

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS

and

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

**OF THE
MAYFAIR BIBLE CHURCH
FLUSHING, MI**



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(Modified & Amended March 2024)

ARTICLE I - (Church Name)

The name by which the corporation is to be known is the Mayfair Bible Church.

ARTICLE II - (Statement of Purpose)

The purpose of the church is the preaching of the gospel and winning souls to Christ through the realm of local, home and foreign missions; the teaching and training of converts; the maintenance of a place for public worship and the observance of biblical ordinances.

ARTICLE III - (Government)

A. Authority

1. Recognizing that Jesus Christ is the True Head of the Church, the government of Mayfair Bible Church will endeavor to operate in submission to His will.
2. The government of this church shall be vested in the active membership and executed through duly elected officers, boards, and committees in accordance with all provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

B. The Official Board

1. Two elected Boards will assist the Pastoral Staff in the oversight of the Church and the work of the ministry. The Elder Board will have responsibility for spiritual oversight. The Deacon Board will have responsibility for the oversight of the temporal (i.e. physical) affairs of the Church.
1. The Elder and Deacon Boards functioning together with the Pastoral staff shall constitute "the Official Board" of Mayfair Bible Church.
2. The distinction between the Elder and Deacon Boards exists to facilitate the division of labor between Church leaders like that found in Acts 6:1-6. Neither Board shall exercise authority over the other but shall function independently and jointly for the good of the assembly.
3. The Official, Elder, and Deacon Boards shall meet monthly.

ARTICLE IV - (Membership)

A. Adult Membership requirements or eligibility

1. A person must accept the whole Bible as the Divinely inspired Word of God.
2. Reception of baptism by immersion is required except in special cases as authorized by the Pastoral Staff.
3. Must be at least 18 years of age unless seeking Junior Membership.
4. Is not a member of another church.

B. Procedure for uniting with the Church

1. Any person seeking membership shall express his/her desire to a member of the Pastoral Staff or Official Board.
2. A prospective member shall be interviewed by one elder plus at least one other member of the Official Board. Testimony shall include the following:
 - A confession of faith in Christ.
 - A transformed and regenerated life.
 - Acceptance of our doctrinal statement and of our church covenant as outlined in our constitution.
3. Prospective members shall be approved by the Elder Board
4. Prospective members shall be received by the congregation as new members. This reception represents a formal act of recognition for new members.
5. Membership will be recorded in Church records.

C. Junior Membership

1. Junior membership shall be granted to young persons under 18 years of age meeting the requirements of Article IV, sections A and B.
2. Junior membership entitles a young person to all rights and duties of adult membership with the exception of voting in Church business meetings. (cf. Article VI, section E)
3. Junior membership may be transferred to adult membership upon the 18th birthday of the young person. At this time the junior member will be required to meet with a member of the Pastoral Staff who will make a recommendation regarding this transfer request to the Official Board. Formal recognition by the congregation will follow.

D. Associate Membership

1. An associate membership may be granted to persons meeting the requirements of Article IV, Sections A & B, with the exception of Article IV, Section A.5 (Is not a member of another church).
2. An associate membership would entitle a person to retain or obtain membership in this church while retaining or obtaining membership in another church of the same doctrinal stand.
3. An associate membership will be subject to periodic review by the Elder Board.

E. Membership Transfer or Dismissal

1. By letter: A member in good standing may, upon written request, receive a letter of commendation and transfer from the Church in order to unite with another. When one has united with another Church, his/her membership with this Church shall cease, except in cases of associate membership.
2. At the recommendation of the Elder Board, the Official Board possesses the power of exclusion, suspension, or erasure. However, this power is only to be exercised after careful examination has been made and every possible means exhausted to reconcile a member in question with the Church. Matthew 18:15-17
 - a. By erasure: When residence of any member has been unknown to the Church for six months, or when any member has been negligent of his covenant vows for six months, his/her name may be erased from the roll.
 - b. By exclusion: When the Church, in exercise of its scriptural authority and discipline, denies fellowship to one proven to be an unworthy member, his membership immediately ceases. See I Corinthians 5:11, II Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15.
 - c. By suspension: When a member so conducts himself as to cause the disapproval of the Church and is suspended, any office held shall be vacated. A suspended member shall not have the right to vote in any of the affairs of the Church.
3. Death: Name is removed posthumously from the church roll.

ARTICLE V - (Elected and Appointed Positions)

A. Qualifications

1. The qualifications of all elected and appointed positions shall be in accordance with Scriptural qualifications appropriate to each position. (i.e. elders & deacons: 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 8-13, 1 Peter 5:1-3). No person shall be eligible for such positions who knowingly and repeatedly engages in sinful practices. Elders and Deacons shall conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the name of Christ at all times and in all places. (See 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Ephesians 5:18, 1 John 2:15-17)
2. A person (apart from the pastoral staff or unless otherwise noted) must have been a full member in good standing for a minimum of one year in order to qualify to hold an elected office at Mayfair Bible Church.
3. Other than pastor, elder and deacon, or unless otherwise noted, any elected position may be held by a man or woman meeting the requirements of Articles V. A. 1. And V. A. 2.

B. The Election of Officers

1. Elected Officers

The Elected Officers of the Church shall consist of no less than twelve Deacons and a number of Elders not less than 5, not including the pastoral staff. These along with members of the Pastoral Staff constitute the Official Board of the Church. All other officers shall be appointed by the Official Board. No person shall hold the office of Deacon and Elder at the same time.

2. Deacon Nominating Committee

The Deacon Nominating Committee shall be elected at the regular April business meeting. Nominating Committee members must have been a member of Mayfair for at least 4 years.

Membership shall consist of seven members:

- Four to be elected by the congregation, taking nominations from the floor of up to 8 names.
- One representative from the existing deacon board.
- One representative from the existing elder board.
- One from the pastoral staff.

3. Officers

a. Deacons

- 1) The Deacon Board shall consist of no less than twelve members.
- 2) The term of office shall be 3 years so arranged so that the number of vacancies per year (due to the expiration of terms) shall be as close to one third of the number of deacons as possible.
- 3) When possible, there shall be a minimum of two names submitted for each office vacated. These names shall be submitted to the congregation four weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Appointments will be made to the required number of men receiving the highest number of votes.
 - i. Nominees may be current deacons whose terms are ending.
 - ii. In the event that there are only as many nominees as vacancies, each nominee shall be presented to the congregation to be affirmed. A minimum of 80% “yes” is required.
- 4) The Deacon Board Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary will be Deacons appointed by the Official Board at the first Board meeting after the Annual Business Meeting.

b. Elders

- 1) The Elder Board shall consist of no less than 5 members, not including the pastoral staff.
- 2) Elders shall serve a three-year active term followed by an optional year free from active service. Following each 3-year term, regardless of whether the optional year off is taken, Elders must be reaffirmed by at least an 80% majority vote of the congregation.
- 3) The name of any nominee for Eldership shall be submitted to the congregation by the Elder Board four weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Each Elder shall be voted on individually and must carry at least an 80% majority vote for appointment.

- c. Pastor(s)
 - 1) When the need arises to call a pastor, a Pastor Search Committee shall be formed consisting of seven members. Three of the members will be elected by the church from a list of at least six Mayfair Bible Church members, nominated from the floor at a regular or special-called business meeting. Elders currently serving will not be considered when electing the three members from the church membership. Prior to the church election, the Deacon Board will appoint one Deacon and the Elder Board will appoint three Elders to serve on the Search Committee.
 - 2) Concerning presentation of candidates to the church: The search committee shall contact qualified men who are interested in candidating for the pastoral position. The committee shall consider all individual qualifications; spiritual, criminal, mental, interpersonal, and physical. In addition, the committee shall investigate family, home life, social media presence and past relationships with other churches, as far as possible. The candidate must receive a six out of seven super majority vote of the search committee to be recommended as a candidate to the Official Board. If the candidate is approved by a minimum vote of 80% by an 80% quorum of the Official Board, then the candidate may then be heard by the church.
 - 3) Once the candidate has been heard by the congregation the Official Board shall meet in a timely fashion to consider approving the candidate and presenting his name to the congregation for election as pastor.
 - i. The candidate must be approved by a minimum 80% of an 80% quorum of the Official Board members present to be approved for presentation to the body.
 - 4) If approved by the Official Board, the name of the candidate shall be presented to the body for election as Pastor in a congregational meeting called by the Official Board specifically for that purpose. The candidate must receive a minimum of 80% yes votes of the members present to be approved by the body.
 - 5) If approved by the Body, the Elder Board shall call the candidate for the position.
 - 6) If the candidate accepts the position of Pastor, he shall continue in office until his relationship with Mayfair Bible Church shall be dissolved by personal request, or vote of the church as set forth in Article VI, sections F & G.
4. Deacons and appointed positions, vacated during the year shall be filled by appt. of the Official Board for the remainder of the vacated term.
5. The requirements of Article V, Section B.3.c.1-2 may be waived, or altered as appropriate by a two-thirds congregational vote.

C. The Duties of Officers

1. Deacons

a. Deacons will have the following duties:

- Oversight of the temporal affairs of the church.
- Maintain the properties and facilities in good condition.
- Propose, plan, and make repairs or alterations.
- Responsible for the sale, mortgaging, leasing, or encumbering of any church property (as authorized by official vote of church membership Article VI.G)

Deacons may not make or authorize anything that exceeds 5% of the undesignated income of the previous year. Any expenditure requiring a higher amount will require full membership approval of the congregation. All deacon board meetings must have a quorum of at least half of the board members plus 1 to conduct business.

- b. The Board of Deacons shall be empowered to serve as Trustees for all legal and other matters where such title is required.
 - c. As members of the Official Board it shall be the responsibility of the Deacons to assist the Pastoral Staff in the administration of the ordinances.
2. Elders
- a. It shall be the duty of the Elders to assist the Pastoral Staff in developing and advancing the spiritual lives and conduct of each other and the congregation.
 - b. It shall also be the duty of the Elders to assist the Pastoral Staff in the spiritual oversight of the Church. They shall encourage the brethren, take consideration of the spiritual aspects of all Church ministries, and perform all other functions recommended in the New Testament Epistles.
 - c. The Elders shall make themselves available to the Pastoral Staff for counsel in matters pertaining to the encouragement and spiritual growth of the Church.
 - d. As members of the Official Board it shall be the responsibility of the Elders to assist the Pastoral Staff in the administration of the ordinances.
3. Pastor(s)
- a. The office of Pastor must meet the Scriptural grounds of Paul's Epistle, I Timothy chapter 3.
 - b. All Pastors are to become a member of the church as specified in Article IV, a member of the Official Board, and a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees.
 - c. A Pastor must agree with the church's doctrinal statement in its entirety and will uphold the Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Appointed Positions

- 1. At the first Board meeting following the Annual Business Meeting, The Official Board shall have discretion to organize the leadership of Sunday School, kids, youth, and adults as it sees fit.
- 2. All head ushers are to be appointed by the Official Board. All other ushers will have attended MBC for at least six months and be in good standing.
- 3. The Deacon Board shall appoint three Assistant Treasurers from among the currently serving Deacons.
- 4. The Official Board may appoint other positions as needed.
- 5. The Team of Treasurers are authorized by the Official Board to appoint and annually review the members of the counting teams. Counting team members must be members in good standing and proven themselves with a minimum six month regular attendance.

E. Dismissal of Paid Church Employees

All non-pastoral church employees shall serve at the will of the Official Board and may be dismissed at any time, for any reason, with or without cause. When possible, biblical principles regarding confrontation, repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation should be followed.

ARTICLE VI - (Business Procedures)

A. Annual Business Meetings

The Annual Business Meeting shall be on a Sunday in October at which time the officers of the church shall be elected by ballot.

B. Regular Business Meetings

A regular Church Business Meeting shall be on a Sunday in April at which time congregational representatives to the Deacon Nominating Committee shall be elected by ballot. Complete financial records shall be read and made available to the congregation.

C. Special Business Meetings

A Special Business Meeting may be called by the Official Board, providing two weeks notice is given: in the bulletin and announced from the platform at least once in a Sunday Morning service.

D. Rules of Order

1. The Chairman of the Deacon Board shall preside at all Church Business Meetings, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Deacons.
2. The Chairman of the Deacon Board shall preside at all Official Board meetings, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Deacons.
3. Robert's Rules of Order will be used as a general guide at all Church Business meetings.

E. Members in good standing and at least 18 years of age may vote. Members must be in the building to vote (no absentee ballots).

F. Petitions

1. A request for dismissal of any officer or Pastor must be presented in writing to the Official Board for consideration at any regular Board meeting or a special meeting called for this purpose.
2. A special Church meeting shall be called by the Official Board upon presentation of a petition signed by any 15 voting members in the church, such meeting to consider the subject of the petition.
3. Notice of such meeting shall be communicated in writing to the congregation for at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Additionally, the notice shall be communicated from the pulpit during a regular Sunday Service during that time.

G. Church Business

1. Any proposals made by the Official Board to the Church must be publicized at least one week in advance except in cases of extreme emergency.

2. Voting (other than procedural) shall be by ballot. Any issue put to a vote by ballot must carry a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

H. Amendments

This Constitution and bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular or special Business Meeting of the Church provided the following:

1. An announcement has been read publicly in the Church by the Official Board two weeks prior to the meeting.
2. Copies detailing the proposed changes are made available two weeks prior to the meeting.

I. Church Records

1. The Staff shall keep all records pertaining to Church membership and shall assume all responsibilities of Church correspondence with regard to Church membership. Pastoral Staff shall be responsible for correspondence of membership dismissal.
2. The Secretary of the Deacon Board shall keep records of all Church Business Meetings.
3. The Church Treasurer shall be responsible for all Church financial records. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial activity, accounts and procedures regarding church finances ensuring that all church financial activity is accurately receipted and recorded. It is the duty of the Treasurer to work with the Finance Staff to keep all financial records of the Church.

ARTICLE VII - (Ordination)

Any person desiring ordination must first be approved by the Elder Board as to salvation, doctrine, and call to the ministry. The Official Board shall give, on behalf of the Church, a written recommendation to an examining council called by the Senior Pastor. The examining council shall be composed of no fewer than four Pastors of established churches that are known to be evangelical Bible believing churches who adhere closely to our doctrinal position.

Any desired number above four may be invited. Each Pastor shall be permitted to bring two other representatives from his Church. Other men who are not Pastors but who are engaged in a definite phase of Gospel ministry may be invited as members of the council. Following a recommendation by the examining council, the Church may proceed with the ordination under the leadership of the Pastor. An ordination certificate signed by the members of the council shall be given to the one ordained.

The Official Board shall have the power to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the minister is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection. The minister shall have the privilege of appealing his case in writing to the Elder Board within 60 days after the initial decision of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII - (Marriage and Sexuality)

We believe God created and ordained marriage to bring together one man and one woman, the complementary parts of humanity, by joining them in "one flesh" unions (Genesis 2:18-25). Marriage between one man and one woman for life uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church and is an institution ordained by God (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33; I Peter 3:1-7; Romans 1:18-32). Any other definition of marriage which distorts this pattern is unbiblical and contrary to the historic Christian faith. We believe that any form of sexual activity outside of marriage is immoral and a perversion of God's good gift and design for His human creation (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; I Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:18; 7:1-11; Romans 1:26-27; I Thessalonians 4:3-8).

ARTICLE IX - (Sanctity of Human Life)

We believe all humankind was created in the image of God. We believe God created all humans as living, intelligent, determining, and moral beings (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1, 3; 9:6; I Corinthians 11:7; Colossians 3:10; James 3:9). We believe God gave humankind dominion to care for the rest of his creation, reproduce, and fill the earth (Genesis 1:28). Because all humans bear the image of God, human life has inestimable worth in all dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death (Genesis 1:27-2:25). We believe each human being (body and soul) is brought about by God's set order and design of human procreation (Genesis 2:1-3; Hebrews 7:10). We believe a person is brought to full life at the point of conception. We believe that an induced abortion and euthanasia are unbiblical and contrary to the historic Christian faith (Exodus 20:13; Job 12:10; Psalms 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15).

ARTICLE X - (Dissolution Clause)

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation or any private individual; and no donor, member, director, officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes.

CHURCH COVENANT

We, the members of Mayfair Bible Church, do covenant together as those born of the Holy Spirit that, God helping us, as strangers and pilgrims to this world, we will abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. We will endeavor always to walk circumspectly and in keeping with the Word of God.

We further purpose that we will put away from us all bitterness, wrath, anger, and evil speaking, and be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us. That as we have opportunity we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are the household of faith.

We do further covenant to give our wholehearted support to the Church as God enables us by faithfully attending regular services; upholding it in prayer; regularly and systematically contributing to it's financial needs as God has prospered us, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver; conscientiously abiding by its constitution and doctrines and serving where we are needed.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Matthew. 5:18; John 16:12, 13).

2. The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14).

3. The Person and Work of Christ

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35).
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Rom. 3:24, 25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).
- c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Heb. 9:24, 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1, 2).

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8, 11; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom.8:9; Eph. 1:13, 14).
- b. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20, 27, Eph. 5:18).

5. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26, 27; Rom. 3:22, 23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3, 12).

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:18,19).

7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

- a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:38, 39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5).
- b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13, 14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

8. The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Rom. 6:13; 8:12, 13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9).

9. Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1, 2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Cor. 6:14; 7:1).

10. Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:19, 20).

11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

- a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (I Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12).
- b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; I John 5:14, 15).
- c. We do not embrace the doctrine or the practices of "pentecostal "type groups relative to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, gift of tongues or the working of miracles (I Cor. 13:8-11; I Cor. 14:33; I Cor. 12:13; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12).

12. The Church

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 11:2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches are clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

13. Dispensationalism

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper Dispensationalism", such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:41, 42; 18:8; I Cor. 11:23-26).

14. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6, 7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

15. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent pre-tribulational and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (I Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10).

16. The Eternal State

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Rev. 20:5, 6, 12, 13).
- b. 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, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; Phil. 3:21; I Thess. 4:16, 17).

17. Concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer (Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:4) into the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19) to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior and its effect in our life regarding our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Rom. 6:4). We believe baptism should be a prerequisite to church membership (Acts 2:41-42). We believe in the observance of the Lord's Supper, in which Christians, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the suffering and death of Christ (I Cor. 11:26). We believe it is to be observed faithfully and is to be preceded by self examination (I Cor. 11:28).

18. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day (Acts 20:8) and is to be observed by the devout practice of private and public worship (Psa. 118:15; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2).