⁴⁹ is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practised.⁵⁰

5.7 THE CHURCH

5.7.1 THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ.⁵¹

5.7.2 THE LOCAL CHURCH

5.7.2.1 PURPOSE

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church.⁵² The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God⁵³, observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world.⁵⁴

5.7.2.2 ORDINANCES

5.7.2.2.1 THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return.⁵⁵

³⁵ 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1

³⁶ John 17:17,19; Heb. 10:10,14

³⁷ 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 1:14-16

³⁸ Rom. 6:11,13,14,18

³⁹ 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:22, 23; 2 Pet. 1:3-4

⁴⁰ 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

⁴¹ Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; Eph. 5:18

⁴² John 16:13-15

⁴³ Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 3:18

⁴⁴ Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8

⁴⁵ Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

⁴⁶ Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46

⁴⁷ 1 Cor. 12:4-11

⁴⁸ 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12, 24-25

⁴⁹ Matt. 8:16,17

⁵⁰ 1 Cor. 12:28-30; James 5:14

⁵¹ 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:25b; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15

⁵² Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:19

⁵³ John 4:23; Acts 20:7

⁵⁴ Acts 1:8; 11:19-24; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:2

⁵⁵ Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26

5.7.2.2 WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practised by immersion.⁵⁶

5.7.2.3 MINISTRY

A divinely called and ordained ministry is the provision of the Lord to give leadership to the church as it fulfils its purposes.⁵⁷

5.8 THE END OF TIME

5.8.1 THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD

At death the souls of believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ,⁵⁸ and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body.⁵⁹ The souls of unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation⁶⁰ until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust.⁶¹

5.8.2 THE RAPTURE

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected.⁶² This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.⁶³

5.8.3 THE TRIBULATION

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth.⁶⁴ During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations.⁶⁵

5.8.4 THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon,⁶⁶ the defeat of Antichrist and the binding of Satan.⁶⁷ Christ will introduce the millennial age,⁶⁸ restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.⁶⁹

5.8.5 THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works.⁷⁰

The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.⁷¹

5.8.6 THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.⁷²

5.9 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES

⁵⁶ Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5

⁵⁷ Acts 6:2b-4c; 13:2-4a; 14:23; Eph. 4:8, 11-13

⁵⁸ 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21, 23-24

⁵⁹ Rom 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 2 Cor. 5:1,4b

⁶⁰ Luke 16:22-31; John 3:36

⁶¹ Dan.12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev 20:11-15

⁶² 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13

⁶³ Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10

⁶⁴ Matt. 24:15, 21-22; 1 Thess. 5:1-3

⁶⁵ 2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:11-18

⁶⁶ Matt. 24:27, 30; Luke 17:24, 26-30

⁶⁷ Rev. 16:12-16; 17:8, 12-14; 19:11-20

⁶⁸ Psa. 2:6-12; Dan. 2:44-45; Luke 22:29-30; Rev. 3:21; 20:6

⁶⁹ Isa. 1:24-27; 2:1-4; Zech. 14:3,4,9; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev. 22:3

⁷⁰ Dan. 7:9-10; John 12:48; Rom. 2:2,6,11,16; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15

⁷¹ Matt. 25:41b; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10,15; 21:8

⁷² Matt. 13:43; John 17:24; 2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1-2, 10, 22-23

5.9.1 MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage is a provision of God wherein one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others enter into a lifelong relationship⁷³ through a marriage ceremony that is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned by the state.

Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship⁷⁴ that goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract that binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness that enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other.⁷⁵ It provides the biblical context for the procreation of children.

Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity.⁷⁶ It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His church.⁷⁷

Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered into only after counsel and prayer for God's guidance. Christians should marry only those who are believers.⁷⁸ An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his/her partner in peace, and should give witness to the Gospel in the home.⁷⁹

The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society, a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children.⁸⁰

Marriage can only be broken by *porneia*, which is understood as marital unfaithfulness⁸¹ involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one-flesh" union are broken by such acts and therefore recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be reconciliation.⁸²

5.9.2 DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts."⁸³

We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marital union wherever possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the Church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified in Scripture.

The weight of the biblical record is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce."⁸⁴ Divorce is more than an action of the courts which breaks the legal contract between partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of a unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: *porneia* or marital unfaithfulness.

Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

5.9.3 REMARRIAGE

Remarriage is the union, legally sanctioned by the State, of one man and one woman, one or both of whom have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable in Scripture in the event of the death of a former spouse. It is also regarded as acceptable if there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner or if the former partner has remarried.

⁷³ Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6

⁷⁴ Matt. 19:5; Mal. 2:15

⁷⁵ Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4

⁷⁶ Eph. 5:3, 26, 27

⁷⁷ Eph. 5:25, 31, 32

⁷⁸ 2 Cor. 6:1, 14, 15

⁷⁹ 1 Cor. 7:12-14, 16

⁸⁰ Eph. 6:4

⁸¹ Matt. 5:32; 19:9

⁸² Eph. 4:32

⁸³ Matt. 19:8

⁸⁴ Mal. 2:16

5.9.4 TITHING

Tithing was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshiped God.⁸⁵ Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws; but the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as or more than law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the grace of giving.⁸⁶ The gauge or rule of this systematic giving is defined in the Old Testament, known as the law of tithing. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically tithe their income to God.

⁸⁵ Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:10

⁸⁶ 2 Cor. 9:6-15