

CONSTITUTION COVENANT DECLARATION OF FAITH

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IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

1300 W Hawkins

Kankakee, Illinois

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CONSTITUTION OF IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I. NAME

This Church was organized March 12, 1864, as the First German Baptist Church of Kankakee, Illinois. On January 1, 1918, the name was changed to the Immanuel Baptist Church of Kankakee, Illinois, by which name it now exists.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, and Christian education.

ARTICLE III. DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

This Church shall be affiliated and cooperate with the North American Baptist Conference and the Upper Mississippi Region of the conference.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Any person meeting the requirements may become a member of this Church upon personal testimony before the Servant Leaders, favorable recommendation by the Servant Leaders, and by vote of the Church.

Section 1. Requirements

- A. Verbal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- B. Baptism by immersion
- C. Agreement with the Declaration of Faith and the Church Covenant

Section 2. Methods for becoming a member (One of the following)

- A. Verbal confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and baptism by immersion
- B. Letter of transfer from another Baptist Church of like faith and order
- C. Statement of Christian experience, if previously baptized by immersion
- D. Restoration of former members

Section 3. Duties of Members

- A. Agree to the Church Covenant and allow the qualities that Scripture encourages to take precedence and increase in our lives
- B. To advocate and not undermine the positions of the church as stated in this Constitution, including the Statement of Faith and Church Covenant

Section 4. Dismissal of Members

Members in good standing, with the recommendation of the Servant Leaders and the vote of the church may elect to remove their membership:

- A. To unite with another Baptist church
- B. To unite with a church of some other denomination
- C. By personal request

Section 5. Inactive Members

Inactive is defined as no regular attendance, regular giving, or church related acts of service and having no valid reason for inactivity.

- A. If restoration attempts have been made and failed, any member inactive for a period of one year shall be placed on an inactive list with membership privileges suspended.
- B. Following a second year of inactivity without restoration the member shall be erased from the membership roll.
- C. Membership may be restored upon favorable recommendation by the Servant Leaders and by vote of the church.

Section 6. Discipline

- A. Discipline of members shall be initiated upon these bases:
 - 1. Grievances
A member with a grievance toward another member shall personally and directly seek the removal of the grievance in the spirit of Matthew 18. Should this fail to bring about reconciliation, the grieved member may bring the matter to the attention of the Servant Leaders, who shall endeavor to reconcile any such grievance toward another member.
 - 2. Gross Misconduct
Charges of gross misconduct by a member shall be investigated by the Servant Leaders.

3. **Gross Violation of Covenant Obligations**
Charges of gross covenant violations by a member shall be investigated by Servant Leaders.
- B. In all cases the Servant Leaders shall be responsible for making an investigation of these problems, always motivated by Christian love, seeking reconciliation, and acting in a manner according to Scripture.
- C. Any unrepentant member who is found to be guilty of gross misconduct or in gross violation of covenant obligations by majority vote of the church shall be dismissed from the church rolls.

ARTICLE V. PASTORS AND ASSISTANTS

Section 1. Qualifications of Pastor

- A. The pastor shall be a male.
- B. He must be an ordained Baptist minister.
- C. He must be recommended for office by the Pulpit Committee.
- D. He shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith, the Church Covenant, and the Constitution of this Church.

Section 2. Duties of Pastor

- A. He shall be responsible for the spiritual welfare of the church, the preaching of the Word of God, and the visitation of the sick.
- B. He shall be a member of the church and one of the Servant Leaders, collaborating with the other elected Servant Leaders and may oversee one of the four Stewardship Teams.
- C. He shall be entitled to an annual vacation, the length and dates thereof to be agreed upon by himself and the Servant Leaders.
- D. His ministry will conform to the bylaws and policies established by this church.

Section 3. Voting a Pastor

The Pulpit Committee shall administrate Pastoral Candidate election.
(See Article VII, Section 6)

Section 4. Pastoral Tenure

- A. The term of service shall be indefinite.
- B. The relation may be terminated:
 - 1. With 90 days' notice on the part of the church or pastor.
 - 2. Or at any time by mutual agreement between pastor and church.
- C. Termination of office or acceptance of resignation shall be voted on at a meeting of the church called for that purpose by the Moderator, the time to be determined at his discretion. The meeting must be announced two (2) weeks prior to the voting.

Section 5. Pastoral Assistants

- A. When the need for assistants arises, the matter shall be referred to the church Personnel Nominating Committee.
- B. The voting and termination of pastoral assistants shall be the same as for the pastor.

Section 6. Evaluation of Service

An annual review will be administrated by the elected Servant Leaders (Pastor abstaining) to evaluate the pastor's effectiveness for the preceding year. The result of such an evaluation shall be discussed with the pastor before being reported at the Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of this church shall be Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Servant Leaders (one serving in the role of annual Moderator), Stewards (elected to a specific team), and others as the church may find necessary from time to time.

Section 2. Election of Officers

All officers shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the church and shall assume office the subsequent January 1st.
(See Article VII for Terms of Office)

Section 3. Nomination and Qualifications for Elective Office

- A. The Personnel Nominating Committee will present a nominating slate with approval by the Servant Leaders. (See Article VII, Section 7)
- B. The goal is to keep terms within teams staggered so that experience is consistent.
- C. All nominees shall be active, voting age members of this church and be people of good Christian character and reputation.
- D. All nominees for office shall have been church members for at least one (1) year.
- E. Any nominations from the floor must meet the constitutional requirements for office and have the prior consent of the person nominated.

Section 4. Vacancy

If a vacancy occurs in any elective office the Personnel Nominating Committee shall endeavor to fill the position until the next Annual Business Meeting.

Section 5. Tenure

No one shall be permitted to hold more than one elective office at any time.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIVE OFFICES, ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS, & COMMITTEES

The church shall hold an election for all open offices at the Annual Business Meeting to service terms specified in this Article. The elected officers of the church are Servant Leaders, Stewards, and Administrative Officers who shall function in unity as teams to cover Church Use, Education & Training, Property Care, and Administration & Finance. Joint Team Meetings shall be held monthly to communicate and coordinate the work of the church.

Additional Servant Leaders and/or Stewards may be added and elected by the church if membership increase warrants.

Section 1. Servant Leaders

A. Members

There shall be four (4) Servant Leaders: three (3) elected and the church Pastor.

B. Qualifications

- 1. Must be male, men of highest Christian character and conduct in accordance with I Timothy 3:8-13

2. Meet the Biblical requirements of elders as set out in scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Hebrews 13:17)

C. Election

Four (4) year maximum term, followed by two (2) year minimum sabbatical from the Servant Leadership Team

D. Duties & Purpose

1. Responsible for the spiritual direction of the church
2. Provide accountability, communication, consistency, and coordination in the work of the church and the spiritual growth of the membership
3. Meet regularly for prayer, study, concerns, and administration
4. One elected Servant Leader, annually, shall serve the role of Moderator
5. Oversee and collaborate with assigned stewardship team
6. Attend monthly Joint Team Meetings with Servant Leaders, Stewards, and Administrative Officers; Moderator will chair
7. Consider all applications for church membership and all requests for letters of dismissal
8. Annually review membership roll, seeking to restore inactive members and removing when necessary (Article IV, Section 5)
9. Coordinate providing the pulpit supply in Pastor's absence
10. Coordinate special speakers and programs
11. Administer the Benevolence Fund with the Administration & Finance Servant Leader acting as fund treasurer
12. Administer the ordinances (communion & baptism)
13. They shall have the authority to rule on the nature of all activities sponsored by the church or conducted in the church building.
14. In cooperation with the Administration & Finance Team, the elected Servant Leaders shall annually review the salary of the pastor and any pastoral assistants and make recommendations prior to its budget meeting. (Pastor will abstain)

Section 2. Stewards

A. Members

Stewards will be elected to serve on a specific team:

- Church Use Team - two (2)
- Education & Training Team - two (2)
- Property Care Team – three (3)

B. Election

1. Four (4) year maximum term on a Stewardship Team, followed by one (1) year minimum sabbatical from that team
2. Election is possible to another office or team without one (1) year sabbatical.

C. Duties & Purpose

1. Function as overseers and managers, making sure the work of the church is done effectively and efficiently
 - a. Provide oversight and communication
 - b. Seek qualified individuals to fill annual duty assignments
 - c. Seek to involve others, delegating and encouraging various ministry opportunities to anyone who shows ability or willingness
2. Meet monthly with the Servant Leaders and the Administrative Officers to: report, vote, and take action
3. Meet or otherwise communicate separately as needed to: deal with details, perform duties, and minutia
4. Form committees (involving members) when warranted.

Section 3. Administrative Officers

A. Members

1. Elected Administrative Officers are Clerk, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary.
2. Administrative Officers shall function as the members of the Administration & Finance Team.

B. Election

Administrative Officers are elected to two (2) year terms, maximum of four (4) consecutive years in a given office.

C. Responsibilities of Administrative Officers

1. Clerk Duties

- a. Keep a written record of the transactions of all business meetings of the church and monthly Joint Team Meetings
- b. Maintain a complete list of all members of the church
- c. Write for letters of transfer of membership as needed
- d. Issue letters of dismissal and erasure when instructed by the congregation
- e. Oversee the preparation of the Annual Report
- f. Attend to any other business assigned by the church
- g. The outgoing Clerk shall complete duties pertaining to their final fiscal year; all books, files, records, and other documents shall then be delivered to their successor.

2. Treasurer Duties

- a. Custodian of all monies contributed (with the exception of the benevolent fund)
- b. Keep adequate records showing all receipts and disbursements
- c. Pay all salaries, bills, and other obligations as directed by the Administration & Finance Team
- d. Present reports at the monthly Joint Team Meetings
- e. Issue written reports to the church at the Quarterly and Annual Business Meetings
- f. Issue an annual report which shall summarize the financial condition of the church and give an accounting of all receipts and disbursements
- g. The Treasurer shall present their books to be professionally evaluated at the close of the fiscal year and as often as directed by the Administration & Finance Team or the church.
- h. The outgoing Treasurer shall complete duties pertaining to their final fiscal year; all books, files, records, and other documents shall then be delivered to their successor.

3. Financial Secretary Duties

- a. Receive all funds and deposit those funds in a bank approved by the Servant Leaders and Administration & Finance Team
- b. Present a monthly report at the joint team meetings
- c. Keep records of all individual contributions as well as general contributions
- d. Furnish annual statements to each contributor or as otherwise directed by the Administration & Finance Team or the church
- e. The outgoing Financial Secretary shall complete duties pertaining to their final fiscal year; all books, files, records, and other documents shall then be delivered to their successor.

Section 4. Teams

Oversite of the work of the church is divided between four (4) Stewardship Teams. The goal of each team is to make sure that needs are met, member gifts are utilized, and communication is effective.

A. Administration & Finance Team

1. Structure

Consists of one (1) Servant Leader and the elected Administrative Officers (Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Clerk)

2. Responsibilities & Limitations

- a. The Administration & Finance team shall meet at least monthly to review payment of all bills and obligations.
- b. They shall prepare an annual budget to be submitted for approval by the church at each Annual Business Meeting. For this purpose, they shall receive all financial budget requests from other teams of the church and shall have the authority to revise such recommendations.
- c. Consider any requests to solicit the membership or raise funds; both this team and the servant leaders must give approval. The decision must then be reported at the joint team meeting.
- d. They shall be responsible for having the books professionally evaluated annually to ensure the Agreed Upon Practices are being followed with results reported to the church.
- e. They shall be responsible for minutes of Business and Joint Team meetings, coordination of the Annual Report, and communication with the Membership.

B. Church Use Team

1. Structure

Consists of one (1) servant leader and two (2) elected stewards

2. Responsibilities and limitations

- a. Annually appoints Church Use coordinators
- b. Oversees applications for Church Use and follows the established policies
- c. Focuses on hospitality and visitation
- d. Annually appoints a worship committee to coordinate worship services with the pastor

C. Education & Training Team

1. Structure

Consists of one (1) servant leader and two (2) elected stewards

2. Responsibilities and Limitations

- a. Responsible for carrying out the educational program of the church as approved by the Servant Leaders
- b. Sunday School teachers shall be selected and approved by this team.
- c. All curriculums shall be approved by this team.
- d. The team shall annually appoint a person to oversee the ordering of materials and other needs of the Sunday School teachers.
- e. Personnel for other Christian Education Ministries shall be selected by the Education and Training Team and approved by the Servant Leaders.
- f. Shall aid and coordinate church outreach activities
- g. Annually appoint a mission committee to maintain communication with supported missionaries, oversee hospitality needs, and review and recommend mission budget

D. Property Care Team

1. Structure

Consists of one (1) servant leader and three (3) elected stewards

2. Responsibilities & Limitations

- a. The Property Care Team (meeting the state's definition of trustee) shall be the legal representative for the church in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois and under the direction of this church.
- b. The Property Care Team will provide for the protection and maintenance of all properties, buildings and equipment belonging to the church.

Section 5. Moderator

A. The function of Moderator will be assumed by one member of the elected Servant Leaders. This will be an annual appointment determined by consensus of the Servant Leaders.

B. The Pastor may not serve as Moderator.

C. Responsibilities

1. He shall preside at all the business meetings of the church.
2. The role of the Moderator is to remain neutral while presiding over meetings or in the case of appeals.
3. The Moderator plans to vote only if it is necessary to break a tie.
4. He shall be chairman of the joint Servant Leader and Stewardship team meetings.
5. In the absence of the Moderator, at the request of the Moderator one of the Servant Leaders shall preside.
6. He may, upon authorization of the church, appoint such temporary or permanent committees as needed from time to time. The size and duties of each committee to be stated at the time of church authorization. All prospective nominees by the Moderator require approval by the full Servant Leader Team.

D. The office of an elected Moderator, separate from the team of Servant Leaders, may be restored if membership increase warrants.

Section 6. Pulpit Committee

A. Appointment

When the pastorate is vacant, the Moderator shall present to the church for approval, a representative Pulpit Committee with a minimum of seven members.

B. Responsibilities

1. The committee shall investigate the merits of each man under consideration. He must meet all the qualifications for pastor as defined in the constitution. (See Article V)
2. When a suitable man is found, the committee shall recommend him to the church for consideration. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at a time.
3. The committee shall work with Administration & Finance Team to recommend to the church the starting salary and other benefits the pastor will receive at the commencement of his ministry.
4. The meeting, for the purpose of calling a pastor, shall be announced at two morning worship services on two consecutive weeks prior to the meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

Section 7. Personnel Nominating Committee

A. Appointment

Will be annually appointed by the Servant Leaders and will consist of one (1) Servant Leader, one (1) Steward, and two (2) at large active church members

B. Responsibilities

1. The Personnel Nominating Committee will create a potential list of nominees for all elected positions, presenting the list to the Servant Leaders for approval, and then contacting approved nominees.
2. Annual Nominations
 - a. This committee shall present at least one (1) qualified candidate for each elected office to be placed in nomination at the Annual Business Meeting.
 - b. Two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting, the committee shall publicly post a list of candidates to their respective offices.

- c. It shall be the responsibility of the Personnel Nominating Committee to review the qualifications and duties of the office with each prospective candidate prior to placing their name in nomination.
- d. This committee can recommend the waiving of constitutionally defined numbers for elective offices to the church at the Annual Business meeting. Action by the church will be required annually to approve such change.

3. Filling of Offices

If a vacancy occurs in any elective office the Personnel Nominating Committee shall endeavor to fill the position until the next Annual Business Meeting.

Section 8. Appeals

- A. Conflicts and differences of opinion between officers, committees, and church members shall be resolved by the Servant Leaders.
- B. The Servant Leaders shall act on behalf of the church to maintain unity and love when acting as an arbiter.
- C. When interpretation of the constitution needs resolution, the opinion of the Servant Leaders shall stand until the constitution can be amended by the church to fully resolve an issue.
- D. All decisions by the Servant Leaders may be appealed to the church through the Moderator. All such appeals shall be in writing. Upon receipt of such an appeal, the Moderator shall arrange an appeal meeting of the church within thirty days.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

It is understood that membership in the church involves financial obligation to support the church and its causes with regular tithes and offerings.

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The Church fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31 each year.

Section 2. Annual Budget

- A. Administration & Finance Team shall annually prepare and submit to the church for approval an inclusive budget, indicating by item the amount needed for all local and other expenses.
- B. For this purpose, they shall receive all financial budget requests from other teams of the church and shall have the authority to revise such recommendations.

- C. The annual budget is to be submitted for approval by the church at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Financial Compliance

- A. Requests for expenditures not included in the budget must be approved by the Administration & Finance Team. Non-budgeted expenditures over \$1,000.00 shall also require church approval.
- B. In the event of an emergency, non-budgeted expenditures may be authorized without church approval. Emergency is defined as catastrophic, time sensitive, unavoidable, or unanticipated; a need which would cause an impedance to the safety and function of the physical building or ministries of the church. Both the emergency designation and the emergency use of funds will require approval by a majority of the Servant Leaders and Stewards. Such expenditures shall be duly recorded, and the congregation will be informed of the expenditure within a reasonable time, but not later than the next regularly scheduled church business meeting.
- C. All tithes and offerings are to be deposited in the general fund.
- D. Any gifts to the church made as “designated gifts,” that is a gift for an express purpose, must be approved by the Servant Leaders.
- E. Requests to solicit the membership for special offerings or to raise funds must be preapproved by Administration & Finance and the Servant Leaders and subsequently reported at the next Joint Team Meeting.
- F. Servant Leaders and/or Stewards shall not sell, mortgage, secure loans, or otherwise encumber the real or personal property belonging to the Church without approval of the church.
- G. Approval of the church relating to real property transaction requires the consent of two-thirds of the members present and voting, at a special meeting called for that purpose by the Moderator. Such a meeting must be announced at two (2) morning worship services on consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.
- H. The Treasurer shall be responsible for having the books professionally evaluated annually to ensure the Agreed Upon Practices are being followed. Results are to be reported to the church at a Quarterly Business Meeting.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Public Services and Meetings

- A. Public services for worship and praise shall be held on each Sunday at a time fixed by the Servant Leaders and approved by the church.
- B. Prayer meetings, Bible Studies, or other church services and meetings may be held as recommended by Stewardship Teams and committees and approved by the Servant Leaders.

- C. A Sunday School shall also be held on Sundays at a time recommended by the Education and Training Team and approved by the Servant Leaders.
- D. The Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of the month, or at such times as the Servant Leaders or the church may determine.

Section 2. Business Meetings

- A. Quarterly Business Meetings shall be held in January, April, July, and October.
- B. Actual selection of dates for the Quarterly Business Meetings shall be determined by the Moderator.
- C. The October Quarterly Business meeting shall serve as the Annual Business Meeting of the church and shall include the election of new officers, approval of the next year's budget, and any other regular business of the church.
- D. The January Quarterly Business Meeting shall include an annual report of the previous year from individual officers, teams, and committees.
- E. Agendas for quarterly business meetings will be created at the Joint Team Meeting prior to the quarterly meeting.
- F. Other business meetings may be called by the Moderator, the Servant Leaders, and Stewardship Teams, or any seven members who are in good standing. Notice of such meeting, and the object for which it is called, shall be given from the pulpit at a public service one (1) week prior to the date of the meeting.
- G. Matters of acceptance of members, dismissal of members to other churches, and appointment of delegates may be acted upon at any regular church service without prior notice.

Section 3. Voting Eligibility

- A. All active members in good standing and who have attained the age of (18) eighteen years shall be eligible to vote at all business meetings.
- B. Neither proxy nor absentee voting is allowed.

Section 4. Quorums

- A. At church business meetings, 10 percent of the current voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
- B. In all teams and appointed committees, a majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum, unless otherwise provided by this constitution.

Section 5. Special Voting Pluralities

A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present, and voting is needed for the call of a pastor, pastoral assistants, the purchase or sale of real property, and church indebtedness.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any Quarterly Business Meeting of the church by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those active members present and voting. Announcement of such amendments must be given to the church at Sunday morning services, two (2) consecutive weeks prior to the meeting. All proposed changes shall be publicly posted for the members to read at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI. RULES OF ORDER

- A. The Spirit of Christ shall prevail in all discussions and sessions of the church teams and committees.
- B. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all questions of procedure not covered by this constitution.

CHURCH COVENANT

As members of God's covenant body known as Immanuel Baptist Church, as believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal savior and followed him in baptism (Matthew 3:16), we commit together as a family of faith to encourage and equip one another to KNOW Jesus more fully, GROW in Him daily, and SHOW Him in all we say and do through the presence, guidance, and power of God's Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 6:6-7). We agree that the following qualities from scripture should take precedence and increase in our lives:

We will actively serve, pray and worship together on a regular basis. (Hebrews 10:25)

We will grow in our faith, increasing in knowledge (2 Peter 1:5-10) as we:

- Grow in Biblical truth through spending time regularly in the Word (Colossians 3:16, 1 Timothy 4:13)
- Bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4)

We will show evidence of brotherly love (Romans 12:9-10) as we:

- Encourage and build one another up (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Pray for one another (1 Timothy 2:1)
- Bear one another's burdens (Romans 12:15)
- Comfort and show compassion for one another (1 Peter 3:8)

We will live in harmony (Romans 12:16), seeking unity (Ephesians 4:2-3), letting the peace of Christ rule (Colossians 3:15) as we:

- Show kindness, compassion, and gentleness (Galatians 5:22-26)
- Show patience, forgiveness, and humility (Colossians 3:12-14)
- Seek the good of others and consider them better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- Are slow to anger and slow to take offense (Ephesians 4:31)

We will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Colossians 1:10), self-controlled (Titus 2:12), filled with the Spirit in all our actions (Ephesians 4:17-32).

We will serve one another (Galatians 5:13) through:

- Sharing with the Lord's people who are in need (Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13)
- Using our God given gifts (1 Peter 4:10)
- Contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry and the expense of the church (2 Corinthians 9:7)
- Holding each other accountable through encouragement, seeking to restore in a spirit of gentleness. (Galatians 6:1-2)

That we will live upright, godly lives, showing evidence of Christ in our lives not only within our Faith Family, but to our world so all that we say and do brings Glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31).
(Adopted July 28, 2021)

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and without error in the original writings and that they are the supreme authority in matters of faith and conduct.

2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Psalm 119:105

We believe in one God, creator and sustainer of the universe, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, and eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:1; Psalm 147:5; Exodus 15:11; 2 Corinthians 13:14

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, that He is true God and true Man, and that He died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the grave, His ascension into heaven, and His perpetual intercession for His people.

Luke 1:30-35; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Hebrews 7:25

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.

John 16:7-13; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. We believe that all human beings are born with sinful natures and those who reach moral responsibility also become sinners by choice.

Genesis 1:27; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. We believe that only such are real believers who endure unto the end; their perseverance is the mark which distinguishes them from superficial believers, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

John 1:12; Matthew 24:13; 1 Peter 1:3-5

We believe that the Church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible Church is a local congregation of baptized believers associated for worship, service, and fellowship and who observe the New Testament ordinances.

1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13; Colossians 1:18

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances that have been committed to the church for perpetual observance. We believe that baptism should follow regeneration and that it is the immersion in water of the believer in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that baptism is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. In the Lord's Supper, believers, by the use of bread and the cup, commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3,4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8, 9; Leviticus 18:1-30;
Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thes 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22, 23

Concerning marriage and divorce, (1) we believe that in cases where divorce has taken place prior to conversion, the experience shall be considered a part of the individual's unregenerate life (This shall not prevent that individual from serving in any official capacity in the church if it does not conflict with 1 Timothy 3:12 or with our Church Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, Deacons, #c.) and (2) in accordance with 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 all marriages in the Church building shall be restricted to those having been born again by the Holy Spirit and having received Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Matthew 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18;
1 Corinthians 7:10-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-12

We believe in that blessed hope, the rapture of the Church and the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. At His coming we believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and 1,000 years later the bodily resurrection of the unjust, the saved resurrected to everlasting blessedness and the lost resurrected to everlasting conscious punishment.

John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20,21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6