

***Dover Baptist Church***  
Organized 1812



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

REVISED 1996

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

This church shall be known as the Dover Baptist Church, 7327 Dover Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065.

## **ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION**

This church shall be affiliated with the Shelby County Baptist Association of Baptists of Kentucky; the Southern Baptist Convention, and any such other district or local associations as the church may elect by affirmative vote.

## **ARTICLE III - OBJECT**

The object of this church shall be the worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, the religious training of its youth, the Spiritual development of its members, the conversion of the world to Christ through systematic support of missions, and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God through such activities and organizations as may seem necessary.

## **ARTICLE IV - COVENANT**

This Church shall be bound together by the following Covenant: having been led, we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and on the profession of faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

For the advancement of this church

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine.

As church stewards

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

Alone and at home

That we will endeavor to maintain secret and family devotions and to train up our children and those under our care, with a view to the service of Christ, and the enjoyment of Heaven.

Before the World

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

Toward one another

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

## When we Move

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

That we will enter into the above agreement with the full consent of both heart and mind, hoping through rich and free grace, we shall be finally accepted of God into eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory, majesty and dominion forever.

Amen

- 6 -

Revised 1996

## **DECLARATION OF FAITH**

### **1. Of the Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true basis of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

### **2. Of the True God**

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, who is the maker and supreme ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### **3. Of the Fall of Man**

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

#### 4. Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

#### 5. Of Justification

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the great gospel blessing which Christ bestows on such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

#### 6. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

## 7. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy dispensation to the mind; that it is effected, in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

## 8. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our soul by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby, being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

## 9. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trusting in God, and active imitation of his free grace that encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

## 10. Of Sanctification

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Healer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the word of God, self examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

## 11. Of the Perseverance of Saints

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; and that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from the superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

## 12. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just, and good, and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

## 13. Of A Gospel Church

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the



ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, right, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural offices, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

#### 14. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

#### 15. Of the Christian Sabbath

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

#### 16. Of Civil Government

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that Public officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

## 17. Of the Righteous And the Wicked

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; the wicked are under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both before and after death.

## 18. Of the World To Come

We believe that the Holy Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteousness.

## **ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP**

This church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have been duly examined and properly baptized, or those coming by letter from any church of like faith. Those whose church "letters may be unobtainable may come by statement upon the affirmative vote of the church.

### **Section 1 - Duties of the Members**

1. Members are expected to maintain their prayer life and testimony to Christ.
2. To attend all services unless providentially hindered.
3. To give regularly to the support of the church, the relief of the poor and to spread the Gospel to all the world.
4. To extend a cordial welcome to all visitors at all times.
5. All members shall have equal rights and privileges; including but not limited to, holding office, serving as leaders or teachers, serving on committees, and participating in business meetings.

### **Section 2 - Dismissal of Members**

1. By letter to a church of like faith.
2. By a statement of membership to a church of like faith.

## **ARTICLE VI - STAFF and OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 - Pastor, his calling**

1. In the calling of a pastor, a committee of at least three to be known as the Pulpit Committee, shall, when the church is without a pastor, be appointed by the church's Moderator. The moderator shall also designate the committee's chairman. This committee shall proceed with as little delay as possible to select some Minister of the Gospel whose Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office of Pastor of this church. After their selection of the pastoral nominee, he must be interviewed by the Board of Deacons before a vote may be taken upon his selection to be the church's pastor. No nominations will be considered except that offered by the Pulpit Committee and only one nominee may be considered at a time. A three-fourths majority of the votes cast are necessary for the calling of a pastor. After a pastor has been called and he accepts the charge the committee is automatically discharged.

#### 2. Duties of the Pastor

- (a) Shall have general oversight of the work of the church.
- (b) Shall be responsible for the faithful conduct of the worship services of the church.
- (c) Shall fulfill the Scriptural obligations of his office.
- (d) Shall perform the various duties incumbent of his office, such as visitations of members and prospects, as well as the sick and bereaved. Work closely with the deacons, staff persons and other elected leaders.
- (e) Shall automatically serve on all committees in an ex officio capacity.

## **Section 2 - Other Staff Members**

When the church deems it necessary to call an extra staff member in addition to the pastor, the moderator will appoint a committee of at least five to find and recommend to the church such a person using the general procedure as set forth for the calling of a pastor in By-Law Article VI, Section 1. In addition to the duties listed below, the staff members duties shall be to cooperate with the pastor in the promotion of the entire church program. The pastor and all paid staff members shall be granted a two week vacation with pay after one year in office. Supplies to fill their places, if necessary, while on vacation shall be paid by the church.

1. Music Director - will direct the music program of the church in the leading of congregational singing, developing a graded choir program and in directing such other music programs as may be agreed upon.

2. Youth Minister — will promote a youth program for all age levels including fellowship and activities which are Bible and church centered.

## **Section 3 - Board of Deacons and their Duties**

The church shall seek to maintain a minimum of seven deacons. The deacons shall meet monthly, a majority of active deacons shall constitute a quorum. Some meetings may be held without the pastor in attendance. They shall make recommendations to the church as they deem necessary.

A candidate for deacon shall be nominated by a committee appointed by the moderator, consisting of the Pastor, two deacons, and two members from the church at large.

If there should arise any difficulty in the relationship of the church and pastor, such situation shall be investigated by the deacons. After full

discussion with those involved the deacons are authorized to make any recommendations to the church as they deem necessary.

#### Duties of the deacons

- (a) The "deacons shall strive to maintain a Christ-like working relationship with the pastor.
- (b) They shall be responsible with the pastor in looking after the spiritual interests of the church.
- (c) They shall assist the pastor in visiting the sick or distressed or spiritually lost.
- (d) They shall consistently attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.
- (e) They shall distribute the emblems of the Lord's Supper.
- (f) They shall have authority to authorize an ordained minister or an ordained deacon to administer the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism, in the absence of a pastor.
- (g) Sister churches shall be invited to ordination services of newly elected deacons. The pastors and deacons of other churches shall form a council to question and examine newly elected deacons.

#### **Section 4A - Moderator and Duties**

1. Shall be elected annually by the church.
2. Shall preside at all business meetings of the church.
3. Shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.

4. In the case of a special need he shall be authorized to call a special business meeting.
5. Shall be responsible for maintaining order in the business meeting.
6. Shall conduct business meetings according to procedures set forth in "Roberts Rules of Order".
7. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

#### **Section 4B - Assistant Moderator**

1. Shall be elected annually by the church.
2. Shall preside in the absence of the moderator.
3. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

#### **Section 5 - Trustees and their Duties**

1. The church shall have three trustees.
2. They shall be entrusted with such responsibilities as civil law assigns to the office.
3. They shall have responsibility of carrying out the action of the church with regard to the upkeep and improvement of the church property.
4. They shall make such recommendations to the church as they deem advisable.

5. They shall meet once each six months to examine the church property and make recommendations for any repairs they deem necessary.

6. Shall be elected or re-elected annually by the church.

7. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

#### **Section 6A - Treasurer**

1. Shall be elected annually.

2. The treasurer shall be custodian of all church funds.

3. The treasurer shall make a monthly financial report to the church.

4. The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures.

5. The treasurer shall pay all budgeted items; also all other bills when directed by the church.

6. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

#### **Section 6B - Assistant Treasurer**

1. Shall be elected annually.



2. Shall assist the treasurer in the performance of all duties, with the authority to act on the church's behalf in the absence of the treasurer.

3. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

### **Section 7 - Clerk and duties**

1. Shall be elected annually.

2. Shall keep a record of the business transacted by the church at all its meetings.

3. Shall have custody of the records and reports of the church and shall be responsible for the safeguarding and archiving of these documents.

4. Shall take care of the correspondence pertaining to the church and its operation.

5. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

### **Section 8 - Discipleship Training Director**

1. Shall be elected annually.

2. Shall have general oversight of the Discipleship Training.

3. Shall serve on the nominating committee.

4. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

### **Section 9 - Sunday School Director**

1. Shall be elected annually.
2. Shall have general oversight of the Sunday School.
3. Shall serve on the nominating committee..
4. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

### **Section 10 - Ushers and their Duties**

1. There shall be two senior ushers, one to be the head usher, and two junior ushers.
2. They shall be elected annually.
3. They shall pass the offering plates.
4. They shall greet people at the door and pass out bulletins and other church related information.
5. They may enlist any help they may need.
6. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

### **Section 11 - Church Hostess**

1. She shall be elected annually.
2. It shall be her responsibility to arrange hospitality for pulpit supply and evangelist.

3. Shall coordinate with the chairperson of the kitchen committee any planned use of the kitchen for hospitality.

4. Shall attend all services of the church unless providentially hindered.

## **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES**

All committees to give a week's notice prior to meetings and shall invite recommendations and suggestions from all members. Any board or committee shall meet at the request of the pastor, chairman or at the request of any two members of such board or committee.

All standing committees shall be elected annually as a result of nominations by the nominating committee unless appointment by the moderator is specifically provided for in the by-laws.

### **Section 1 - Finance**

1. This committee shall be composed of the Moderator, the Treasurer, Chairman of the Deacons, Chairman of Trustees, WMU President, Brotherhood President, Sunday School Director, Discipleship Training Director, Youth Minister, and Music Director.

2. They shall be charged with preparing the church's annual budget and formulating ways and means for raising funds for the support of the church program.

### **Section 2 - Membership Committee**

1. This committee shall be headed by the pastor and he shall select four other members to serve him on this committee.

2. They shall advise with the various department heads.
3. They shall look after the delinquent, wayward, and nonresident members.
4. They shall seek to enlist every member into a higher standard of Christian living, and witnessing for Christ by attending regularly every worship service of the church.

### **Section 3 - Nominating Committee**

1. At the April business meeting, a nominating committee of three shall be appointed by the moderator.
2. This committee shall present, at the May business meeting, nominations for Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director.
3. After election of these department heads they shall become members of the nominating committee.
4. After careful and prayerful consideration, they shall prepare a list of those church members they think best suited for the respective church offices and present this list to the church for their approval or disapproval.
5. They shall make recommendations to the church at the next regular business meeting when vacancies occur among officers except pastor or deacon.
6. This committee shall ascertain from the persons selected, their willingness to serve before presenting their names to the church.

7. No member of the church is eligible to hold more than two (2) elective offices, but this does not prevent them from serving on committees.

8. The general officers for the church shall be nominated at a church business meeting in June.

9. Teachers and leaders shall be nominated no later than the September business meeting.

#### **Section 4 - Memorial Committee**

This committee shall consist of two members of the church. They shall be responsible for taking the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home Memorial Plaque to the funeral home and advising the Treasurer to submit a donation to the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home following the death of a church member or their immediate family.

#### **Section 5 - Kitchen Committee**

A committee of at least three shall serve as follows:

1. Shall have oversight and upkeep of the kitchen.
2. Shall coordinate with the church hostess on any planned use of the kitchen for hospitality.
3. Shall work closely with all church activities that use the kitchen or fellowship hall to insure that adequate kitchen and fellowship supplies are on hand.

### **Section 5 - Baptismal Committee**

A committee of four (two women and two men) that:

1. Shall serve to assist the pastor and/or baptismal candidates during the Ordinance or Baptism.

### **Section 6 - Youth Committee**

A youth committee, consisting of four adults and two youth (ages 13 - 18), will be appointed annually by the moderator to work with the Youth Minister in promotion of the youth ministry.

### **Section 7 - Music Committee**

A committee of four including a Youth, the Organist, the Pianist, and leaders of the age groups choirs to work with the Music Director.

### **Section 8 - Grounds Committee**

A committee of at least three whose duty shall be to see to the proper care of the church grounds such as cutting the grass, providing parking space, landscaping, etc..

## **ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS**

1. Public services shall be held each Lord's Day.
2. The church shall have as many revival meetings each year as is deemed advisable by the pastor and Board of Deacons, subject to the approval of the church. The pastor, in co-operation with the Board of Deacons, to secure a minister, whom he knows to be well qualified to assist in these meetings.

3. The pastor shall be allowed to hold as many revival meetings each year for other ministers and churches as the deacons deem wise and advisable. When the pastor is away conducting revival meetings and on other occasions, he shall arrange for filling the Pulpit, and remunerate all supplies.

4. The monthly business meeting will be held on the second Sunday morning in each month.

5. The observance of the Lord's Supper shall-be on the 1st Sunday of the first month of each quarter.

6. The reception of members and the transfer of membership or recommendation to the churches of like-faith may take place at any regular service of the church.

7a. The Boards and Committees shall meet as soon after their election as possible to complete their organization. They shall make a report to the church when called upon to do so.

7b. They shall meet as often as they deem necessary.

#### **ARTICLE IX - DESIGNATION OF ASSOCIATIONAL YEAR**

The associational year of this church shall be in keeping with the same procedure as the Shelby Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

#### **ARTICLE X - DISCIPLINE**

The mode of procedure against a disorderly member shall be according to the New Testament as set forth in St. Matthew 18:15-17.

## **ARTICLE XI - FORFEITURE OF OFFICE OR COMMITTEE**

Any officer, board or committee member who refuses to carry out the instruction of the church in connection with his office, board or committee assignment, shall be expected to resign from the aforesaid position. The resignation, in written form, shall be placed in the hands of the church clerk to be read at the next business meeting.

Persons submitting voluntary resignations shall follow the same procedure.

## **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution and By-Laws be amended at any regular business meeting of the church by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present provided that, at least two week's notice of the proposed change has been given to the church during a Sunday worship service.



The 1996 Constitution and By-Laws amendment committee appointed by the moderator during regular business meeting of the church are:

Dorothy Collings - Chairperson  
Virginia Chappell  
Bill Fleming  
Billy White  
Margaret Wilborn

1996

## Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired and infallible Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of the mankind and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three person; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict mankind, regenerate the believing sinner, and indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. We believe that mankind was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit, can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and the only such as repent and place faith in Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God.
7. We believe the effect of salvation on human beings is twofold. First, sanctification is the process by which every believer becomes more like Christ and is evidenced by good works. Second, all true believers are kept secure until the end because of the preservation of God and their own perseverance, both of which work together in harmony.
8. We believe the the Church of Jesus Christ is both universal and local. All true believers in Jesus Christ are members of the church universal but are also commanded to join into covenant with other like-minded believers into a local church. Each local church is a group of baptized believers who observe the ordinances of Christ, obey His commands, and exercise the gifts bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit. The leadership of each church consists of two offices, that of the Pastor/Elder and Deacons whose qualifications and duties are set forth in the epistles of Timothy and Titus.
9. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer into 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 the believer's faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, baptism 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.

10. 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 in accordance with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

11. We believe that the institution of government is ordained by God for the common good of all people; and that Christians should pray for and obey elected officials unless such obedience is contrary to the Word of God. We believe that church and state should be separate, meaning that the state should have no jurisdiction over the beliefs of its citizens. Christians are called to be good citizens and are not to be hindered from bringing their faith commitments to bear on public matters.

12. We believe that all Christians are to influence society for the good of all people and in accordance with Holy Scripture. In particular, we hold marriage in high regard as the union of one man and one woman for life. Any deviation from God's plan in marriage (be it adultery, divorce, homosexual relationships, or extra-marital sexual relationships) weakens this foundational institution for society and is contrary to God's will. We believe that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. We believe that children are a blessing of the Lord and are to be trained in righteousness. We believe the Church has the responsibility to care, and seek justice for the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the oppressed. We believe racism in any form is incompatible with God's command to love all people.

13. We believe that 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 mankind in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in the resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in the New Heaven and New Earth with The Lord.

## **Church Covenant**

Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will work and pray for unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church; exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

We will endeavor to bring up such as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends.

We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life.

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.