

JOURNEY CHURCH

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT & BYLAWS
DECEMBER 2023 AMENDED VERSION

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JOURNEY CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

WE DECLARE AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION FOR THE PRESERVATION AND SECURITY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH, IN ORDER THAT THIS BODY MAY BE GOVERNED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED TENETS OF THE CHURCHES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION. THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL PRESERVE THE LIBERTIES INHERENT IN EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH AND THE FREEDOM OF ACTION OF THIS BODY WITH RESPECT TO ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CHURCHES OF THE SAME FAITH. THIS CONSTITUTION SHALL BE FOR THE GOVERNING OF THE AFFAIRS OF THIS CHURCH AND SHALL IN NO WAY ENCROACH UPON THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

THE NAME OF THIS CHURCH SHALL BE JOURNEY CHURCH.

ARTICLE 2 - FOUNDATION

THE FOUNDATION OF THIS CHURCH IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 3:11). THE GUIDANCE OF JOURNEY IN ALL ITS AFFAIRS IS THE WORD OF GOD. THIS CHURCH AFFIRMS ITS FAITH THAT THE SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT ARE THE INFALLIBLE, INERRANT WORD OF GOD.

ARTICLE 3 - PURPOSE

PURPOSE:

OUR MISSION IS TO REACH THOSE THE CHURCH HAS NOT YET REACHED AND LEAD THEM INTO A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

THE CORPORATION IS ORGANIZED EXCLUSIVELY AS A CHURCH FOR RELIGIOUS, CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (OR THE CORRESPONDING PROVISION OF ANY FUTURE UNTIED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE LAW), INCLUDING REACHING PEOPLE AND LEADING PEOPLE INTO A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

FURTHERMORE, JOURNEY EXISTS BY THE GRACE OF GOD, TO BRING GLORY TO GOD. THIS CHURCH BRINGS GLORY TO GOD BY LOVING AND OBEYING HIS COMMANDS THROUGH, WORSHIPING THE LORD IN UNITY ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY BIBLE AND PRAYER, ADMINISTERING THE ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER, SUSTAINING DOCTRINES AND PRACTICING THE PRECEPTS AND EXAMPLES OF THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AS SET FORTH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S SALVATION BY PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, TO LEAD PEOPLE INTO AN GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST, EQUIPPING AND MOTIVATING BELIEVERS FOR SERVICE IN THE CHURCH, COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD; BY PROVIDING FOR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.

OUR STRATEGY IS TO LEAD PEOPLE IN THREE CORE IDENTITIES:

1. GROW DEEPER - DISCIPLE
2. GET CLOSER - FAMILY
3. GO FURTHER - MISSIONARY

ARTICLE 4 - COOPERATION

JOURNEY IS AUTONOMOUS AND MAINTAINS THE RIGHT TO GOVERN ITS OWN AFFAIRS, INDEPENDENT OF ANY DENOMINATION CONTROL. RECOGNIZING, HOWEVER, THE BENEFIT OF MUTUAL COUNSEL AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER CHURCHES IN MISSIONS, THIS CHURCH WILL WILLFULLY AND INTENTIONALLY COOPERATE AND WORK WITH MT. ZION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ARKANSAS BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION, AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.

ARTICLE 5 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE AFFIRM THE HOLY BIBLE - OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT AS THE INSPIRED, INERRANT WORD OF GOD AND THE BASIS FOR OUR BELIEFS. THIS CHURCH AGREES IN PRINCIPLE AND IN SPIRIT WITH THE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE 2000 AS ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION JUNE 14, 2000.

ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERSHIP

THE MEMBERSHIP OF JOURNEY CHURCH SHALL CONSIST OF PERSONS WHO CONFESS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO GIVE EVIDENCE OF REGENERATION, WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION IN OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST FOLLOWING HIS OR HER REGENERATION, AND WHO WHOLEHEARTEDLY BELIEVE IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE. IT WILL BE REQUIRED THAT EACH PERSON WHO DESIRES MEMBERSHIP IN JOURNEY COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP CLASS OR CLASSES AS THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP SUPPLIES. FURTHERMORE, EACH MEMBER MUST AGREE TO SUBMIT TO THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE AS EXPRESSED IN THE STATEMENT OF FAITH AND MUST PROMISE TO KEEP THE COMMITMENTS EXPRESSED IN THE CHURCH COVENANT. EACH PERSON WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE CHURCH COVENANT, BY SIGNING THE CHURCH COVENANT EACH PERSON IS INDICATING THAT THEY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY AND BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO THE CHURCH'S BELIEFS, POSITIONS, AND POLICIES AS OUTLINED IN THESE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CHURCH COVENANT. SHOULD DISAGREEMENT IN ANY OF THESE AREAS EVER OCCUR, MEMBERS WILL HOLD JOURNEY AND ITS LEADERSHIP "HARMLESS." THERE WILL BE NO APPEAL TO ANY COURT.

ARTICLE 7 - LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNMENT

THE CHURCH OPERATES UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE WORD OF GOD, UNDER THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF ITS PASTOR(S)/ELDERS AS SUPPORTED BY CONGREGATIONAL PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES.

THE FINAL HUMAN AUTHORITY OF THIS CHURCH RESTS WITH THIS LOCAL CHURCH WHEN IT GATHERS FOR DECISION-MAKING THROUGH ITS APPOINTED OFFICERS. THEREFORE, DECISIONS ABOUT PASTORAL LEADERSHIP, DOCTRINE, YEARLY FINANCES, AND REAL ESTATE ARE TO BE MADE BY THE GATHERED CONGREGATION AS IT MEETS FOR BUSINESS EXCEPT WHEN SUCH DECISIONS HAVE BEEN DELEGATED BY THE CONGREGATION TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OR GROUPS OF MEMBERS AS OUTLINED AND ADOPTED IN THE CHURCH'S BY-LAWS.

THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF JOURNEY CHURCH RESTS IN 3 GROUPS:

1. THE PASTOR/ELDERS WHO LEAD AND EQUIP THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
2. THE DEACONS WHO FACILITATE AND SERVE THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
3. THE CONGREGATION WHO EXECUTES THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

PASTORS/ELDERS

THE PURPOSE OF THE PASTORS/ELDERS OF THE CHURCH IS TO LOVINGLY LEAD AND EQUIP THE MEMBERSHIP TO DO THE WORK OF MINISTRY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHRIST. THE PASTORS/ELDERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERALL LEADING OF THE CHURCH AND TEACHING THE WORD.

WHILE BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE GIFTED FOR SERVICE IN THE CHURCH, THE OFFICE OF PASTOR IS LIMITED TO MEN AS QUALIFIED BY SCRIPTURE.

DEACONS

THE PURPOSE OF THE DEACONS IS TO LOVINGLY SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERS THROUGH THE MINISTRY ORGANIZED BY THE CHURCH AND TO PROTECT THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH.

CONGREGATION

THE VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH AT A PROPERLY CALLED MEMBERS MEETING FOR MATTERS OF BUSINESS, AS PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO AFFECT THE FOLLOWING:

- A. APPROVE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CHURCH, AUTHORIZE ANY EXPENDITURES OF THE FUNDS OF THE CHURCH OUTSIDE THE EXPRESSED LIMITATIONS OF THE CHURCH'S BUDGET POLICY, AND APPROVE ANY TRANSACTION REGARDING THE SALE REAL-ESTATE;
- B. ADOPT, AMEND, OR REPEAL THE CONSTITUTION OR BYLAWS OF THIS CHURCH;
- C. CHANGE OF DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION;
- D. APPROVE THE CALL OF PASTOR(S);
- E. ACCEPT, REJECT, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF ANY MATTER SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH BY THE PASTOR(S).

THE CHURCH RECOGNIZES TWO DISTINCT BIBLICAL OFFICES THAT SERVE THE OVERALL PURPOSES OF THE GATHERED CHURCH: PASTOR/ELDER AND DEACON.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

THIS STATEMENT OF BELIEFS IS TAKEN FROM THE JUNE 14, 2000 VERSION OF THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION EXCEPT FOR THE MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY AND FACILITIES POLICY STATEMENT.

THE SCRIPTURES

THE HOLY BIBLE WAS WRITTEN BY MEN DIVINELY INSPIRED AND IS GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF TO MAN. IT IS A PERFECT TREASURE OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION. IT HAS GOD FOR ITS AUTHOR, SALVATION FOR ITS END, AND TRUTH, WITHOUT ANY MIXTURE OF ERROR, FOR ITS MATTER. THEREFORE, ALL SCRIPTURE IS TOTALLY TRUE AND TRUSTWORTHY. IT REVEALS THE PRINCIPLES BY WHICH GOD JUDGES US, AND THEREFORE IS, AND WILL REMAIN TO THE END OF THE WORLD, THE TRUE CENTER OF CHRISTIAN UNION, AND THE SUPREME STANDARD BY WHICH ALL HUMAN CONDUCT, CREEDS, AND RELIGIOUS OPINIONS SHOULD BE TRIED. ALL SCRIPTURE IS A TESTIMONY TO CHRIST, WHO IS HIMSELF THE FOCUS OF DIVINE REVELATION.

EXODUS 24:4; DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2; 17:19; JOSHUA 8:34; PSALMS 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; ISAIAH 34:16; 40:8; JEREMIAH 15:16; 36:1-32; MATTHEW 5:17-18; 22:29; LUKE 21:33; 24:44-46; JOHN 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; ACTS 2:16FF.; 17:11; ROMANS 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17; HEBREWS 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 PETER 1:25; 2 PETER 1:19-21.

GOD

THERE IS ONE AND ONLY ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT, SPIRITUAL, AND PERSONAL BEING, THE CREATOR, REDEEMER, PRESERVER, AND RULER OF THE UNIVERSE. GOD IS INFINITE IN HOLINESS AND ALL OTHER PERFECTIONS. GOD IS ALL POWERFUL AND ALL KNOWING; AND HIS PERFECT KNOWLEDGE EXTENDS TO ALL THINGS, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, INCLUDING THE FUTURE DECISIONS OF HIS FREE CREATURES. TO HIM WE OWE THE HIGHEST LOVE, REVERENCE, AND OBEDIENCE. THE ETERNAL TRIUNE GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US AS FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, WITH DISTINCT PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES, BUT WITHOUT DIVISION OF NATURE, ESSENCE, OR BEING.

A. GOD THE FATHER

GOD AS FATHER REIGNS WITH PROVIDENTIAL CARE OVER HIS UNIVERSE, HIS CREATURES, AND THE FLOW OF THE STREAM OF HUMAN HISTORY ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSES OF HIS GRACE. HE IS ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, ALL LOVING, AND ALL WISE. GOD IS FATHER IN TRUTH TO THOSE WHO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. HE IS FATHERLY IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL MEN.

GENESIS 1:1; 2:7; EXODUS 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11FF.; 20:1FF.; LEVITICUS 22:2; DEUTERONOMY 6:4; 32:6; 1 CHRONICLES 29:10; PSALM 19:1-3; ISAIAH 43:3,15; 64:8; JEREMIAH 10:10; 17:13; MATTHEW 6:9FF.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; MARK 1:9-11; JOHN 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; ACTS 1:7; ROMANS 8:14-15; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:6; GALATIANS 4:6; EPHESIANS 4:6; COLOSSIANS 1:15; 1 TIMOTHY 1:17; HEBREWS 11:6; 12:9; 1 PETER 1:17; 1 JOHN 5:7.

B. GOD THE SON

CHRIST IS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD. IN HIS INCARNATION AS JESUS CHRIST HE WAS CONCEIVED OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY. JESUS PERFECTLY REVEALED AND DID THE WILL OF GOD, TAKING UPON HIMSELF HUMAN NATURE WITH ITS DEMANDS AND NECESSITIES AND IDENTIFYING HIMSELF COMPLETELY WITH MANKIND YET WITHOUT SIN. HE HONORED THE DIVINE LAW BY HIS PERSONAL OBEDIENCE, AND IN HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS HE MADE PROVISION FOR THE REDEMPTION OF MEN FROM SIN. HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD WITH A GLORIFIED BODY AND APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES AS THE PERSON WHO WAS WITH THEM BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION. HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS NOW EXALTED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD WHERE HE IS THE ONE MEDIATOR, FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN, IN WHOSE PERSON IS EFFECTED THE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GOD AND MAN. HE WILL RETURN IN POWER AND GLORY TO JUDGE THE WORLD AND TO CONSUMMATE HIS REDEMPTIVE MISSION. HE NOW DWELLS IN ALL BELIEVERS AS THE LIVING AND EVER PRESENT LORD.

GENESIS 18:1FF.; PSALMS 2:7FF.; 110:1FF.; ISAIAH 7:14; 53; MATTHEW 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; MARK 1:1; 3:11; LUKE 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; JOHN 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; ACTS 1:9;

2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; ROMANS 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19-21; 8:9; GALATIANS 4:4-5; EPHESIANS 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11; COLOSSIANS 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14-18; 1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6; 3:16; TITUS 2:13-14; HEBREWS 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 PETER 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 JOHN 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 JOHN 7-9; REVELATION 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD, FULLY DIVINE. HE INSPIRED HOLY MEN OF OLD TO WRITE THE SCRIPTURES. THROUGH ILLUMINATION HE ENABLES MEN TO UNDERSTAND TRUTH. HE EXALTS CHRIST. HE CONVICTS MEN OF SIN, OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND OF JUDGMENT. HE CALLS MEN TO THE SAVIOR, AND EFFECTS REGENERATION. AT THE MOMENT OF REGENERATION, HE BAPTIZES EVERY BELIEVER INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST. HE CULTIVATES CHRISTIAN CHARACTER, COMFORTS BELIEVERS, AND BESTOWS THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS BY WHICH THEY SERVE GOD THROUGH HIS CHURCH. HE SEALS THE BELIEVER UNTO THE DAY OF FINAL REDEMPTION. HIS PRESENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN IS THE GUARANTEE THAT GOD WILL BRING THE BELIEVER INTO THE FULLNESS OF THE STATURE OF CHRIST. HE ENLIGHTENS AND EMPOWERS THE BELIEVER AND THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP, EVANGELISM, AND SERVICE.

GENESIS 1:2; JUDGES 14:6; JOB 26:13; PSALMS 51:11; 139:7FF.; ISAIAH 61:1-3; JOEL 2:28-32; MATTHEW 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; MARK 1:10,12; LUKE 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; JOHN 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; ACTS 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; ROMANS 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; GALATIANS 4:6; EPHESIANS 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:19; 1 TIMOTHY 3:16; 4:1; 2 TIMOTHY 1:14; 3:16; HEBREWS 9:8,14; 2 PETER 1:21; 1 JOHN 4:13; 5:6-7; REVELATION 1:10; 22:17.

MAN

MAN, IS THE SPECIAL CREATION OF GOD, MADE IN HIS OWN IMAGE. HE CREATED THEM MALE AND FEMALE AS THE CROWNING WORK OF HIS CREATION. THE GIFT OF GENDER IS THUS PART OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD'S CREATION. IN THE BEGINNING MAN WAS INNOCENT OF SIN AND WAS ENDOWED BY HIS CREATOR WITH FREEDOM OF CHOICE. BY HIS FREE CHOICE MAN SINNED AGAINST GOD AND BROUGHT SIN INTO THE HUMAN RACE. THROUGH THE TEMPTATION OF SATAN MAN TRANSGRESSED THE COMMAND OF GOD, AND FELL FROM HIS ORIGINAL INNOCENCE WHEREBY HIS POSTERITY INHERIT A NATURE AND AN ENVIRONMENT INCLINED TOWARD SIN. THEREFORE, AS SOON AS THEY ARE CAPABLE OF MORAL ACTION, THEY BECOME TRANSGRESSORS AND ARE UNDER CONDEMNATION. ONLY THE GRACE OF GOD CAN BRING MAN INTO HIS HOLY FELLOWSHIP AND ENABLE MAN TO FULFILL THE CREATIVE PURPOSE OF GOD. THE SACREDNESS OF HUMAN PERSONALITY IS EVIDENT IN THAT GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, AND IN THAT CHRIST DIED FOR MAN; THEREFORE, EVERY PERSON OF EVERY RACE POSSESSES FULL DIGNITY AND IS WORTHY OF RESPECT AND CHRISTIAN LOVE.

GENESIS 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; PSALMS 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; ISAIAH 6:5; JEREMIAH 17:5; MATTHEW 16:26; ACTS 17:26-31; ROMANS 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; EPHESIANS 2:1-22; COLOSSIANS 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

SALVATION

SALVATION INVOLVES THE REDEMPTION OF THE WHOLE MAN, AND IS OFFERED FREELY TO ALL WHO ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR, WHO BY HIS OWN BLOOD OBTAINED ETERNAL REDEMPTION FOR THE BELIEVER. IN ITS BROADEST SENSE SALVATION INCLUDES REGENERATION, JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION, AND GLORIFICATION. THERE IS NO SALVATION APART FROM PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AS LORD.

- A. REGENERATION, OR THE NEW BIRTH, IS A WORK OF GOD'S GRACE WHEREBY BELIEVERS BECOME NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS. IT IS A CHANGE OF HEART WROUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH CONVICTION OF SIN, TO WHICH THE SINNER RESPONDS IN REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD AND FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. REPENTANCE AND FAITH ARE INSEPARABLE EXPERIENCES OF GRACE. REPENTANCE IS A GENUINE TURNING FROM SIN TOWARD GOD. FAITH IS THE ACCEPTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST AND COMMITMENT OF THE ENTIRE PERSONALITY TO HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

- B. JUSTIFICATION IS GOD'S GRACIOUS AND FULL ACQUITTAL UPON PRINCIPLES OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ALL SINNERS WHO REPENT AND BELIEVE IN CHRIST. JUSTIFICATION BRINGS THE BELIEVER UNTO A RELATIONSHIP OF PEACE AND FAVOR WITH GOD.
- C. SANCTIFICATION IS THE EXPERIENCE, BEGINNING IN REGENERATION, BY WHICH THE BELIEVER IS SET APART TO GOD'S PURPOSES, AND IS ENABLED TO PROGRESS TOWARD MORAL AND SPIRITUAL MATURITY THROUGH THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLING IN HIM. GROWTH IN GRACE SHOULD CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE REGENERATE PERSON'S LIFE.
- D. GLORIFICATION IS THE CULMINATION OF SALVATION AND IS THE FINAL BLESSED AND ABIDING STATE OF THE REDEEMED.
- GENESIS 3:15; EXODUS 3:14-17; 6:2-8; MATTHEW 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; LUKE 1:68-69; 2:28-32; JOHN 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; ACTS 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; ROMANS 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3FF.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20; GALATIANS 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; EPHESIANS 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13; COLOSSIANS 1:9-22; 3:1FF.; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24; 2 TIMOTHY 1:12; TITUS 2:11-14; HEBREWS 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; JAMES 2:14-26; 1 PETER 1:2-23; 1 JOHN 1:6-2:11; REVELATION 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

ELECTION IS THE GRACIOUS PURPOSE OF GOD, ACCORDING TO WHICH HE REGENERATES, JUSTIFIES, SANCTIFIES, AND GLORIFIES SINNERS. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FREE AGENCY OF MAN, AND COMPREHENDS ALL THE MEANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE END. IT IS THE GLORIOUS DISPLAY OF GOD'S SOVEREIGN GOODNESS, AND IS INFINITELY WISE, HOLY, AND UNCHANGEABLE. IT EXCLUDES BOASTING AND PROMOTES HUMILITY.

ALL TRUE BELIEVERS ENDURE TO THE END. THOSE WHOM GOD HAS ACCEPTED IN CHRIST, AND SANCTIFIED BY HIS SPIRIT, WILL NEVER FALL AWAY FROM THE STATE OF GRACE, BUT SHALL PERSEVERE TO THE END. BELIEVERS MAY FALL INTO SIN THROUGH NEGLIGENCE AND TEMPTATION, WHEREBY THEY GRIEVE THE SPIRIT, IMPAIR THEIR GRACES AND COMFORTS, AND BRING REPROACH ON THE CAUSE OF CHRIST AND TEMPORAL JUDGMENTS ON THEMSELVES; YET THEY SHALL BE KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION.

GENESIS 12:1-3; EXODUS 19:5-8; 1 SAMUEL 8:4-7,19-22; ISAIAH 5:1-7; JEREMIAH 31:31FF.; MATTHEW 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; LUKE 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; JOHN 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; ACTS 20:32; ROMANS 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2; 15:24-28; EPHESIANS 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; COLOSSIANS 1:12-14; 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-14; 2 TIMOTHY 1:12; 2:10,19; HEBREWS 11:39?12:2; JAMES 1:12; 1 PETER 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 JOHN 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

THE CHURCH

A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS AN AUTONOMOUS LOCAL CONGREGATION OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS, ASSOCIATED BY COVENANT IN THE FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE GOSPEL; OBSERVING THE TWO ORDINANCES OF CHRIST, GOVERNED BY HIS LAWS, EXERCISING THE GIFTS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES INVESTED IN THEM BY HIS WORD, AND SEEKING TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. EACH CONGREGATION OPERATES UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST THROUGH DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. IN SUCH A CONGREGATION, EACH MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO CHRIST AS LORD. ITS SCRIPTURAL OFFICERS ARE PASTORS AND DEACONS. WHILE BOTH MEN AND WOMEN ARE GIFTED FOR SERVICE IN THE CHURCH, THE OFFICE OF PASTOR IS LIMITED TO MEN AS QUALIFIED BY SCRIPTURE.

THE NEW TESTAMENT SPEAKS ALSO OF THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST WHICH INCLUDES ALL THE REDEEMED OF ALL THE AGES, BELIEVERS FROM EVERY TRIBE, AND TONGUE, AND PEOPLE, AND NATION.

MATTHEW 16:15-19; 18:15-20; ACTS 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; ROMANS 1:7; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; EPHESIANS 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; PHILIPPIANS 1:1; COLOSSIANS 1:18; 1 TIMOTHY 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; HEBREWS 11:39-40; 1 PETER 5:1-4; REVELATION 2:3; 21:2-3.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM IS THE IMMERSION OF A BELIEVER IN WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE SYMBOLIZING THE BELIEVER'S FAITH IN A CRUCIFIED, BURIED, AND RISEN SAVIOR, THE BELIEVER'S DEATH TO SIN, THE BURIAL OF THE OLD LIFE, AND THE RESURRECTION TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. IT IS A TESTIMONY TO HIS FAITH IN THE FINAL RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD. BEING A CHURCH ORDINANCE, IT IS PREREQUISITE TO THE PRIVILEGES OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND TO THE LORD'S SUPPER.

THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A SYMBOLIC ACT OF OBEDIENCE WHEREBY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH, THROUGH PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE FRUIT OF THE VINE, MEMORIALIZE THE DEATH OF THE REDEEMER AND ANTICIPATE HIS SECOND COMING.

MATTHEW 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; MARK 1:9-11; 14:22-26; LUKE 3:21-22; 22:19-20; JOHN 3:23; ACTS 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; ROMANS 6:3-5; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:16,21; 11:23-29; COLOSSIANS 2:12.

THE LORD'S DAY

THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK IS THE LORD'S DAY. IT IS A CHRISTIAN INSTITUTION FOR REGULAR OBSERVANCE. IT COMMEMORATES THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST FROM THE DEAD AND SHOULD INCLUDE EXERCISES OF WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL DEVOTION, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. ACTIVITIES ON THE LORD'S DAY SHOULD BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSCIENCE UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

EXODUS 20:8-11; MATTHEW 12:1-12; 28:1FF.; MARK 2:27-28; 16:1-7; LUKE 24:1-3,33-36; JOHN 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; ACTS 20:7; ROMANS 14:5-10; 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2; COLOSSIANS 2:16; 3:16; REVELATION 1:10.

THE KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GOD INCLUDES BOTH HIS GENERAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE UNIVERSE AND HIS PARTICULAR KINGSHIP OVER MEN WHO WILLFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS KING. PARTICULARLY THE KINGDOM IS THE REALM OF SALVATION INTO WHICH MEN ENTER BY TRUSTFUL, CHILDLIKE COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST. CHRISTIANS OUGHT TO PRAY AND TO LABOR THAT THE KINGDOM MAY COME AND GOD'S WILL BE DONE ON EARTH. THE FULL CONSUMMATION OF THE KINGDOM AWAITS THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE END OF THIS AGE.

GENESIS 1:1; ISAIAH 9:6-7; JEREMIAH 23:5-6; MATTHEW 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; MARK 1:14-15; 9:1; LUKE 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; JOHN 3:3; 18:36; ACTS 1:6-7; 17:22-31; ROMANS 5:17; 8:19; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:24-28; COLOSSIANS 1:13; HEBREWS 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 PETER 2:4-10; 4:13; REVELATION 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

LAST THINGS

GOD, IN HIS OWN TIME AND IN HIS OWN WAY, WILL BRING THE WORLD TO ITS APPROPRIATE END. ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN PERSONALLY AND VISIBLY IN GLORY TO THE EARTH; THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED; AND CHRIST WILL JUDGE ALL MEN IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HELL, THE PLACE OF EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT. THE RIGHTEOUS IN THEIR RESURRECTED AND GLORIFIED BODIES WILL RECEIVE THEIR REWARD AND WILL DWELL FOREVER IN HEAVEN WITH THE LORD.

ISAIAH 2:4; 11:9; MATTHEW 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; MARK 8:38; 9:43-48; LUKE 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; JOHN 14:1-3; ACTS 1:11; 17:31; ROMANS 14:10; 1 CORINTHIANS 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10; PHILIPPIANS 3:20-21; COLOSSIANS 1:5; 3:4; 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14-18; 5:1FF.; 2 THESSALONIANS 1:7FF.; 2; 1 TIMOTHY 6:14; 2 TIMOTHY 4:1,8; TITUS 2:13; HEBREWS 9:27-28; JAMES 5:8; 2 PETER 3:7FF.; 1 JOHN 2:28; 3:2; JUDE 14; REVELATION 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

IT IS THE DUTY AND PRIVILEGE OF EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST AND OF EVERY CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO ENDEAVOR TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. THE NEW BIRTH OF MAN'S SPIRIT BY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT MEANS THE BIRTH OF LOVE FOR OTHERS. MISSIONARY EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL RESTS UPON A SPIRITUAL NECESSITY OF THE REGENERATE LIFE, AND IS EXPRESSLY AND REPEATEDLY COMMANDED IN THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS COMMANDED THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS. IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY

CHILD OF GOD TO SEEK CONSTANTLY TO WIN THE LOST TO CHRIST BY VERBAL WITNESS UNDERGIRD BY A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE, AND BY OTHER METHODS IN HARMONY WITH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

GENESIS 12:1-3; EXODUS 19:5-6; ISAIAH 6:1-8; MATTHEW 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; LUKE 10:1-18; 24:46-53; JOHN 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; ACTS 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; ROMANS 10:13-15; EPHESIANS 3:1-11; 1 THESSALONIANS 1:8; 2 TIMOTHY 4:5; HEBREWS 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 PETER 2:4-10; REVELATION 22:17.

EDUCATION

CHRISTIANITY IS THE FAITH OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND INTELLIGENCE. IN JESUS CHRIST ABIDE ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE. ALL SOUND LEARNING IS, THEREFORE, A PART OF OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE. THE NEW BIRTH OPENS ALL HUMAN FACULTIES AND CREATES A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE. MOREOVER, THE CAUSE OF EDUCATION IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST IS CO-ORDINATE WITH THE CAUSES OF MISSIONS AND GENERAL BENEVOLENCE, AND SHOULD RECEIVE ALONG WITH THESE THE LIBERAL SUPPORT OF THE CHURCHES. AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS NECESSARY TO A COMPLETE SPIRITUAL PROGRAM FOR CHRIST'S PEOPLE. IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, THERE SHOULD BE A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY. FREEDOM IN ANY ORDERLY RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN LIFE IS ALWAYS LIMITED AND NEVER ABSOLUTE. THE FREEDOM OF A TEACHER IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, COLLEGE, OR SEMINARY IS LIMITED BY THE PRE-EMINENCE OF JESUS CHRIST, BY THE AUTHORITATIVE NATURE OF THE SCRIPTURES, AND BY THE DISTINCT PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL EXISTS.

DEUTERONOMY 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; NEHEMIAH 8:1-8; JOB 28:28; PSALMS 19:7FF.; 119:11; PROVERBS 3:13FF.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; ECCLESIASTES 7:19; MATTHEW 5:2; 7:24FF.; 28:19-20; LUKE 2:40; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31; EPHESIANS 4:11-16; PHILIPPIANS 4:8; COLOSSIANS 2:3,8-9; 1 TIMOTHY 1:3-7; 2 TIMOTHY 2:15; 3:14-17; HEBREWS 5:12-6:3; JAMES 1:5; 3:17.

STEWARDSHIP

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL BLESSINGS, TEMPORAL AND SPIRITUAL; ALL THAT WE HAVE AND ARE WE OWE TO HIM. CHRISTIANS HAVE A SPIRITUAL DEBTORSHIP TO THE WHOLE WORLD, A HOLY TRUSTEESHIP IN THE GOSPEL, AND A BINDING STEWARDSHIP IN THEIR POSSESSIONS. THEY ARE THEREFORE UNDER OBLIGATION TO SERVE HIM WITH THEIR TIME, TALENTS, AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS; AND SHOULD RECOGNIZE ALL THESE AS ENTRUSTED TO THEM TO USE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR HELPING OTHERS. ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, CHRISTIANS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE OF THEIR MEANS CHEERFULLY, REGULARLY, SYSTEMATICALLY, PROPORTIONATELY, AND LIBERALLY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE REDEEMER'S CAUSE ON EARTH.

GENESIS 14:20; LEVITICUS 27:30-32; DEUTERONOMY 8:18; MALACHI 3:8-12; MATTHEW 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; LUKE 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; ACTS 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; ROMANS 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 CORINTHIANS 8-9; 12:15; PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19; 1 PETER 1:18-19.

COOPERATION

CHRIST'S PEOPLE SHOULD, AS OCCASION REQUIRES, ORGANIZE SUCH ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS AS MAY BEST SECURE COOPERATION FOR THE GREAT OBJECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. SUCH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER ONE ANOTHER OR OVER THE CHURCHES. THEY ARE VOLUNTARY AND ADVISORY BODIES DESIGNED TO ELICIT, COMBINE, AND DIRECT THE ENERGIES OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER. MEMBERS OF NEW TESTAMENT CHURCHES SHOULD COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN CARRYING FORWARD THE MISSIONARY, EDUCATIONAL, AND BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES FOR THE EXTENSION OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM. CHRISTIAN UNITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT SENSE IS SPIRITUAL HARMONY AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION FOR COMMON ENDS BY VARIOUS GROUPS OF CHRIST'S PEOPLE. COOPERATION IS DESIRABLE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS, WHEN THE END TO BE ATTAINED IS ITSELF JUSTIFIED, AND WHEN SUCH COOPERATION INVOLVES NO VIOLATION OF CONSCIENCE OR COMPROMISE OF LOYALTY TO CHRIST AND HIS WORD AS REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

EXODUS 17:12; 18:17FF.; JUDGES 7:21; EZRA 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; NEHEMIAH 4; 8:1-5; MATTHEW 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; MARK 2:3; LUKE 10:1FF.; ACTS 1:13-14; 2:1FF.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 CORINTHIANS 8-9; GALATIANS 1:6-10; EPHESIANS 4:1-16; PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE UNDER OBLIGATION TO SEEK TO MAKE THE WILL OF CHRIST SUPREME IN OUR OWN LIVES AND IN HUMAN SOCIETY. MEANS AND METHODS USED FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AMONG MEN CAN BE TRULY AND PERMANENTLY HELPFUL ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ROOTED IN THE REGENERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL BY THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST. IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, CHRISTIANS SHOULD OPPOSE RACISM, EVERY FORM OF GREED, SELFISHNESS, AND VICE, AND ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, INCLUDING ADULTERY, HOMOSEXUALITY, AND PORNOGRAPHY. WE SHOULD WORK TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORPHANED, THE NEEDY, THE ABUSED, THE AGED, THE HELPLESS, AND THE SICK. WE SHOULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE UNBORN AND CONTEND FOR THE SANCTITY OF ALL HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD SEEK TO BRING INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE UNDER THE SWAY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH, AND BROTHERLY LOVE. IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THESE ENDS CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE READY TO WORK WITH ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL IN ANY GOOD CAUSE, ALWAYS BEING CAREFUL TO ACT IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THEIR LOYALTY TO CHRIST AND HIS TRUTH.

EXODUS 20:3-17; LEVITICUS 6:2-5; DEUTERONOMY 10:12; 27:17; PSALM 101:5; MICAH 6:8; ZECHARIAH 8:16; MATTHEW 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; MARK 1:29-34; 2:3FF.; 10:21; LUKE 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; JOHN 15:12; 17:15; ROMANS 12:14; 1CORINTHIANS 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; GALATIANS 3:26-28; EPHESIANS 6:5-9; COLOSSIANS 3:12-17; 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12; PHILEMON; JAMES 1:27; 2:8.

PEACE AND WAR

IT IS THE DUTY OF CHRISTIANS TO SEEK PEACE WITH ALL MEN ON PRINCIPLES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST THEY SHOULD DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO PUT AN END TO WAR.

THE TRUE REMEDY FOR THE WAR SPIRIT IS THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD. THE SUPREME NEED OF THE WORLD IS THE ACCEPTANCE OF HIS TEACHINGS IN ALL THE AFFAIRS OF MEN AND NATIONS, AND THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF HIS LAW OF LOVE. CHRISTIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SHOULD PRAY FOR THE REIGN OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 2:4; MATTHEW 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; LUKE 22:36,38; ROMANS 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; HEBREWS 12:14; JAMES 4:1-2.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

GOD ALONE IS LORD OF THE CONSCIENCE, AND HE HAS LEFT IT FREE FROM THE DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO HIS WORD OR NOT CONTAINED IN IT. CHURCH AND STATE SHOULD BE SEPARATE. THE STATE OWES TO EVERY CHURCH PROTECTION AND FULL FREEDOM IN THE PURSUIT OF ITS SPIRITUAL ENDS. IN PROVIDING FOR SUCH FREEDOM NO ECCLESIASTICAL GROUP OR DENOMINATION SHOULD BE FAVORED BY THE STATE MORE THAN OTHERS. CIVIL GOVERNMENT BEING ORDAINED OF GOD, IT IS THE DUTY OF CHRISTIANS TO RENDER LOYAL OBEDIENCE THERETO IN ALL THINGS NOT CONTRARY TO THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD. THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT RESORT TO THE CIVIL POWER TO CARRY ON ITS WORK. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST CONTEMPLATES SPIRITUAL MEANS ALONE FOR THE PURSUIT OF ITS ENDS. THE STATE HAS NO RIGHT TO IMPOSE PENALTIES FOR RELIGIOUS OPINIONS OF ANY KIND. THE STATE HAS NO RIGHT TO IMPOSE TAXES FOR THE SUPPORT OF ANY FORM OF RELIGION. A FREE CHURCH IN A FREE STATE IS THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL, AND THIS IMPLIES THE RIGHT OF FREE AND UNHINDERED ACCESS TO GOD ON THE PART OF ALL MEN, AND THE RIGHT TO FORM AND PROPAGATE OPINIONS IN THE SPHERE OF RELIGION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE BY THE CIVIL POWER.

GENESIS 1:27; 2:7; MATTHEW 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; JOHN 8:36; ACTS 4:19-20; ROMANS 6:1-2; 13:1-7; GALATIANS 5:1,13; PHILIPPIANS 3:20; 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2; JAMES 4:12; 1 PETER 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

THE FAMILY

GOD HAS ORDAINED THE FAMILY AS THE FOUNDATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HUMAN SOCIETY. IT IS COMPOSED OF PERSONS RELATED TO ONE ANOTHER BY MARRIAGE, BLOOD, OR ADOPTION. MARRIAGE IS THE UNITING OF ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IN COVENANT COMMITMENT FOR A LIFETIME. IT IS GOD'S UNIQUE GIFT TO REVEAL THE UNION BETWEEN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAN AND THE WOMAN IN MARRIAGE THE FRAMEWORK FOR INTIMATE COMPANIONSHIP, THE CHANNEL OF SEXUAL EXPRESSION ACCORDING TO BIBLICAL STANDARDS, AND THE MEANS FOR PROCREATION OF THE HUMAN RACE.

THE HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE OF EQUAL WORTH BEFORE GOD, SINCE BOTH ARE CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE. THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP MODELS THE WAY GOD RELATES TO HIS PEOPLE. A HUSBAND IS TO LOVE HIS WIFE AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH. HE HAS THE GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR, TO PROTECT, AND TO LEAD HIS FAMILY. A WIFE IS TO SUBMIT HERSELF GRACIOUSLY TO THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP OF HER HUSBAND EVEN AS THE CHURCH WILLINGLY SUBMITS TO THE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST. SHE, BEING IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AS IS HER HUSBAND AND THUS EQUAL TO HIM, HAS THE GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT HER HUSBAND AND TO SERVE AS HIS HELPER IN MANAGING THE HOUSEHOLD AND NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION.

CHILDREN, FROM THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION, ARE A BLESSING AND HERITAGE FROM THE LORD. PARENTS ARE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEIR CHILDREN GOD'S PATTERN FOR MARRIAGE. PARENTS ARE TO TEACH THEIR CHILDREN SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES AND TO LEAD THEM, THROUGH CONSISTENT LIFESTYLE EXAMPLE AND LOVING DISCIPLINE, TO MAKE CHOICES BASED ON BIBLICAL TRUTH. CHILDREN ARE TO HONOR AND OBEY THEIR PARENTS.

GENESIS 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; EXODUS 20:12; DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9; JOSHUA 24:15; 1 SAMUEL 1:26-28; PSALMS 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; PROVERBS 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12; 9:9; MALACHI 2:14-16; MATTHEW 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; MARK 10:6-12; ROMANS 1:18-32; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:1-16; EPHESIANS 5:21-33; 6:1-4; COLOSSIANS 3:18-21; 1 TIMOTHY 5:8,14; 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-5; TITUS 2:3-5; HEBREWS 13:4; 1 PETER 3:1-7.

JOURNEY CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.1 QUALIFICATION

MEMBERSHIP TO JOURNEY CHURCH SHALL CONSIST OF PERSONS WHO HAVE:

1. IDENTIFIED A PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF FAITH TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST AS A DISCIPLE HAVING RECEIVED THE GIFT OF SALVATION
2. BEEN BAPTIZED FOLLOWING CONVERSION AS A TESTIMONY OF FAITH
3. COMPLETION OF THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COURSES.
4. AGREEMENT WITH AND SUBMISSION TO THE CHURCH COVENANT. (FOUND IN APPENDIX B.)

FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE CHURCH'S MEMBERSHIP CLASSES AND STAFF INTERVIEW APPROVAL, MEMBERSHIP MAY BE GRANTED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO AFFIRM IN WRITING THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT.

SECTION 1.2 RESTORATION AND REMOVAL

ANY MEMBER MAY VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAW THEIR MEMBERSHIP FROM JOURNEY CHURCH AT ANY TIME. EVERY MEMBER OF JOURNEY CHURCH, BY VIRTUE OF SUCH MEMBERSHIP, CONSENTS TO THE PROCESS OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION, AS SET FORTH IN THE BIBLE (MATTHEW 18:15-17, GALATIANS 6:1, EPHESIANS 5:11, TITUS 3:10, 2 THESSALONIANS 3:14-15, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13). JOURNEY CHURCH CAN PURSUE CHURCH DISCIPLINE FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE OVERCOME WITH SIN (IN ACCORDANCE WITH BIBLICAL PROCEDURE). REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP IS AN OPTION IF THE MEMBER REMAINS UNREPENTANT AFTER ALL EFFORTS TO SEEK RESTORATION HAVE BEEN PURSUED.

ARTICLES 2. MEETINGS

SECTION 2.1 WORSHIP MEETINGS

WORSHIP SERVICES SHALL BE HELD EACH LORD'S DAY, AND MAY BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AS THE CHURCH DETERMINES.

SECTION 2.2 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP SHALL GATHER, AT MINIMUM, ONCE PER FISCAL YEAR AT A TIME PRESCRIBED BY THE PASTORS/ELDERS WITH AT LEAST ONE WEEK NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS. THE PASTORS/ELDERS MAY CALL FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS, AS DEEMED NECESSARY, BY PROVIDING A ONE-WEEK NOTICE TO MEMBERS AS REQUIRED BY THESE BYLAWS. A PASTOR/ELDER SHALL SERVE AS MODERATOR FOR THE MEETING AND MINUTES RECORDED. THE PASTORS/ELDERS SHALL SEE THAT THE STATED MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH ARE REGULARLY HELD AND THAT REQUIRED REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE CHURCH BY THE RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS/TEAMS.

SECTION 2.3 DECISIONS

DECISIONS REQUIRING THE CHURCH BODY AS OUTLINED IN THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH A QUORUM CONSISTING OF THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT.

SECTION 2.4 HIRING OF PASTORS

WHEN ANY PASTORAL POSITION IS VACATED, THE ELDER TEAM WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO SECURE A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE TO SERVE AS LEAD PASTOR. THE ELDER TEAM WILL RECOMMEND THE CANDIDATE TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AND DEACON TEAM, AND FOLLOWING APPROVAL, THE CANDIDATE SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP. APPROVAL BY THE INDIVIDUAL TEAMS AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF JOURNEY REQUIRES A 75 % AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS TO PASS IN THE MATTER OF PASTORAL HIRES.

ARTICLE 3. CHURCH ORDINANCES

SECTION 3.1 BAPTISM

THIS CHURCH SHALL RECEIVE FOR BAPTISM ANY PERSON WHO HAS RECEIVED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR BY PERSONAL FAITH, WHO PROFFESSES HIM PUBLICLY, AND WHO INDICATES A COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW CHRIST AS LORD.

1. BAPTISM SHALL BE BY IMMERSION IN WATER.
2. PASTOR(S), OR WHOMEVER THE PASTOR(S) MAY AUTHORIZE, SHALL ADMINISTER BAPTISM.
3. BAPTISM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP DURING ANY WORSHIP SERVICE OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION 3.2 LORD'S SUPPER

THIS CHURCH SHALL OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ANY SERVICE THE PASTOR(S) DEEM NECESSARY. THE PASTOR(S) SHALL ADMINISTER THE LORD'S SUPPER AND MAY CALL UPON THE DEACONS FOR HELP. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A SYMBOLIC ACT OF OBEDIENCE, THROUGH PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND FRUIT OF THE VINE BELIEVERS REMEMBER THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST.

ARTICLE 4. ELDERS

SECTION 4.1 ELDERSHIP

THE ELDERSHIP OF JOURNEY CHURCH SHALL CONSIST OF JOURNEY CHURCH'S LAY ELDERS (MEMBERS OF JOURNEY CHURCH APPOINTED TO SERVE AS ELDERS WHO ARE NOT PAID EMPLOYEES OF THE CHURCH) AND STAFF ELDERS (PASTORS EMPLOYED BY JOURNEY CHURCH).

SECTION 4.2 ELDER QUALIFICATIONS

ALL ELDERS ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THE CHARACTER QUALIFICATIONS AS OUTLINED IN ACTS 14:23; ACTS 15; ACTS 20; I TIMOTHY 3:1-7; I TIMOTHY 5:17 -22; TITUS 1:5-9; I PETER 5:1-4.

SECTION 4.3 ELDER APPOINTMENT

THE ELDERS SHALL BE COMPOSED OF AN ODD NUMBER, OF NOT LESS THAN THREE MEN, WHO SATISFY THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER SET FORTH IN I TIMOTHY 3: 1-7 AND TITUS 1: 6-9.

A MAJORITY OF THE ACTIVE ELDERSHIP SHALL BE COMPOSED OF LAY ELDERS. LAY ELDERS WILL SERVE A TERM OF **3 YEARS**, AND CANNOT SERVE MORE THAN **2 TERMS** BEFORE MOVING INTO INACTIVE STATUS FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR. NO ELDER SHALL HOLD THE OFFICE OF DEACON, AND NO LAY ELDER SHALL SERVE AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEMBER DURING HIS TENURE.

LAY ELDERS SHALL BE NOMINATED AND EXAMINED ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN APPENDIX A. ELDERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CHURCH BY CONGREGATIONAL VOTE TO BE INSTALLED. ONCE AFFIRMED, AN ELDER IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN A SHEPHERD OF THE CHURCH EVEN WHILE INACTIVE.

SECTION 4.4 ELDER AUTHORITY

THE ELDERS ARE CHARGED WITH THE DUTY OF SPIRITUALLY LEADING THE CHURCH THROUGH MUTUAL COUNSEL AND BIBLICAL DIRECTION. THE ELDERS MAY SEEK COUNSEL FROM THE DEACON BODY AS REPRESENTATIVES AND GODLY COUNSEL OF THE CHURCH. THERE ARE 5 DECISION AREAS THAT THE ELDERS SHALL NOT MAKE WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL AT AN ORGANIZATIONAL FAMILY MEETING.

- 1.THE ELDERS MAY NOT INSTALL A PASTOR.
- 2.THE ELDERSHIP CANNOT CHANGE OR ESTABLISH THE DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION OF JOURNEY CHURCH.
- 3.THE ELDERSHIP MAY NOT CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION OR BYLAWS.
- 4.THE ELDERSHIP MAY NOT TRANSFER OR SELL THE REAL ESTATE OF THE CHURCH.
5. TRANSACTIONS THAT WOULD INVOLVE INCURRING DEBT ON BEHALF OF JOURNEY CHURCH.

SECTION 4.5 ELDER RESPONSIBILITIES

THE ELDERS HAVE THE PRIMARY ROLE AT JOURNEY CHURCH TO **TEACH, LEAD,** AND **SHEPHERD** THE CHURCH FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL.

1. TEACHING AND EDIFYING THE CHURCH. (1 TIMOTHY 3:2, 5:17; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12; TITUS 1:9)
2. PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO THE CHURCH. (ACTS 20:28; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12; HEBREWS 13:17)
 - IN PRACTICAL MATTERS. (ACTS 6:1-6; 11:29-30)
 - IN MATTERS OF DOCTRINE. (ACTS 15; 16:4) AND
 - IN MATTERS OF DISCIPLINE AND CHARACTER. (HEBREWS 13:17)
 - IN WAYS TO EMPOWER AND COORDINATE MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH
 - IN WAYS TO MOBILIZE THE CHURCH FOR STATESIDE AND WORLD MISSIONS
3. SHEPHERDING THE CHURCH. (HEBREWS 13:17; 1 PETER 5:2-3; ACTS 20:28)

SECTION 4.6 ELDER MEETINGS

TYPICAL OPERATION CALLS FOR A WEEKLY MEETING OF THE ELDERS. AT A MINIMUM, THE ELDERS SHALL MEET ONCE PER MONTH, AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED TIME OF THEIR CHOOSING.

SECTION 4.7 ELDER DISMISSAL

ANY OF THE ELDER'S MAY BE TERMINATED BY RESIGNATION OR BY DISMISSAL. ANY TWO MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WITH REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AN ELDER SHOULD BE DISMISSED SHOULD EXPRESS SUCH CONCERN TO THE ACTIVE ELDERSHIP AND IF NEED BE THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM. ANY SUCH ACTION SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF OUR LORD IN MATTHEW 18:15-17 AND 1 TIMOTHY 5:17-21. ANY OF THE ELDERS MAY BE DISMISSED AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ACTIVE ELDERSHIP IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REQUIRING A VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS EACH OF THE ELDERSHIP, AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AT ANY REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING.

ARTICLE 5. DEACONS

SECTION 5.1 DEACON TEAM

THE CHURCH SHALL RECOGNIZE A TEAM TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH

SECTION 5.2 DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

THE OFFICE OF DEACON IS DESCRIBED IN 1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13 AND ACTS 6:1-7 AND SHALL MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS THEREIN. THE DEACON TEAM SHALL CONSIST OF MEN WHO:

- 1.HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF JOURNEY CHURCH FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR,

- 2.HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF 21,
- 3.ARE GIVING OF THEMSELVES IN SERVICE TO THE CHURCH BY FUNCTIONING IN A MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH,
- 4.POSSESS AND DEMONSTRATE PARTICULAR GIFTS OF SERVICE.

SECTION 5.3 DEACON TERM

A DEACON SHALL BE ELECTED TO A THREE-YEAR TERM AND MUST ROTATE OFF A MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR BETWEEN TERMS OF SERVICE. A DEACON MAY BE TERMINATED BY RESIGNATION OR BY DISMISSAL.

SECTION 5.4 DEACON DISMISSAL

ANY TWO MEMBERS WITH REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A DEACON SHOULD BE DISMISSED SHOULD EXPRESS SUCH CONCERN TO THE PASTORS/ELDERS. ANY SUCH ACTION SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS OF OUR LORD IN MATTHEW 18:15-17. ANY OF THE DEACON(S) MAY BE DISMISSED AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PASTOR(S)/ELDER(S) AND WITH THE VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE DEACON TEAM AT ANY REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING.

SECTION 5.5 DEACON RESPONSIBILITIES

DEACONS SHALL TAKE PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY IN ASSISTING THE PASTOR(S) AND MINISTRY STAFF IN MINISTERING TO THE MEMBERS. DEACONS SERVE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE CHURCH. THEY SHALL ASSIST THE PASTOR(S) IN ADMINISTERING THE CHURCH ORDINANCES AND SEEK TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION 5.6 DEACON MEETINGS

THE DEACON TEAM SHALL MEET ONCE A MONTH UNLESS A DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENT MUST BE MADE.

SECTION 6 FINANCE

SECTION 6.1 ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PASTORS/ELDERS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM OVERSEES ALL FINANCIAL MATTERS RELATED TO JOURNEY. THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM IS TO ENSURE THE WISE STEWARDSHIP OF THE CHURCH'S RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCRIPTURE AND THE CHURCH'S VISION AND TO OVERSEE THE ORGANIZATION'S FINANCIAL HEALTH. THEY SHALL ALSO SET COMPENSATION PARAMETERS FOR THE CHURCH'S STAFF AS PART OF THE BUDGETING PROCESS.

THE MINISTRY STAFF IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ELDER BODY IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO FINANCES. ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETINGS SHALL CONSIST OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM BODY AND AT LEAST ONE STAFF REPRESENTATIVE.

SECTION 6.2 ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM SELECTION

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM CONSISTS OF A MINIMUM OF 3 LAY MEMBERS, WITH AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER FROM THE PASTORAL STAFF. THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEMBERS NOMINATE NEW MEMBERS FROM THE DEACON TEAMS AND PRESENT THEM FOR CONGREGATIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

SECTION 6.3 ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM QUALIFICATION

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE MEMBERS OF JOURNEY, ORDAINED AS A DEACON, AND HAVE THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS NECESSARY TO PERFORM THEIR ASSIGNED TASKS. MEMBERS SERVE ONE THREE-YEAR TERM. FORMER MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AGAIN AFTER BEING INACTIVE FOR ONE YEAR.

SECTION 6.4 REPORTING

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM SHOULD SEE FIT TO PROVIDE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS TO THE ELDER AND DEACON TEAM.

SECTION 6.5 BUDGETING

THE STAFF, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM, WILL DEVELOP THE BUDGET ANNUALLY. THE STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM WILL PRESENT THE BUDGET TO THE CHURCH FOR APPROVAL BY 2/3 VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP PRESENT AT THE ANNUALLY SCHEDULED FAMILY MEETING FOR BUSINESS. THIS VOTE SHALL REPRESENT THE SPENDING PARAMETERS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. BUDGET SPENDING SHALL NOT EXCEED THE APPROVED CATEGORIES WITHOUT ADMINISTRATIVE AND ELDER TEAM APPROVAL.

SECTION 6.6 CONTRIBUTIONS

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH INVOLVES FINANCIAL OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH AND ITS CAUSES WITH REGULAR, PROPORTIONATE, AND JOYFUL GIVING. EACH MEMBER SHALL BE ENCOURAGED IN SCRIPTURAL GIVING. SPECIAL OFFERINGS MAY BE SOUGHT BY THE CHURCH WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PASTOR(S). THIS SHALL NOT PREVENT INDIVIDUALS FROM MAKING SPECIAL OFFERINGS OR DESIGNATED GIFTS AT ANY TIME AS THE SPIRIT OF GOD MAY MOVE THEM. THOSE WHO GIVE TO JOURNEY CHURCH SHALL BE PROVIDED A REPORT OF THE GIVING YEARLY.

SECTION 6.7 TRUSTEES

THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM SHALL APPOINT 3 OF ITS MEMBERS TO SERVE IN THE ROLE OF TRUSTEES FOR THE CHURCH, SUBJECT TO PASTORS/ELDERS APPROVAL, TO HOLD IN TRUST THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH. TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE NO POWER TO BUY, SELL, MORTGAGE, LEASE, OR TRANSFER ANY PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH WITHOUT SPECIFIC VOTE OF THE CHURCH AUTHORIZING EACH ACTION. IT SHALL BE THE FUNCTION OF THE TRUSTEES TO SIGN ANY, AND ALL LEGAL DOCUMENTS INVOLVING THE SALE, MORTGAGE, PURCHASE, OR LEASE OF CHURCH PROPERTY OR ANY OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENT REQUIRING THE SIGNATURE OF THE TRUSTEES FOR AND IN BEHALF OF THE CHURCH.

RESTRICTIONS: NO PART OF THE NET EARNINGS OF THE CORPORATION SHALL INURE TO THE BENEFIT OF, OR BE DISTRIBUTABLE TO, ITS TRUSTEES, OFFICERS OR OTHER PRIVATE PERSONS; EXCEPT THAT THE CORPORATION SHALL BE AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED TO PAY REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND TO MAKE PAYMENTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN THIS DOCUMENT AND WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE VISION OF THE CHURCH.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. NO TRUSTEE SHALL HAVE ANY PERSONAL LIABILITY TO THE CORPORATION FOR MONETARY DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF DUTY OF CARE OR OTHER DUTY AS A TRUSTEE, BY REASON OF ANY ACT OR OMISSION OCCURRING SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE WHEN THIS PROVISION BECOMES EFFECTIVE, EXCEPT THAT THIS PROVISION SHALL NOT ELIMINATE OR LIMIT THE LIABILITY OF A TRUSTEE FOR (A) ANY APPROPRIATION, IN VIOLATION OF HIS DUTIES, OF ANY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OF THE CORPORATION; (B) ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH INVOLVE INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT OR KNOWING VIOLATION OF LAW; OR (C) ANY TRANSACTION FROM WHICH THE TRUSTEE DERIVED AN IMPROPER PERSONAL BENEFIT.

ARTICLE 7. MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 7.1 ORDINATION, LICENSING AND COMMISSIONING

JOURNEY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ORDAIN, LICENSE, OR COMMISSION INDIVIDUALS AS MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL TO PERFORM THE ORDINANCES AND CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MARRIAGE, BAPTISM, COMMUNION, AND FUNERALS. CANDIDATES MUST HAVE A PASTORAL RECOMMENDATION AND BE PRESENTED TO THE ELDER TEAM FOR VETTING AND APPROVAL.

SECTION 7.2 MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

WE BELIEVE THE TERM "MARRIAGE" HAS ONLY ONE MEANING AND THAT IS MARRIAGE SANCTIONED BY GOD WHICH JOINS ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IN A SINGLE, EXCLUSIVE UNION, AS DELINEATED IN SCRIPTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD INTENDS SEXUAL INTIMACY TO ONLY OCCUR BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN WHO ARE MARRIED TO EACH OTHER. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS COMMANDED THAT NO INTIMATE SEXUAL ACTIVITY SHOULD OCCUR OUTSIDE OF A MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.

WE BELIEVE THAT ANY FORM OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY, SUCH AS ADULTERY, FORNICATION, HOMOSEXUALITY, BISEXUAL CONDUCT, BESTIALITY, INCEST, PORNOGRAPHY OR ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE ONE'S SEX OR DISAGREEMENT WITH ONE'S BIOLOGICAL SEX, IS SINFUL AND OFFENSIVE TO GOD.

WE BELIEVE THAT TO PRESERVE THE FUNCTION AND INTEGRITY OF THE CHURCH AS THE LOCAL BODY OF CHRIST, AND TO PROVIDE A BIBLICAL ROLE MODEL TO THE CHURCH MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THE CHURCH IN ANY CAPACITY, OR WHO SERVE A VOLUNTEER, SHOULD ABIDE BY AND AGREE TO THIS STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY AND CONDUCT THEMSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN THE BIBLICAL TEACHING THAT MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN, MARRIAGES OUTSIDE THOSE PARAMETERS WILL NOT BE PERFORMED BY CHURCH MINISTERS OR ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD OFFERS REDEMPTION AND RESTORATION TO ALL WHO CONFESS AND FORSAKE THEIR SIN, SEEKING HIS MERCY AND FORGIVENESS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY PERSON MUST BE AFFORDED COMPASSION, LOVE, KINDNESS, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY. HATEFUL AND HARASSING BEHAVIOR OR ATTITUDES DIRECTED TOWARD ANY INDIVIDUAL ARE TO BE REPUDIATED AND ARE NOT IN ACCORD WITH SCRIPTURE NOR THE DOCTRINES OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION 7.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

BELIEVING THAT THE BIBLE COMMANDS CHRISTIANS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE AT PEACE AND TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH EACH OTHER IN PRIVATE OR WITHIN THE CHURCH (SEE MATTHEW 18:15-20, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:1-8), THE CHURCH SHALL REQUIRE ITS MEMBERSHIP TO RESOLVE CONFLICT AMONG THEMSELVES ACCORDING TO BIBLICALLY BASED PRINCIPLES, WITHOUT RELIANCE ON THE SECULAR COURTS. CONSISTENT WITH ITS CALL TO PEACEMAKING, THE CHURCH SHALL ENCOURAGE THE USE OF BIBLICALLY BASED PRINCIPLES TO RESOLVE DISPUTES BETWEEN ITSELF AND THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, WHETHER CHRISTIAN OR NON-CHRISTIAN AND WHETHER INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE ENTITIES.

SECTION 7.4 AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUTIONAL & BYLAW AMENDMENTS REQUIRE A THREE-FOURTHS MAJORITY VOTE BY THE PASTORS/ELDERS BEFORE THEY CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP. ALL AMENDMENTS REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF THOSE PARTICIPATING TO PASS.

SECTION 7.5 POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING

THE CORPORATION SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN, OR INTERVENE IN ANY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF ANY CANDIDATE OR PARTY FOR PUBLIC OFFICE NOR SHALL WE HAVE ANY AFFILIATION WITH A POLITICAL PARTY.

SECTION 7.6 DISSOLUTION

THIS CHURCH IS NOT ORGANIZED FOR PROFIT. IN THE EVENT OF DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL PAY OR MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALL OF THE LIABILITIES OF THE CORPORATION, AND SHALL THEREAFTER TRANSFER ALL OF ITS ASSETS AND PROPERTY TO CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS.

APPENDIX A - LAY ELDER NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION PROCESS

NOMINATION

INITIALLY, THE CHURCH WILL SOLICIT NOMINATIONS OF QUALIFIED MEN FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH. NOMINATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED USING A FORM MADE AVAILABLE ON JOURNEY CHURCH'S WEBSITE. THE NOMINATING PERIOD WILL LAST FOR THREE (3) WEEKS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NOMINATION PERIOD, THE ACTIVE ELDER(S) WILL ANNOUNCE THE LIST OF ELDER NOMINEES TO THE CHURCH.

AT ANY TIME NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE, TO MAINTAIN THE RATIO OF LAY ELDERS TO STAFF ELDERS DESCRIBED IN *SECTION 4.3 ELDER APPOINTMENT*, THE ACTIVE ELDERSHIP SHALL SEEK OUT QUALIFIED MEN FROM AMONG THE BODY AND PRESENT THE NOMINEES TO THE CHURCH.

EXAMINATION

THE ELDER NOMINEES WILL BE EXAMINED AND ASSESSED FOR A PERIOD OF EIGHT WEEKS IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

1. INITIAL MEETING WITH ACTIVE ELDER(S) AND THEIR WIVES
2. WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRE
3. QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH JOURNEY LEADERS

DURING THE EXAMINATION PROCESS, ANY CHURCH MEMBER WITH REASON TO BELIEVE THAT AN ELDER NOMINEE IS BIBLICALLY DISQUALIFIED TO SERVE AS A LAY ELDER OF JOURNEY CHURCH SHALL SUBMIT THEIR REASON(S) TO THE ACTIVE ELDER(S) IN A SIGNED LETTER.

CONFIRMATION

UPON CONCLUSION OF THE EXAMINATION PERIOD, THE ELDER NOMINEES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CHURCH AT A REGULAR OR SPECIAL FAMILY MEETING. THE CHURCH WILL VOTE TO CONFIRM EACH NOMINEE TO SERVE THE CHURCH AS AN ELDER FOR THE LENGTH OF TERM DESCRIBED IN *SECTION 4.3 ELDER APPOINTMENT*.

APPENDIX B - JOURNEY CHURCH COVENANT

JOURNEY CHURCH COVENANT

"HAVING RECEIVED CHRIST AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR AND BEING IN AGREEMENT WITH JOURNEY'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, VISION, MISSION, VALUES, STATEMENT OF BELIEFS, AND MEMBER EXPECTATIONS, I UNITE WITH JOURNEY AS A MEMBER. IN DOING SO, I COMMIT MYSELF TO GOD AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS TO DO THE FOLLOWING:"

GET CLOSER

I COMMIT TO PERSONALLY SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY BY:

- FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATING IN WEEKLY WORSHIP
- FAITHFULLY CONTRIBUTING TO A JOURNEY GROUP
- PROTECTING UNITY

GROW DEEPER

I COMMIT TO PERSONALLY PURSUE A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST BY:

- GROWING IN MY UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF GOD'S WORD
- SERVING IN MINISTRY

GO FURTHER

I COMMIT TO PERSONALLY ADVANCE THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH BY:

- GIVING FINANCIALLY
- LIVING MISSIONALLY

JOURNEY

CHURCH