

# THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH

New Hope Bible Church  
1730 Vintage Street  
Kissimmee, Florida 34746  
(407) 933-4888

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Incorporation                    “NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH”**

This church will be incorporated under the name of New Hope Bible Church.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this church as a local assembly of believers adhering to all the teachings of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible shall be as follows:

- to maintain regular services, both for public worship and edification;
- to earnestly proclaim the Gospel message and to urge its personal acceptance;
- to encourage systematic Bible study and training for Christian service and to urge enlistment in some form of Christian activity;
- to conduct and operate appropriate institutions for the purpose of Christian education and missionary endeavors;
- to maintain a Biblical stand against destructive criticism of the Bible and any theological teaching or any ecumenical trend not Scripturally sustained;

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Corporation**

The members of the Board of Elders shall consist of those members of the church who are from time to time appointed to such office with the confirmation of the congregation. This board shall form the Board of Trustees and shall serve as final authority in the capacity required by the State of Florida.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Articles of Faith**

#### **1. THE SCRIPTURES:**

We believe the Holy Bible, as originally (original autographs) written by Holy Spirit-controlled men, is inerrant in every respect, infallible, and verbally and plenary inspired. We believe the Bible is the complete, final, and authoritative revelation of God's Will and Word, therefore being the absolute authority for Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conducts, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. By Scriptures we mean the 39 books of the Old Testament, and the 27 books of the New Testament always accepted by historical fundamental Christian churches.

1 Cor. 2:11-14; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16 - 17; 2 Pet. 1:19 - 21

#### **2. THE TRIUNE GOD:**

We believe there is only one living and True God, Maker, and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth, infinitely glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. We believe the True God, the Godhead, is composed of three persons "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" each having the same nature and attributes, being equal in divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious ministries in the great work of redemption. All three are coeternal, co-preexistent and coessential.

We believe that God is revealed to us in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Creation, in the written Word, and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Gen. 1:1, 26; Ex.15:11; Isa. 7:14; 45:5, 6, 18, 21, 22; Mt. 3:16, 17; 28:19; Mk. 12:29, 30; Jn. 10:30, 36; 14:6 - 10, 16, 17; Rom. 1:19, 20; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:4 - 7; Col. 2:9; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:1 - 3; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 4:11

#### **3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, truly man/truly God, and that He is the Son of God, the Son of man, and God the Son. He is the Eternal Living God.

Gen. 3:15; Isa.7:14; Mt.1:8 - 25; Mk. 14:62; Lk. 1:31 - 35; 2:7 - 11; 9:56; Jn. 1:1 - 4, 18; 5:17 - 23; 8:58; 17:6; Acts 7:56; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:5 - 11; Col. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:9, 14 - 16; Jude 24 - 26; Rev. 1:8

#### **4. THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

We believe the person of the Holy Spirit is God, who is the source and power of all acceptable worship and service. He was active in creation. In His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the wicked one until God's purpose is fulfilled, convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the agent in the new birth, who indwells every true believer, is ever present to testify of Christ, seeking to occupy us with Him and not with ourselves or our experiences. He comforts, baptizes, anoints, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, fills, distributes gifts to, sanctifies and helps the believer.

Gen.1:1, 2; Job 33:4; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 3:5, 6; 4:23, 24; 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26; 16:7 - 11, 13-35; Acts 1:8 - 2:18; 4:8, 31; Rom. 8:9, 14, 16, 26, 27; 15:16, 19; 1 Cor. 2:11 - 14; 3:16; 6:19, 20; 12:7 - 11; Eph.1:13, 14; 4:30, 31; 5:18; 2 Th. 2:6, 7; 1 Jn. 2:27

#### **5. SATAN:**

We believe in the person of Satan (Lucifer, the fallen angel, that old Serpent, the Devil, the author of sin and all powers of darkness, the unholy god of this age, the prince of the Kingdom of darkness, the prince of demons). He deceives the whole world and endeavors to keep souls from coming to the saving knowledge of Christ. He is at enmity with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Church. He is the accuser of the Brethren, destined to the judgment of eternal torment in the lake of Fire.

Gen 3:1 - 4; Job 1:6 - 12; Isa.14:2 - 17; Ezek. 28:12 - 19; Mt. 4:1 - 11; 25:41; Lk. 13:16; 2 Cor. 4:3 - 4; Eph. 2:2; 6:11 - 12; Col. 1:13; Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 Jn. 5:18; Rev.12:9 - 10; 20:10

#### **6. THE CREATION:**

We believe the Genesis account of Creation is literal and historical. We believe man came by direct creation of God, created as full man, and not by evolution.

Gen. 1:1 - 2; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15 - 17; 3:10; Heb. 1:10 - 12

## **7. MAN:**

We believe man was created in the image of God, after His likeness. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His Creation. God created man in innocence under the law of His creator. By voluntary transgression he fell from his sinless and happy state, making all mankind sinners, not only by nature, but also by choice. Therefore, all are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 1; 2; 3:1 - 6; Dt. 22:5; Isa. 45:11 - 13; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:18 - 20; 3:9 - 19, 23; 5:12 - 19; Eph. 2:1 - 3; 1 Jn. 1:8 - 10; Isa. 64:6

## **8. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY:**

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

Gen. 2: 18 – 25; Mt. 19:4-9; Eph. 5: 21 – 33

We believe that marriage between one man and one woman for life uniquely reflects Christ’s relationship with His Church.

Eph. 5:21 - 33

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other and that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage.

Lev. 18:1 – 29; Mt. 15:18 – 20; Acts 21:25; Rom. 1:18 – 32; 1 Cor. 5:1 - 13; 6:9 - 7:5; Gal. 5:19; Col. 3:5; 1 Th. 4:3 - 8; Heb. 13:4

We believe the family is the foundational institution of human society. God explains in the Scriptures how the individual members within the family unit are to function.

Gen. 1:26 – 28; Eph. 5:22 – 6:4; Col. 3:18 – 21

## **9. ATONEMENT:**

We believe in the voluntary, substitutionary, and propitiatory sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, who partook of the nature of man, yet without sin. We believe by His personal obedience to the divine law, He was made a

curse for the sinner, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. He was crucified, died, buried, and rose again on the third day. He is the only means of salvation, for the sins of all mankind. We believe that no efforts or attitudes of man can add the least bit to the value of the precious blood or to the merit of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ who is ascended and enthroned in Heaven, sitting on the right hand of God as our high priest and advocate. Thus, He is the powerful and effectual Savior for those who accept Him by faith.

Dt. 21:23; Ps. 22; Isa. 53; Mt. 27; 28; Mk. 15; 16; Lk. 23; 24; Jn. 14:6; 19:20; Acts 4:12; 7:56; Rom. 3:24 - 26; 4:24 - 25; 5:6 - 8; 1 Cor. 11:25; 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Col. 1:13 - 14; 2:13 - 14; Eph. 2:8 - 9; Heb. 1:3; 2:9, 14; 4:15; 7:25 - 27; 9:28; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18; 1 Jn. 2:1 - 2; 4:10

## **10. GRACE IN THE NEW BIRTH:**

We believe in order to be saved; sinners must be “born again”. This new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus accomplished solely by the grace of God. It is an instantaneous act, not a process. In the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and sins is born into the family of God and receives a new nature and eternal life freely from God. This new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth - the Word of God - so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel.

Jn. 3:3 - 8; Acts 16:30 - 33; Rom. 6:4, 23; 2 Cor. 5:17, 19; Gal. 2:20; 5:22 - 23; Eph. 2:1 - 10; Col. 2:13; 3:1 - 3, 10; Ti. 3:5 - 6; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Jn. 3; 5:1, 11 - 13

## **11. SALVATION:**

We believe salvation includes all the spiritual blessings of the Gospel – justification, redemption, sanctification, and glorification – which Christ secured by His death and resurrection. We believe it is received by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. Justification includes the pardon and forgiveness of sins on the basis of righteousness through faith. Sanctification is the position of the believer in union with Christ; initially the believer is sanctified and set apart at salvation; secondly he is sanctified through his growth in the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit; and finally he is glorified through his complete union in Christ when called to be with Him.

Acts 13:39; 20:32; Rom. 5:1 - 9; 8:1, 29 - 30; 12:1 - 3; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Gal. 3:13; Col. 3:1 - 2; Ti. 3:7; Heb. 10:10, 14; 1 Pet. 1:18; Jude 1

## **12. ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER'S SALVATION:**

We believe once joined to Jesus Christ, the believer can never be separated from "the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". The believer's salvation is eternally secure.

Jn. 6:47; 10:28; Rom. 8:35 - 39; 1 Cor. 6:17; Phil. 1:6; 1 Jn. 5:13; Jude 1

## **13. THE CHURCH:**

### **The Church of Jesus Christ**

We believe the Church of Jesus Christ was begun at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven, and is composed of all those who truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. It is the body and bride of Christ, the building for a habitation of God through the Spirit. Every believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head and Lord of this total body.

Acts 2:1 - 4, 41 - 47; Rom. 12:4 - 5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:9; 12:12 - 27; Eph. 1:22 - 23; 2:19 - 22; 4:3 - 6; Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:5 - 10

### **The Local Church**

We believe the local church is a body or congregation of true believers in Christ, gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, associated by love and fellowship, sharing the responsibilities and privileges as found in God's Word, obeying the commandments of Christ, meeting for worship, keeping the ordinances of Christ, the study of God's Word, fellowship and prayer. Its supreme mission is to preach the Gospel, faithfully witnessing of Christ to all men (including children) as it has opportunity.

We believe the local church has the absolute right to self-government free from the interference and influence of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. The one and only head is Christ, Who directs the church through the Holy Spirit. It is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Mt. 18:20; 28:19; Mk. 10:13 - 16; 16:15; Jn. 14:15; Acts 1:8; 2:41, 42; 6:1 - 5; 15:13 - 18; 20:17 - 35; 1 Cor. 11:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1 - 13; 2 Tim. 3:14 - 4:5; 1 Pet. 5:1 - 4

## **14. ORDINANCES:**

We believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are not to be regarded as means of salvation.

### **Baptism:**

We believe the Christian's water baptism is a symbol of the believer's identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. This act of commitment is a public testimony of the believer's faith in Christ. We believe that the total immersion of the believer is the preferred method of water baptism.

Mt. 3:16; 28:19; Jn. 3:23; Acts 2:41; 8:26 - 39; Rom. 6:3 - 5; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12

### **The Lord's Supper:**

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby professing born-again believers in Jesus, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Jesus our Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. Partaking of the Lord's Supper is open to all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no prerequisite to being a member of this church body. It is designated as a solemn time of remembrance, self-examination, rededication, as well as a time of looking forward to His coming.

Mt. 26:26 - 30; Mk. 14:22- 26; Lk. 22:19 - 20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23 - 34

## **15. CIVIL GOVERNMENT:**

We believe civil governments are of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society. Magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as explained in the Holy Scriptures.

Ex. 18:21 - 22; 2 Sam. 23:3; Dan. 3:17 - 18; Mt. 22:21; Acts 4:19; 5:20; 23:5; Rom. 13:1 - 7; 1 Tim. 2:1 - 2; 2 Tim. 3:16

## **16. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe there is a radical difference between the righteous and the wicked. Only those who through faith obey the Gospel by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior are truly righteous in God's sight, in that He looks at them only through the death of His Son. All who in rejection, rebellion, and disbelief are wicked in His sight, are lost, and under the curse. The souls of the lost remain after death in misery and torment until the final judgment of the Great White Throne, when soul and body, reunited at the resurrection, shall be cast "into the Lake of Fire" which is "the second death", to be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power". The souls of the righteous immediately pass into Christ's presence at death, to remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in Glory.

Prov. 14:32; Mal. 3:18; Mt. 22:11 - 13; 25:24 - 41; Lk. 16:23 - 31; Jn. 5:28 - 29; 8:21, 24; 14:2 - 3; Rom. 6:6 - 20; 1 Cor. 15:51 - 57; 2 Cor. 5:1 - 8; Phil. 1:23; 3:20 - 21; Col. 3:4; 1 Th. 4:13 - 17; 2 Th. 1:8 - 9; Heb. 9:27 - 28; 1 Jn. 3:1 - 3; Rev. 20: 5, 15; 21:8; 22:11

## **17. THE RESURRECTION AND RELATED EVENTS**

We believe in the bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mt. 28:6 - 7; Mk. 16:6; Lk. 24:2 - 6; Jn. 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4

We believe in the Resurrection of the Righteous Dead.

1 Cor. 15:42 - 44, 52; 1 Th. 4:13 - 18

We believe in the Ascension of Christ.

Mk. 16:19; Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:9 - 11; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21

We believe that the believers living when Christ returns will receive new glorified bodies.

1 Cor. 15:51 - 53; Phil. 3:20 - 21; 1 Th. 4:13 - 18

We believe in the High Priesthood of Christ.

1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17; 5:9 - 10; 1 Jn. 2:1

We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of Jesus Christ. At His appointed time, He will come to catch away His Church. He will come with His Church after the great tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His Kingdom on earth.

Mt. 24:1 - 25:46; Mk. 13:1 – 37; Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Th. 4:13 - 18; 2 Th. 2:1 – 16; Ti. 2:12 – 13; Heb. 9:28; Jas. 5:8; Rev. 19: 11 - 12

We believe in the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Mt. 12:36; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 3:13 - 15; 2 Cor. 5:10

We believe in the Millennial Reign.

Ps. 72:8; Isa. 11:4 - 5; 32:1; 1 Cor. 15:25; Rev. 20:4, 6

We believe in the Great White Throne Judgment.

Rev. 20:11 - 15

We believe in the new heaven and the new earth.

Rev. 21:1 - 5

## **18. THE MATTER OF TONGUES**

We believe that the gift of tongues was, like the gifts of apostleship and prophecy, given for the founding of the church and is therefore not likely being given today. Believers should base their experiences on the written Word of God, seek to use the more important gifts and cultivate Christlikeness, none of which requires the use of tongues.

1 Cor. 12:28; 13:8; 14:21 - 22; Gal. 5:22 - 23; Eph. 2:20

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Affiliation**

This church shall at all times hereafter retain the right to associate and disassociate itself with and from any denomination or fellowship which is in agreement with the Articles of Faith of the church. This church shall retain its autonomy, as the historical situation shall dictate, in order to give its allegiance first of all to God and His Word.

An affiliation change may take place with a three-fourths vote by the Board of Elders followed by a three-fourths vote of the Active Church Membership at a meeting called for such a purpose and preceded by a public announcement and a written notice of at least thirty days. Pertinent to this Article a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Active Voting Members.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Membership**

#### **Section 1- Members**

**Part A:** It is lawful and agreeable to the Word of God that members of Christ's body on earth should, as local circumstances require, be divided into particular churches. A particular church consists of a number of professing Christians along with their children voluntarily associated together for divine worship and godly living, and submitting to a certain form of government.

**Part B:** Members of the New Hope Bible Church, Kissimmee, Florida, will be "born-again" believers examined and received by the Board of Elders. They must be at least 16 years of age. They must give evidence of and agree to the following:

- that they have believed in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior
- that they intend by the Holy Spirit's help to grow in Christian experience through prayer, study of Scripture, church attendance, and other means of God's grace, and to walk circumspectly before the world
- that they will conform to the governing rules of the church
- that they will subscribe to the Constitution and Declaration of Faith for The New Hope Bible Church
- that they will live in harmony with the members and leadership of the church
- that they will look for opportunities to use their spiritual gift(s) within the church

**Part C:** New members shall be received into the church by confession of faith or re-affirmation of faith. Member applicants will be asked to sign a statement stating that they have received and read “THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH” and that they agree to abide by the membership stipulations as noted in Part B above.

## **Section 2 – Voting Rights and Inactive Members**

**Part A:** Members of age eighteen or older in good standing have the right to participate in and vote in all congregational meetings.

**Part B:** The Board of Elders shall review the membership roll periodically.

Members who have shown no interest in the church for a period of six months may be placed upon an inactive roll after investigation by the board. Inactive members will have no right to participate in or vote in any congregational meeting or to hold any office in the church.

**Part C:** Any person may have his/her name removed from the inactive roll and be restored to full Active Voting Membership status at the discretion of the Elder Board.

## **Section 3 – Associate Membership**

The Associate Membership shall consist of those persons who have met the requirements for membership (see Section 1, Part B above) and who are residing in our area either as students, Christian workers, or others who have their membership elsewhere in a church of similar doctrinal standards to this church. They will enjoy all the rights and privileges of members with these exceptions: They cannot serve as an Elder or Deacon, and do not have the privilege of voting.

## **Section 4 – Removal from Membership**

Names of members may be removed from the Membership Roll for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Active association with another church or fellowship
2. On his/her own cognizance
3. Death
4. “Inactive” roll for six months

## **Section 5 - Church Discipline**

### **Part A. Grounds for Church Discipline**

Grounds for church discipline are immorality, heresy in doctrine, apostasy in practices, causing division among the brethren, and for reasons of unacceptable behavior to the membership.

### **Part B. Procedure When an Accusation is Brought**

If an accusation against an individual(s) as listed in Section 5 A, above, is brought to the attention of the board of Elders, the Elders will carefully investigate the matter following the procedures shown in Mt.18:15-18; Gal. 6:1-5; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 6:1-7; 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11; Jas. 5:19-20. The accuser along with the accused will be given an opportunity to meet with the board of Elders. If the Elders determine that the accused is guilty of an offense, the individual(s) will first be admonished to repent and reconcile with those involved. If the individual does not exhibit signs of repentance and makes no attempt at reconciliation, then the Elders may by a two-thirds vote remove the individual from the Church's Membership Roll. The individual will not be allowed to serve in any leadership position or in any ministry capacity in the church. A special properly called congregational meeting may be called at the discretion of the Elders to inform the church membership of the Elders' decision and to explain the actions taken.

### **Part C. Restoration**

In every instance of repentance, restitution (where necessary), and correction of behavior the member shall be restored to fellowship and have their membership reinstated.

Gal. 6:1; 2 Cor. 2:5 – 11

## **Section 6 – Baptism**

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior who desires to be baptized shall make the request known to the Pastor or the Board of Elders. The applicant will be examined by the Elders and, if approved, shall be baptized in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

Mt. 3:16; 28:19; Jn. 3:23; Acts 2:41; 8:26 - 39; Rom. 6:3 - 5; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Administration**

#### **DIVISION I – MEETINGS**

##### **Section 1 – Spiritual**

The church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship, preaching the Gospel, and Bible Study. While at least one other day during the week the church, whenever possible, should meet for Bible Study and prayer, the church shall always be careful not to schedule a proliferation of meetings which shall be to the detriment of the family unit.

##### **Section 2 – Business**

The church business meeting shall be held annually in the first quarter of the year. Budget Reports from the past year and proposed Budget Reports for the new year will be presented. A majority vote of the Active Voting Members present is required to approve the Budget Reports and proposals. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Board of Elders or the Pastor(s). An Elder or a member of the congregation approved by the Elders will take the minutes at each business or congregational meeting.

##### **Section 3 – Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the church shall be January 1 to December 31.

##### **Section 4 – Quorum**

Fifty-percent of the Active Church Membership must be present to form a quorum at any properly called meeting of the church. Exceptions are removal of Pastor, Elder or Deacon (Division II- Section 1- Part E- Item 2); Affiliation (Article V); Amendments to the Constitution and Declaration of Faith for The New Hope Bible Church (Article X- Section I) and the Dissolution Clause (Article XI).

##### **Section 5 – Moderator**

A member of the Board of Elders shall act as moderator at the church business and congregational meetings.

## **DIVISION II – OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 – Pastor(s)**

#### **Part A: Their Qualifications**

Every candidate for the Office of Pastor must be a man meeting the qualifications of 1 Tim. 3:1 – 7; 1 Pet. 5:1 - 4 and Ti.1. He must be in full agreement with “THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH.” He shall also be willing to function within the system of government set forth in this constitution. Normally a pastor would be selected from among the Elders because he has demonstrated particular gifts in ruling and teaching.

#### **Part B: Their Responsibilities**

It shall be the responsibility of the Pastor(s) to preach the whole counsel of God, to administer the ordinances, and to look after the spiritual welfare of the members of the assembly. As the divinely appointed under-shepherds they shall have the general over-sight of the local church.

#### **Part C: Their Calling**

It shall be the duty of the Elders to investigate prospective candidates. When the Elders are satisfied of the suitability and availability of a man, they shall recommend him to the congregation. Within one month after recommending the candidate, the congregation shall be given opportunity to vote by secret ballot. A three-fourths affirmative vote of the active voting membership present shall be sufficient to extend a call. Results of voting shall be announced at said meeting. The Board of Elders shall issue a call including all financial arrangements, such as moving expenses, insurance, car allowance, housing allowance, vacation time, salary, and a pledge to keep the Pastor apace with the cost of living.

#### **Part D: Their Term of Office**

The term of office shall be for an indefinite period of time as directed by the Holy Spirit. Upon His leading to terminate his position, a Pastor should give at least a thirty-day notice in writing to the Board of Elders. At the discretion of the Board he may continue as an Elder.

## **Part E: Discipline of Pastor(s)**

### **Item 1 – Grounds for Discipline**

A pastor is subject to dismissal on the grounds of immorality, heresy in doctrine, apostasy in practice, or for reasons of unacceptability to the congregation. In the latter, the Board of Elders shall make every attempt to rectify the problem, and the Pastor shall be given opportunity to resign if he feels so inclined.

### **Item 2 – Procedure When an Accusation is Brought**

If an accusation on any of these grounds is made in writing to the Board of Elders, a full hearing will be conducted by the Board of Elders if deemed necessary. Those persons bringing the accusations shall appear before the Board of Elders in the presence of the Pastor. If the accused is found to be guilty of the accusation by two-thirds consent of the Elders, he shall be given an opportunity to resign and within thirty days to vacate the parsonage. If he elects to go before the congregation, the minutes of the hearing shall be presented along with the recommendation from the Elders that the accused be dismissed. A neighboring Evangelical Pastor may be asked by the Board of Elders or the accused Pastor to moderate the hearing and / or the Congregational Meeting, should one follow. Pertinent to the congregational meeting, a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Active Church Members. A two-thirds vote in favor of dismissal will carry the action. The Pastor will receive a letter of this action, a copy of the minutes, and financial support not to exceed thirty days.

## **Section 2 – Elders**

### **Part A: Qualifications**

The church assembly or body recognizes the Elders, which includes the Pastor(s), as the spiritual overseers of the congregation. Qualifications are the same as that of a Pastor (Division II, Section I, Part A). The Elders shall choose certain men who are qualified members and who accept this constitution.

### **Part B: Appointment**

Appointment may take place at any time upon recommendation by the Board of Elders. The selected shall be presented by a public announcement and a written notice at least two weeks in advance of a

properly called congregational meeting. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total Active Voting Membership present is required for confirmation

### **Part C: Responsibilities**

Elders are responsible for the spiritual administration of the church, the implementation of church discipline, and watching over the souls of the members as those who must give account to God for this responsibility. They, in conjunction with the Pastor, shall exercise the over-sight of the church in all its ministries and functions. Elders must seek to discharge their duties as set forth in the Scriptures, particularly such passages as Acts 20: 17-38; 1 Pet. 5:1; and Heb. 13:17.

While every Elder bears spiritual rule (and must be “apt to teach”), some will be more engaged in formal and public teaching, while others will be more exclusively engaged in the details of ruling.

1 Tim. 5:17

Elders shall be men in full communion with the church, of mature judgment, of unquestioned Christian character, loyal to the Word of God, and to Jesus Christ, able to teach the doctrine, devoted to prayer and the spiritual welfare of the church.

1 Tim. 3:1-13; Ti. 1:6 - 9, Acts 6:4

It shall be the duty of the Elders to be diligent and faithful in attendance at the Board of Elders meetings and at the regular services of the church. They may make suggestions regarding the Pastor(s) pulpit ministry and encourage him in the work of the Lord. Elders may, at their discretion, call upon one or more of the Deacons to assist with any of their responsibilities when necessary.

The Elders shall review new candidates for church membership and baptism. Elders shall administer the benevolent fund.

### **Section 3 – Discipline of Elders**

#### **Part A: Grounds for Discipline**

An Elder shall be subject to dismissal on the same grounds as the Pastor. (Division II, Section 1, Part E, Item 1)

## **Part B: Procedure When an Accusation is Brought**

If an accusation on any of these grounds is made in writing to the Board of Elders, a full hearing will be conducted by the Board of Elders, if deemed necessary. A Pastor shall moderate unless the charges are filed by the Pastor, in which case a neighboring Evangelical Pastor may be asked to moderate the hearing and the Congregational Meeting, if such should follow. The persons bringing the accusations shall appear before this board in the presence of the accused. If the accused is found to be guilty of the accusation by two-thirds consent of the Elders, he shall be given opportunity to resign from the Board of Elders and come under discipline decided upon by the Elders or withdraw his membership from the church. If he elects to go before the congregation, the minutes of the procedure shall be the same as that for a Pastor.

### **Section 4 – Deacons**

#### **Part A: Qualifications**

Same as Elders with the exceptions that Scripture makes. 1 Tim. 3; Ti 1

#### **Part B: Appointment**

Appointment may take place at any time upon recommendation by the Board of Elders. The selected shall be presented by a public announcement and a written notice at least two weeks in advance of a properly called congregational meeting. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total Active Voting Membership present is required for confirmation. The number of Deacons shall be dependent upon the need for such servants as determined by the Board of Elders.

#### **Part C: Responsibilities, etc.**

It shall be the duty of Deacons to be diligent and faithful at the regular services of the church. They will assist the Elders in matters of church ministry.

#### **Part D: Grounds for Discipline**

Same as an Elder

## **Part E: Procedure When an Accusation is Brought**

Same as an Elder

## **Part F: Replacement or Immediate Addition of Elders and Deacons**

When need arises for the replacement of an Elder(s) or Deacon(s) due to death, illness, resignation, proper removal or moving from this community, the Elders shall select a man or men. The selected shall be presented by a public announcement and a written notice at least two weeks in advance of a properly called congregational meeting. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the total Active Voting Membership present is required for confirmation. The same procedure shall apply to additional Elder(s) or Deacon(s) which are necessitated due to growth and increasing responsibility.

## **Section 5 – Other Offices**

All officers shall ascribe to 'The Constitution and Declaration of Faith for the New Hope Bible Church' and be members. (Unless otherwise noted)

### **Part A: Financial Secretary**

The Financial Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Elders and shall receive all monies and deposit them in the bank in their appropriate accounts. He/she shall keep records of contributions and provide receipts to the I.R.S.

### **Part B: Treasurer**

The church Treasurer shall be an Elder or a Deacon. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to administer the General Fund and to pay all bills authorized by the Elders. He shall keep a record of all receipts and disbursements and prepare a report for each regular meeting of the Board of Elders. He shall be present at Elders meetings when requested.

### **Part C: Youth Director**

It shall be the duty of the Youth Director to provide and administer a program of activities – spiritual and social – for the young people (Jr. High, Sr. High, and young single adults). A youth director(s) will be appointed by the Board of Elders.

## **Part D: Director of Ushers**

The Director of Ushers will be appointed by the Elders and will be responsible for appointing ushers for each service of the church and for ensuring their performance as scheduled.

## **Part E: Teachers**

The overall objective for the teaching ministry of the church is to provide its members with clear and accurate biblical instruction. The intent is to encourage each of our members to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to utilize their spiritual gifts within the church family. All volunteer Bible teachers must be church members or be approved by the Board of Elders.

2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:18

## **Part F: Music / Worship Team Leader(s)**

It is the desire of New Hope Bible Church to encourage its members with musical talents, such as singing or playing musical instruments to use their talents within the church fellowship. The Board of Elders shall appoint a music / worship team leader(s) to oversee the music / worship ministry of the church. All music / worship team members must be church members or be approved by the Board of Elders.

## **DIVISION III – COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1 – All Committees**

Committees may be formed at the discretion of the Elders to execute special functions within the church. Chairmanship may be held by an Elder if the Board of Elders deems this best. These committees may be designated temporary or permanent.

### **Section 2 – Auditing Committee**

An auditing committee shall be appointed annually by the Board of Elders to review church income and expenditures.

### **Section 3 – Missions Committee**

A Missions Committee shall be a standing committee of the church consisting of a minimum of four members approved by the Board of Elders. The number of committee members shall be established by concurrence of the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders before the annual meeting. The Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Elders. The church shall maintain a written “New Hope Bible Church Missions Program Policy” in order to guide and assist mission committee members. (See Appendix A: “New Hope Bible Church Missions Policy-revised 2016)

## **DIVISION IV – ORGANIZATIONS / MATERIALS**

### **Section 1 – Various Organizations**

The various service and fellowship groups and other organizations which are a normal part of the operation of the local church are to be established and maintained under supervision of the Pastor(s) and Board of Elders. These organizations may be required to submit monthly and quarterly reports as the Pastor(s) or Board of Elders shall require. These organizations may have their own policies subject to approval by the Board of Elders and not conflicting with the churches Constitution.

### **Section 2 – Materials and Publications**

All materials used throughout the ministry of this church shall be approved by a Pastor and/or the Board of Elders.

### **Section 3 – Ex-officio Statutes of the Pastor(s)**

By virtue of the office, the Pastor(s) shall be an ex-officio member(s) of all organizations and committees of this church.

## **DIVISION V -- CHURCH EMPLOYEES / VOLUNTEERS**

All employees must be members of New Hope Bible Church. All volunteers serving in any regular ministry capacity must be members of New Hope Bible Church or be “Believers” who agree to abide by ‘The Constitution and Declaration of Faith for the New Hope Bible Church’ and be approved by the board of Elders. Employees and volunteers may be subject to background checks as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Ordination**

### **Section 1 – Ordination**

#### **Part A: Membership of Ordination Council**

An Ordination Council consisting of at least four duly ordained Evangelical Pastors and at least two members of the Board of Elders of this church shall be called by the Board of Elders to hear and question an applicant concerning his life and doctrine upon his request.

#### **Part B: Requesting an Ordination Council**

To request an Ordination Council an applicant must:

- be a member in good standing for at least one year and evidence his call to the ministry by conduct and activity
- or be a graduate of a Bible School or Christian College with appropriate Bible training and have evidenced his call to the ministry by at least nine months successful ministry
- or be a graduate of an Evangelical Seminary and have evidenced his call to the ministry by at least nine months successful ministry

#### **Part C: Approval of the Council**

To qualify for ordination the applicant must receive at least a two-thirds vote of the Ordination Council.

#### **Part D: The Ordination Service**

New Hope Bible Church, Inc. may organize and host an ordination service for those approved by the Ordination Council.

#### **Part E: Discipline of Ordinees**

It shall be within the jurisdiction of the Board of Elders to convene an Ordination Council for the purpose of discipline. Its authority shall extend to revoking ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this constitution.

Grounds – Revocation shall be immorality, heresy, and apostasy.

Charges – Persons making charges must appear in person to lodge charges. A deposition will be acceptable under extreme circumstances as determined by the Council.

Procedure – The accused shall be entitled to make his defense (or have a fellow minister present his defense). The Council shall sit as a jury which shall select a moderator from its number. A two-thirds vote is necessary for conviction. The Council shall have the power to impose disciplinary measures less than revocation of ordination, as it shall deem appropriate.

Appeal – The defendant shall have the right of appeal within sixty days to an appeal court of impartial ministers (three in number). These shall be selected by the Board of Elders of this church and approved by the defendant. A field of not more than fifteen names must be submitted to him from which he must be willing to accept three.

## **Section 2 – Commissioning**

When a man (non-ordained) or woman is recommended to the church by a mission board for commissioning, that person may petition for an interview with the Board of Elders. Upon approval, the Board of Elders shall recommend them to the congregation for a commissioning service and credentials shall be issued.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Use of Church Facilities**

It is the desire of the members of New Hope Bible Church to use our building(s) and/or facilities for purposes that are glorifying to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our church building(s) or facilities will only be used in ways that promote or are in agreement with “THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH.” Any person or group who requests permission to use the church building(s) or facilities may be required to sign a statement which indicates that the specific event or activity will not violate or go against “THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH.”

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Amendments**

#### **Section 1 – “THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH”**

“THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF FAITH FOR THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH” may be amended (by a three-fourths vote) by the Board of Elders. Amendments must be confirmed by a three-fourths vote of the Active Voting Members in attendance at a meeting called for such purposes and preceded by a public announcement and a written notice of at least two weeks. Pertinent to this Article, a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Active Voting Members.

#### **Section 2 – Articles of Faith**

The Articles of Faith shall at no time be amended so as to alter the meaning intended by its authors in their historical context. Since the definitions of some theological words change as they are mutilated by unbelievers, articles may be amended so as to express to the current generation to whom the church is ministering the exact doctrinal position intended by the original authors.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Dissolution Clause**

This corporation may be dissolved only by recommendation of a three-fourths vote by the Board of Elders followed by a three-fourths vote of the Active Church Membership at a meeting called for such a purpose and preceded by a public announcement and a written notice of at least thirty days. Pertinent to this Article a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Active Voting Members.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member, officer, or any private individual. The same shall be true in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the corporation. The said corporation does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to its members. Upon dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed by the Dissolution Board to such organization(s) and for such purposes as in the judgment and discretion of the Dissolution Board. The Dissolution Board shall be made up of the members of the Board of Elders who are serving at the time when the action in favor of dissolution takes place.

## APPENDIX A

### **New Hope Bible Church Missions Policy**

#### **I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the New Hope Bible Church Missions Program is to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." Mark. 16:15 NIV (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8)

#### **II. GOALS:**

With the above purpose in mind, the following goals are established:

- A. Provide prayer support toward the needs of full time Christian missionaries.
- B. Provide financial support towards the needs of full time Christian missionaries.
- C. Keep all members of New Hope Bible Church aware of the problems, needs and accomplishments on the mission field.
- D. Involve every member of New Hope Bible Church in the missions program.
- E. Encourage members of New Hope Bible Church to become missionaries.

#### **III. POLICIES ON MISSIONARY SELECTION AND SUPPORT:**

##### **A. Support - Full time missionaries**

1. New Hope Bible Church shall provide no more than one-half of the total support of any missionary.

2. Financial support shall begin the first of the month following the missionary's acceptance and continue until the end of the fiscal year. Support will be reviewed annually. Any missionary who has not departed for the field within twelve months of acceptance must be reconsidered under III. Section D (Eligibility for Support by New Hope Bible Church.)

3. Payment of support will be on a monthly basis unless otherwise arranged.

4. Furlough allowances for missionaries serving outside the contiguous United States shall be limited to a maximum of three months for each year of continuous service on the field. Date of leaving the field will be considered the starting date of furlough. The date of return to the field will be considered the end of furlough.

5. Furlough allowances for missionaries serving in the contiguous United States shall be limited to a maximum of one month per year of continuous service in the ministry to which he was called.

6. Termination of support:

a. Support will be terminated when a missionary becomes self-supporting or when New Hope Bible Church is notified by the missionary's board that he is no longer serving in the field.

b. New Hope Bible Church reserves the right to terminate the support of any missionary for reasons of apostasy, heresy, immorality, etc.

7. Exceptions to these policies may be considered on an individual basis by both the New Hope Bible Church Missions Committee and the New Hope Bible Church Board of Elders, if extenuating circumstances exist.

### **B. Support - Special Programs**

1. New Hope Bible Church may provide full support for a member of New Hope Bible Church for a special program of less than one year duration.

2. Financial support shall begin immediately upon departure for the field and continue until his return or at the expiration of a predetermined period of time.

3. Payment of support will be on a monthly basis unless otherwise arranged.

4. Exceptions to these policies may be considered on an individual basis by both the New Hope Bible Church Missions Committee and the New Hope Bible Church Board of Elders if extenuating circumstances exist.

### **C. Relationship with Missionaries**

1. In selecting missionaries to be supported New Hope Bible Church gives preference to members of New Hope Bible Church and to American Citizens respectively.

2. New Hope Bible Church does not administer the work on any field. Its normal policy is to deal directly with the mission boards, which in turn, deal with the individual missionaries. Letters describing progress, prayer requests and other matters pertinent to the work are desired so that New Hope Bible Church and its members remain informed and share the prayer burdens of the missionaries. An annual report is requested from each missionary prior to March 1st each year. This report will include a signed doctrinal statement, progress report and future goals. Forms will be furnished by New Hope Bible Church.

3. New Hope Bible Church reserves the right to replace missionaries supported by New Hope Bible Church who are not members of New Hope Bible Church with members of New Hope Bible Church if funds are not available to support both. Termination shall not take effect while the missionary is on the field unless at least nine months written notice is given to the missionary and his mission board.

4. All foreign missionaries shall be interviewed by the Missions Committee during each furlough and all home missionaries at least once every three years. If reasons of distance or other circumstances prevent an interview, a missionary shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Missions Committee.

### **D. Eligibility for support by New Hope Bible Church**

The following conditions must be met before a person may receive support from New Hope Bible Church:

1. All missionaries must subscribe in writing without reservation to the Articles of Faith of New Hope Bible Church.

2. All missionaries must be under a mission board which:

a. Is fundamental and evangelical

b. Has been established and properly organized with responsible leaders, preferably for a period of ten years or more.

c. Presents audited financial reports annually for public examination.

d. Has satisfied the Missions Committee that its doctrinal position is in substantial conformity with New Hope Bible Church.

e. Has been approved by a majority of the Mission Committee.

f. Has been approved by the Board of Elders.

3. All missionaries must be interviewed by the Missions Committee or by the congregation or submit any information requested by the Missions Committee.

4. A missionary under a foreign mission board must receive support on the field outside the United States from New Hope Bible Church for at least three years before he may request continued support from New Hope Bible Church under that board for service in the United States.

5. Missionary candidates may be considered and presented for support to the members of New Hope Bible Church at any time throughout the year.

### **E. Projects**

1. New Hope Bible Church may support projects such as radio, television and literature.

2. Projects may be supported only when sponsored and directly supervised by a qualified board as defined in III-D-2.

3. Progress reports must be submitted to New Hope Bible Church annually.

4. Funds may be committed on an annual basis. Each project must be reviewed annually.

### **F. Allocation of Resources**

The following shall be the guidelines for allocation of funds.

1. Total commitments to projects shall not exceed ten percent of the total missions' budget.

2. Total commitments to missionaries serving in the United States shall not exceed thirty percent of the total missions' budget.

3. If funds become available after missionaries are selected for that year those funds may be used to support short term projects until such time as additional missionaries may be appointed.

### **G. Selection of Missionaries and Projects**

A missionary or project will receive support if the above requirements are met and the missionary and/or project is:

1. Recommended by a majority of the Missions Committee and the Board of Elders.

2. Approved by the members of New Hope Bible Church.

### **H. Memorial Funds**

The following shall be the guidelines for use of funds designated as memorial gifts but not specifically earmarked by the requestor or donor.

1. All funds will be applied to a specific project to be selected by the Missions Committee.

2. A list of contributors (if appropriate) will be furnished to the appropriate persons by the Missions Committee and acknowledged when necessary.

3. The project must be approved by the Board of Elders.

4. No memorial gift may be accepted which is earmarked for any purpose not in accord with the policies outlined here.

**IV. THE NEW HOPE BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS POLICY MAY BE AMENDED BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF ELDERS AND BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS PRESENT AT A PROPERLY CALLED CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR SUCH A PURPOSE.**

END