

2010

South Waterboro Bible
Chapel

As Amended 02/2010

[SOUTH WATERBORO BIBLE CHAPEL CONSTITUTION]

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SOUTH WATERBORO BIBLE CHAPEL CONSTITUTION

Amended February 10, 2010

PREAMBLE

So that all things may be done decently and in order and that we may the more readily help each other in our Christian service, we the members of South Waterboro Bible Chapel do ordain and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLES

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Church was Blaisdell Memorial Baptist Church, of South Waterboro, Maine which was incorporated on March 17, 1913, but has assumed the name of South Waterboro Bible Chapel, effective February 26, 1986 at a duly held business meeting.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this church to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Bible, to bring the unsaved to Christ, to build up the saved in Christian graces and living, and to have a vital part in missions.

- a. The promotion of spiritual worship (John 4:24, Hebrews 10:24-25)
- b. The teaching and preaching of the Word of God to all the world (Galatians 1:8-9; Matthew 28:19-20; II Timothy 4:1-5; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8)
- c. The administration of the ordinances of the Church (Matthew 18:19; I Corinthians 11:23-26)
- d. The defense of the faith once delivered unto all the saints (Hebrews 10:23; Jude 3; Revelation 3:8)

ARTICLE III. WHO WE ARE

The South Waterboro Bible Chapel is the home of a fellowship of Christians who have no denominational affiliation. It is a local evangelical Church which is self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating and is maintaining a witness for God in the community.

We are simply believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, nothing more. We wish to bear only His Name and own such names as are given to all his children: believer, saints, Christians, brethren, etc. We seek to meet, as did the believers in the early days of the Church, before there were any denominational barriers or distinctions. Our fellowship includes all true believers in Christ, whom God has constituted to be, collectively, the church, of which Christ Himself is the Builder (Matthew 16:18) and of which He is the Foundation (Ephesians 2:19-22).

To this Church all believers in Christ are joined by the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion (I Corinthians 12:12-13). We welcome all Christians who are walking in a Godly manner and are not holding unsound doctrine (Romans 15:7; I Corinthians 5:7-13; II John 9-11). If you have questions relative to your fellowship with us please seek elder counsel.

ARTICLE IV. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Old and New Testaments; that they are the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Peter 3:15-16; Matthew 5:18).

Section 2. We believe in the one God, The Creator, eternally existing in three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; Matthew 28:19-20; II Corinthians 13:14).

Section 3. We believe in God, the Father, glorious in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power; that He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from Hell all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Psalm 22:3; John 17:11; Psalm 147:5; I John 3:20; Romans 5:8; I Timothy 2:5; John 14:6; Exodus 15:11).

Section 4. We Believe in the absolute Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal existence as God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; His incarnation by means of the virgin birth; His sinlessness; his vicarious death through the shedding of His blood as an atonement for the remission of our sins; His literal body resurrection from the dead; His ascension; His present high priestly ministry in Heaven for believers and His personal return to earth (I John 5:20; John 1:18; Hebrews 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; I Peter 2:22; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:14; Luke 24:36-43; Acts 10:40-41; Acts 1:9; Luke 24:51; Hebrews 8:1-2; I John 2:1; Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16).

Section 5. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature; that he is the agent of the new birth; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that he bears witness to the truth; that He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sanctifying all of them, sealing and thus securing them unto the day of redemption; that He guides, teaches and helps believers (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Acts 5:3-4).

Section 6. We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, each after its own species, by direct act and not by the process evolution and all things are sustained by Him (Genesis 1-2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3).

Section 7. We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in the image of God. But, by reason of his voluntary sin, fell from his high and holy state; that as a result the whole race was plunged into condemnation and death, so that now all human beings are born with a sinful nature; and that all, reaching the age of accountability, become willful sinners in thought, word, and deed and so are without excuse before God (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3; Romans 5:10-19; Psalm 51:5; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 3:10-23).

Section 8. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through faith in the blood sacrifice, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that all who receive Him are born again by the Holy Spirit and become children of God; that no rite, ceremony, or work can avail one whit for the sinner's salvation or make the believer's salvation more secure; that Christ is the only and all sufficient Savior, and that all who are saved are kept forever (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; John 3:3; John 5:24; John 1:12; Romans 10:9-13; Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; II Timothy 1:12; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6).

Section 9. We believe that all the blessing of salvation are made possible by the gospel; that there is no contradiction between the election of God and the choice of men: that it is the immediate duty of all to accept the gospel by faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the sinner but his own depravity and rejection of the gospel (John 3:16-17; I Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 22:17; Ezekiel 33:11; John 5:40; II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:3-4).

Section 10. We believe that every saved person possesses two natures; that he has the old nature for the duration of his earthly life; but that provision is made for victory for the new nature over the old by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 7:15-25; 6:11-14; II Corinthians 12:7-10; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 3:7-14).

Section 11. We believe that sanctification for the believer is immediate, upon the acceptance of Christ, and progressive, continuing to the end of earthly life; and that the progressive phase is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the continual use of the appointed means, such as the study of God's Word, self-examination, self-denial, prayer, soul-winning and faithful attendance at a fundamental church (I Corinthians 1:2; I Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:10,14; I Thessalonians 3:12-13; 4:1-12; II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:25).

Section 12. We believe that the saved are called into a life of separation from religious apostasy and from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations (Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:22; I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14-18; II John 7-11; Ephesians 5:11; Romans 16:17-18).

Section 13. We believe that the local church is composed of regenerated, baptized believers, voluntarily united for the purpose of worship, edification, observance of ordinances, fellowship, and service; that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity in the local community and unto the uttermost parts of the earth; that the local church has absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, religious or political; that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each local Church the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that on all matters of membership policy of government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the local Church is final (Acts 2:41-47; Romans 1:7; Colossians 1:2; I Corinthians 1:2; Acts 4:4; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 20:7; 11:26; Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-16; Titus 1:5-8; Hebrews 13:7,17; I Peter 5:1-5; Acts 6:1-8; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-26; Acts 15:1-27; 11:29-30; 13:1-4; Philippians 4:14-16; Acts 20:28,31; I Corinthians 5:1-6).

Section 14. We believe Bible baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, thus setting forth in symbol his union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; that every believer should be baptized because of the example of Christ and because of the command given by Him (Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; John 5:24).

Section 15. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death until He comes again; and that in this ordinance the Lord's table should be open to all regenerated persons in fellowship and obedience to Christ (I Corinthians 11:23-32; Luke 22:14-20).

Section 16. We believe in the literal, bodily, personal, premillennial, and imminent coming of our Lord in the air to catch away believers before the tribulation period; also in the personal, visible, and glorious return of Christ to earth at the close of the tribulation period to judge the nations and set up the millennial kingdom on earth (Acts 1:11; John 14:3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 4:1; Matthew 24:42-44; II Thessalonians 2:7-8; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:1-6; Hebrews 12:22-24).

Section 17. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection; and that the souls of the lost remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection (II Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23-24; Luke 17:19-31).

Section 18. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the saved to everlasting blessedness at the coming of Christ, and, one thousand years later, the lost to the judgment at the Great White Throne and then to everlasting conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire (John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-52; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 20:5-6,11-16).

Section 19. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 13:1-7; Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 18:21; I Timothy 2:2-3; Acts 4:19-20; Acts 4:27-29).

Section 20. We believe that in the Age of Grace, the Lord's Day, which is the first day of the week – the day of our Lord's resurrection, is the proper day for Christian worship and service; and that it ought to be kept holy unto the Lord (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:13-17; Hebrews 10:25; John 20:1,19,26).

Section 21. We believe that Satan, a fallen angel, is a distinct and real personality, and god of this age, the adversary of Christ and all believers, and that his destiny is eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire (Ezekiel 28:1-19; Job 1:6-9; I Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:1-11; I Timothy 3:7; James 4:7; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

ARTICLE V. THE ORDINANCES

Section 1. Those professing saving faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior shall, by an elder or some person authorized by the elder be immersed in water in accordance with the Scriptural teaching. Baptism shall be by single immersion (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4).

Section 2. The Lord's Supper (communion) shall normally be served to the assembled Church by the Elders (or some person designated by the Elder) on the first Sunday morning of each month, or at the discretion of the Elders. Since it is the Lord's Table, none who is His shall be barred (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:17-34).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership of this Church shall consist of person who

- a. have received and confessed Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord
- b. have been baptized, and
- c. have been accepted by majority vote of the membership.

Section 2. The candidate shall be required to state his acceptance and adherence to the Articles of Faith, Constitution of this church before receiving the privileges of membership.

Section 3. Members from other Churches holding the same doctrinal conviction may be received by letter of transfer from their respective Churches, upon recommendation of the Elders and vote of the Church.

Section 4. Persons coming from other denominations who have been “born again” (John 3) and have obeyed the Lord in being scripturally baptized, and in consequence of any circumstance, have no regular letter of dismissal from a Church of like faith and doctrine, may be received by giving satisfactory evidence of change of heart, Scriptural faith and Christian conduct, to the Elders. The Elder may then recommend the person to the Church to be voted upon.

Section 5. Each member shall seek to grow in knowledge and spiritual power, and ready to serve in any useful capacity in the Church and Church sponsored organizations. Regular attendance at the stated preaching services and prayer meeting shall be considered a necessity for spiritual growth, fellowship and mutual cooperation. A family altar shall be the goal of each home. Financial support of the Church and Missionary program is expected according to Scriptural standard (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:7).

Section 6. It is the duty of the members to honor and esteem the Elders; to pray for them fervently and daily; to attend constantly upon their ministration; to manifest a tender regard for their reputation.

Section 7. It is the duty of each member to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all other members of the Church, and to show this love by using all proper ways to promote their spiritual benefit and prosperity.

Section 8. Toward those who are not connected with the Church, it is the duty of the members to be exact in fulfilling obligations and performing promises; and as opportunity and ability may enable, to commend the Gospel to them.

Section 9. Any member moving from the vicinity of this Church shall be expected to join another Church of like faith as soon as possible, whereupon that Church will write for, and will receive, a letter of transfer, providing the member is in good standing.

Section 10. All members of the Church who are 18 years of age and older shall be allowed to vote.

Section 11. A person must be a member of the Church in good standing and at least 18 years of age before holding office. A person must qualify scripturally and spiritually for any office in this Church.

Section 12. A person must be a member of this Church to be considered for the position of teacher in any ministry of the Church.

Section 13. Purity of Church administration is of vital importance to her spiritual welfare. It shall be, therefore, the duty of the Elders to exclude from the congregation any member living in disregard of Biblical obligation. Diligent efforts shall be made to reclaim the wayward brother/sister. It is recognized that when the Church by regular order and proper vote, determines a course of action, that course becomes the duty of every member of the Church.

Section 14. The Church may (using Scriptural procedure) censure, reprimand, or exclude from membership, by recommendation of the Elder board, any member who becomes an offense to the Church and its good name (Galatians 6:1; I Corinthians 5:11-13; Romans 16:17; Revelation 2:2; II John 10-11).

Section 15. In case of a personal difference between members of the church, the elders shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences in the manner laid down by our Savior in Matthew 18:15-16.

Section 16. The Elder Board shall constitute the discipline committee of the Church, and are instructed to carry out any such cases in the light and spirit of II Thessalonians 3:6-15; and Titus 3:10.

Section 17. The Elder board is empowered to make rules and regulations concerning the ways in which cases of discipline shall be conducted in the light of scriptural teaching.

Section 18. Termination of Membership

- a. By death.
- b. By letter. Any person in good standing shall be entitled to and granted a letter of transfer to any Church of like faith and practice. The letter shall be granted only to church with which the member wishes to unite.
- c. By exclusion. Should any member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct the Church may, after due notice and a hearing before the Elders, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment, terminate his membership.
- d. By erasure. Any member who unites with another Church thereby automatically ceases to be a member of this Church and the Church Clerk shall drop the name from the Church roll on recommendation of the Elder board or when request is made by the member and acted upon by the Elder board. In addition, any member who is inactive for a period of one year may be removed from the Church roll upon recommendation of the Elder board.

Section 19. Special Associate Membership

Special associate members are defined as follows:

- a. The names of these members whose temporary residence is local and have left home (permanent residence) for a temporary extended period of time, such as college students, service personnel, or workers and the like, shall on recommendation of the Pastor and board of Elders and by a majority vote of the membership present and voting, be placed on a Special Associate Membership list. This will make them ineligible to vote in business meetings.
- b. All other sections of Article VI shall apply except for voting privileges as stated in Sections 19a.
- c. They shall upon return to consistent permanent residence notify the Pastor and/or Elder so their Special Associate membership can be removed from the church membership list.
- d. When it is deemed the temporary extended period of time will become permanent, it is the duty of that member to so notify the Pastor and seek to become a full time member with voting privileges.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. All officers shall be members of South Waterboro Bible Chapel. They shall be spiritually mature, of good Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual welfare of this Church. They shall also be faithful and diligent in attendance and participation in the regular meeting of the Church. In the light of I Timothy 3, the home and family relationship must be considered as well as individual qualifications.

Section 2. Any officer unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office shall resign from his office. If and when any officer shall refuse to subscribe to the Article of Faith, and the Constitution of this Church, his resignation shall be requested by the Elder Board.

Section 3. The Church Body shall fill any vacancy occurring in the established office if there are qualified people available.

Section 4. The Preaching Teaching Elder (Pastor)

- a. Overseer. The leadership of the Church, all departments being subject thereto, resides in the Scriptural office of the Pastor (also called in the Scriptures “Bishop” or “Elder”) who is appointed by the Holy Spirit as the overseer of the flock. No other officer or member of this Church shall consider his work more important than being assistant to and co-laborer with the Preaching, Teaching Elder (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:7,17)
- b. Qualifications. The qualifications of bishops in I Timothy 3:1-7 are accepted as the proper standard for this Church.
- c. Duties. The Pastor shall have the general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services, and ministration of the ordinances of the Church; he shall act as moderator, when present, in all meetings for the traction of business except when the action distinctly concerns himself; and he shall conscientiously perform the various and other duties incumbent on his office. The Pastor shall consider all pulpit supplies and special pulpit features and shall confer with the Elder Board on these matters. The Pastor shall have control of the music and of the broadcasting by radio or other public media of any Church service subject, when necessary, to the approval of the Elder Board. Any assistant pastor, or pastors, or any employees of this Church shall perform such duties as may be designated by the Pastor/and Elder Board.
- d. Election and Term of Office. The Pastor shall be elected at a special business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the active members present and voting. Voting shall be by ballot. He shall be elected for an indefinite period of time unless specifically stated otherwise in the agreement. Announcement shall be made at least one week prior to such a meeting. Only candidates who are of doctrinal position as this Church and in full accord with the Church Constitution to be considered for Pastor. Only one candidate shall be presented to the Church and voted upon at a time. The relationship between Pastor and Church may be terminated by his resignation or by a request of the Church. At least one month’s notice shall be given in either case. A three-fourth’s majority vote of the active members present and voting shall be required for the dismissal of a Pastor, and such a meeting shall be given public announcement the preceding Lord’s Day. If, at any time, after a fair and impartial trial, it is found that the personal belief, preaching, teaching, or practice of the Pastor are not in full accord with the Doctrinal Standard of the Church, his services shall be terminated immediately, by the required vote without his consent, and the matter of any further salary shall be decided at that time by the church.

Section 5. Overseeing Elders

- a. Their primary responsibilities include overseeing the work of the Church through liaison with Board and Committees; intervening in internal strife conflict, and matters calling for Church discipline; dealing with inactive and / or alienated members, making selective visitation of Church members, examining and recommending prospective candidates for baptism and membership (Acts 20:28-31; James 5:14-15). Their secondary responsibilities include preserving doctrinal purity; preaching the Word; teaching the Word; administering the ordinances; conducting public worship and equipping the saints for work of service (Acts 20:28-31; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Timothy 5:17; I Peter 5:1-3).
- b. Qualifications. The qualifications of a bishop in I Timothy 3:1-7 are accepted as the proper standard for this Church.
- c. Election and Term of Office. The election of an overseeing Elder shall be for an indefinite term. They shall be elected at an annual meeting of the Church. Only those who are qualified, recommended by the Elder Board and prayerfully seeking the office of Elder shall be a candidate for the office of Elder.

Section 6. Deacons

- a. The responsibilities of the Deacons are to minister to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any in distress; to visit members of the congregation, the sick and shut-ins, to hold in trust the Deacons Fund and to disburse same for the relief of the needy (giving precedence to the needs of the congregation) to assist in administering the ordinances, to assist the Elders in preparing and examining prospective candidates for baptism and membership. To carry out such other duties as may be delegated by the Elders (Acts 6:1-6).
- b. Qualifications. Deacons shall be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, respectable, not indulging in much wine. A good manager of his family, able to see that his children obey him, not a pursuer of dishonest gain, one who keeps hold of the deep truths, sincere and tested (I Timothy 3:8-12).
- c. Election and Term of Office. The Deacon shall be elected by the Church at the Annual meeting upon the recommendation of the Elder Board. Each Deacon will serve 3 year terms. Each year replacements will be elected.

Section 7. Trustees

- a. There shall be at least four (4) Trustees elected by the Church. They shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Church. Each Trustee will serve for three (3) year terms. Each year replacements will be elected.
- b. The Trustees shall have the care and custody of all the property of the Church, real and personal, including the parsonage, and of its Trust funds. They shall see that the instruction of the church Body and/or the Elder Board are carried out in relation to these matters.
- c. They shall purchase supplies and make needed repairs not exceeding \$3000.00. Larger projects must be decided on by the vote of the Church.
- d. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to assist the Financial Secretary count all monies received and to make any recommendations necessary to the Church including preparation of the annual budget at the beginning of each year, in consultation with the Church Treasure and Elder Board.

Section 8. Clerk

- a. The Church Clerk shall be elected by the Church for a period of one year.
- b. Duties. The church Clerk shall keep accurate minutes of each business meeting of the Church, read the same for approval at a succeeding meeting. The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the Church membership, admissions, transfers, deaths, baptisms, and ordination services; issue letters of transfers voted by the Church; conduct its correspondence when authorized; preserve all papers and reports which the Church may direct to be placed on file; and perform such other duties as appertain to this office. The Clerk shall present a report at the Annual Meeting of the Church. This report shall include the number of admissions and transfers during the year, baptisms, the total active and inactive memberships, etc. The books shall at all times be open to the Elders and to the Deacons. The Clerk shall deliver immediately to the successor all books, files, records, and other Church documents in his/her possession.

Section 9. Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Church at their first business meeting of the new year for a period of one year. The Treasurer shall receive money of the Church and apply the same as directed by the Church, keep a true and fair record of accounts and make a full report to the Church at each Annual meeting.
- b. Shall cooperate with the Trustees in preparation of the budget for the following year.
- c. Shall make a month by month report to the Elder Board.

Section 10. Financial Secretary

- a. The Financial Secretary shall count all offering, with the aid of a member of the Board of Trustees, immediately following each service and keep record of same, shall deposit all money in such bank as designated by the Trustee Board as early as possible on Monday morning; shall convey the deposit slip to the Treasurer; shall submit records to the auditors for review prior to the annual business meeting, and shall make a monthly report to the Treasure.
- b. The Financial Secretary shall be elected by the Church for a period of one year.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Missionary Committee

- a. This committee will have at least three (3) members. Each member will serve for a three (3) year term.
- b. They shall create an interest and enthusiasm for missions on the part of as many members as possible.
- c. They shall support interest and enthusiasm with accurate and up-to-date information.
- d. They shall secure as much prayer support for missions as possible.
- e. They shall seek as much material support as possible from the Church family for our missionary family.
- f. They shall provide as much moral support as possible to our missionary family.

Section 2. Hospitality Committee

- a. This committee shall consist of at least three (3) members who will be elected by the Church at the Annual meeting. They will serve a two (2) year term. Each year at least one (1) member will be replaced. After the Annual meeting they will elect their own chairman.
- b. This committee shall be responsible for:
 1. All social functions of the Church such as picnic, fellowship suppers, receptions and the like.
 2. They shall provide housing, food and entertainment for special speakers and groups that are guests of the Church.
 3. Floral and other decorations for the Church at its socials, at its worship services, and at special times of the year (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, etc.).

Section 3. Other Committees

Other temporary committees may be appointed by the Elders when and as they are deemed necessary, not to exceed twelve (12) months.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Business Meetings

- a. There shall be an Annual meeting of the Church the last Wednesday in January of the new year to elect officers, and standing committees and transact any other business. In case of any omission in holding the election as above, a meeting shall be called for the earliest convenient date thereafter.
- b. Only members eighteen (18) years of age and above shall be eligible to vote.
- c. The day for business meetings may be changed at the discretion of the Church and or the Elder Board.

- d. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Elders provided public notice be given of the same on the Lord's Day preceding (except that meetings arranged for calling or dismissing a pastor shall be given public announcement for two (2) preceding Sundays). At such meetings ten (10) members having voting privileges shall constitute a quorum.
- e. The Pastor will be the moderator and in his absence a member of the Board of Elders will preside.
- f. The fiscal year of the Church shall begin January 1 and continue through December 31.
- g. The agenda for all business meetings shall be determined by the Board of Elders, except for those called by a quorum of the membership.

Section 2. Other Meetings

All public gatherings arranged under auspices of this Church shall have prior approval of the Elder Board.

ARTICLE X. LICENSING AND ORDAINING

Section 1. Licensing

Any member of this Church who, in the judgment of the Church and Elder Board, gives sufficient evidence of his piety, zeal, and aptness to teach, and feels that he is called of God to the work of the Christian ministry may, upon recommendation of the Board of Elders, be licensed to preach.

Section 2. Ordaining

- a. Upon recommendation of the Board of Elders, a council may be called to consider the propriety of ordaining to the full work of the Christian ministry and qualified candidate.
- b. The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine the applicant for ordination as to his call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service.
- c. No one shall be ordained who brings disrepute upon his ministry through worldly practices and associations.
- d. Ordination, having been conferred under this Constitution, it shall be within the province of the Church to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credentials any minister found guilty after and impartial trial conducted in the spirit of I Corinthians 13.

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL

Section 1. Use of the Church Property and Name

- a. The Church property shall never be used in any way that will be a disgrace to the Lord Jesus Christ or contrary to His teaching.
- b. No secret society will be permitted to hold services in the Church.
- c. No Pastor or pulpit orator will be permitted to preach from the pulpit of the Church who denies the fundamentals of the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Any visiting speaker shall have the approval of the Elder Board.
- d. All gatherings off the Church property held in the name of the Church shall first be approved by the elder board.

Section 2. Pastor's Vacation and Salary

The Pastor's salary and vacation shall be determined at calling. The Pastor's salary shall be reviewed and determined at least once a year.

Section 3. Resignations

All resignations of officers and committee members elected by the Church may be accepted by the Church after full consideration. The vacancy shall then be filled by the Church.

Section 4. Monetary Principles

- a. The systematic giving of money for the support of the work of the Lord is worship as well as duty. It must be kept on the plan of voluntary, freewill offering, untarnished by any hope of material gain. All members are expected to give regular financial support to the Church and to the advancement of the projects it shall sponsor. In determining the Lord's portion, we believe and affirm with the Scriptures that a bare minimum of one-tenth (1/10) of one's income should be faithfully and cheerfully given by everyone (II Corinthians 9:6-7) and all should strive to give more than the tithe, for all we have belongs to Christ (I Chronicles 29:14-16; Acts 4:32-35).
- b. A statement of each subscriber's account shall be given to him at the end of each year, if he desires it, from available records of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

Section 1. The constitution may be amended at any special business meeting by a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of those present, providing such amendment has been publicly announced for two Sundays previous to the meeting.

Section 2. The Church may adopt from time to time such by-laws in amplification hereof as may be necessary or desirable and shall provide therein for amendment of the same.

ARTICLE XIII

Tax Exempt Organization in conformance with section 501 (c) (37 of the Internal Revenue Code and as a tax exempt organization, no part of the net earnings of South Waterboro Bible Chapel of Waterboro, ME shall insure to the benefit of any member or individual; nor shall a substantial part of the activities of South Waterboro Bible Chapel attempt to influence legislation; nor shall South Waterboro Bible Chapel participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office (including the publishing or distributing of statements.)

ARTICLE XIV

In the event of the dissolution of South Waterboro Bible Chapel of Waterboro, the assets of said corporation shall be distributed by vote of the membership to a non-profit, religious organization that adheres to the South Waterboro Bible Chapel's Doctrinal Statement.