

CONSTITUTION AND ARTCLES OF FAITH

Brunswick Community Church

(As Amended July, 1982)

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Lord has committed to our charge the maintenance of the affairs of this local church, and

WHEREAS the Bible commands that all should be done decently and in order, and

WHEREAS we, the people of the church, are anxious that our organization shall function efficiently and fruitfully; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize ourselves a corporate church body to be governed by this constitution.

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be incorporated and known as the Brunswick Community Church of Trivoli, Illinois, Rural.

ARTICLE II

AFFILIATION

The Brunswick Community Church is an independent fundamental church and is not affiliated with any denomination.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE

The object and purpose of this organization shall be to maintain church life according to the pattern given in the New Testament: conducting public worship to Almighty God; teaching the word of God; engaging in evangelism with the end in view of converting the unsaved; endeavoring to perfect the saints; promoting Christian mission at home and abroad.

ARTICLE IV

FAITH AND DOCTRINE

(1) The Holy Scriptures

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

(2) The Godhead

We believe in on 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, and having the same attributes and perfection (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; Rom. 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. 1:17; I Peter 1:18,19).

(7) The Eternal Salvation 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; Romans 8:1; 8:38,39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5; Heb 5-9).

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 possess 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 Saviour and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:10; 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 Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:19-20, 4:3-13).

(11) The Church

A. We believe that the Church, which is the body and 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).

B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is 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).

(12) Baptism

We believe in water baptism, not as a means of grace, but as an outward sign of an inward work of grace. We believe in Baptism by immersion only (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12)

(13) 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; 25:4; Rev. 20:10).

(14) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the "Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and premillennial 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 (Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19 11-16; 20:106; I Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3).

(15) 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 (Mat. 25:46; John 5:28; 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 resurrecting when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20: ; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16,17).

C. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death in conscious misery until the second resurrection when with soul and body reunited they shall appear Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated , but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matt 25:41-46; II Thes 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev 20:11-15).

(16)

God can heal but physical healing is not in the atonement. God heals miraculously today when it is in his perfect will to do so. Healing cannot be claimed through the guarantee of the atonement. At times it is God's will for sickness not to be removed (II Cor 12:8-10; James 5:14-16).

(17)

The Brunswick Community Church is evangelical, evangelistic, non-charismatic and denominationally unrelated, it's members fellowshiping fully and heartily with other evangelical believers of similar persuasion .

We believe that the gift of tongues like the gift of apostleship and prophecy was given for the

founding of the church (Eph. 2:20; I Cor 13:8; 14:20-22) and is therefore, not being given today. While we recognize that God may give any gift to the church at any time, we believe that the current resurgence of practice of tongues which is not scripturally regulated and which usually divisive is not the scriptural gift of tongues. We, Therefore, urge that the members of the church base their experience on the written word of God, seek to use the more important gifts (I Cor. 12:28), and cultivate Christ-likeness (Gal. 5:22-23), none of which requires the use of genuine or spurious tongues.

Consequently, Brunswick Community Church does not accept for regular or special service, nor retain in its membership those who are involved in any way in tongues activity.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

(1) This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the church, provided the meeting has been advertised at least thirty (30) days in advance. Proposed changes by amendments or by by-laws shall be typed, posted on the bulletin board and read at least once before the congregation at a special meeting.

(2) When this Constitution or amendments to the same has been properly advertised, presented to a bona-fide meeting of the church, and duly discussed, they or it may be adopted or ratified by a majority vote of two-thirds of its active members.

ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

Any person who has accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and gives evidence his desire to live a consistent Christian life, and received or give assurance of his willingness to receive the Ordinances of Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and who give assurance of his willingness to abide by the Constitution and shows evidence of a satisfactory attitude toward the doctrinal standards of the church, shall be eligible for membership. Any person desiring Water Baptism shall be immersed. Any member who does not attend at least one regular service of the church for a period of three (3) months, except for sickness, disability or other such valid reasons, shall be placed on an inactive membership list and be notified of the same at their last know address. Such members shall not be permitted to hold any church office or to participate in or vote at any church business meeting. A request to the Official Board for restoration to active membership, together with church attendance, is necessary for reinstatement as an active member.

ARTICLE VII CHURCH COVENANT

Since I have been lead, as I believe, by the Spirit of the Heavenly Father to join this church in its work, fellowship and privileges, I do solemnly agree before God that I will endeavor to conduct myself everywhere and at all times as becometh a true Christian, that I will endeavor to manifest a spirit of brotherly love toward all of God's people, that although all amusements and recreations in the world are not harmful to the Christians, I will avoid all those things that are ungodly and worldly seeking to be blameless and harmless amid an evil generation and thus bring no reproach on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I will strive to be freed from any sinful or offensive habit of life through the power of the Holy Spirit. I will attend public worship in my church as regularly as possible, and contribute as God prospers me to the various needs of this church. I moreover engage that when I remove from this place I will as soon as possible, unite with some other church in which I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. I confess that I am truly born again by the Sprit of God.

ARTICLE VIII
DICIPLINE

In case of variance between brethren, the private reconciliation should be sought, (Mat. 5:23-26), and incase there cannot be a reconciliation, Matthew 18:15-16 should be observed.

ARTICLE IX
OFFICIAL BOARD OF ELDERS

(1) Qualifications

A. The administration of this church shall be under the direction of the Official Board of Elders.

B. The Official Board of Elders shall consist of members who desire the office and meet the following qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-10 and are at least eighteen (18) years of age.

1. "Blameless" - one whom a majority of believers have nothing against.
2. "Husband of One Wife" - one who has no record of divorce and remarriage unless wife died; or any marital infidelity.
3. "Temperate" - self controlled in all areas of life.
4. "Sober" - one who is sound of mind and sound of judgment.
5. "Good Behavior" - orderly; one whose life is not continual confusion of unaccomplished plans and unorganized activity.
6. "Hospitable" - one who literally has a love for strangers regardless of race, color or creed and willingly opens his home to them.
7. "Apt To Teach" - one who is able to impart knowledge to others through spoken word and action.
8. "Not Given to Wine" - one who is not addicted to wine or other alcoholic beverages.
9. "Not Self-willed" - one who does not only think of himself and his own ideas.
10. "Not Quick-tempered" - one who is not easily upset or disturbed.
11. "Not A Striker" - one who does not physically strike out at others.
12. "Not Given to Filthy Lucre" - one who does not have his attention of monetary rewards.
13. "Not A Novice" - one who is not a new convert.
14. "Rules Well His Own House" - one who has a well ordered home thus showing that he is mature and able to lead others.
15. "Good Reputation Outside" - one who has a good testimony for being upright in the world.
16. "Just" - one who is able to make mature and fair judgments in his relationship with others.

17 "Holy" - one whose life shows a process of becoming more and more Christ-like.

(2) Duties

A. Overseeing the spiritual aspects of the Church (Acts 6)

B. The Official Board of Elders shall see to the welfare of and pray for the needy, widows, sick and bereaved with the assistance of the Board of Deacons (Ref Article X of the Constitution; James 5:14).

C. Nominate perspective members for the Official Board of Elders (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5).

D. Oversee, advise and counsel the elected officials.

E. The Official Board of Elders shall assist in the administration and delegation of the church ordinances under the direction of the Pastor.

F. The Official Board of Elders shall have the authority to call congregational meetings for the purpose of recommending such actions as call for a vote of the whole congregation, and for the purpose of receiving advice or instruction from the congregation.

G. The Official Board of Elders shall have the authority to exercise church discipline in accordance with the instructions set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; I Corinthians 5:1-13; II Thessalonians 3:6-15 and Titus 3:10.

H. The Official Board of Elders shall, in case there is a vacancy in the Pastorate, call a business meeting of the church to select a candidate for a Pastor, or to transact other necessary business.

I. The Official Board of Elders shall be in charge of seeing that there is a song leader and pianist for every service needed.

J. The Official Board of Elders shall elect someone to fill vacancy on the Board for the remainder of the term in case of resignation or expiration of its members.

K. Two members of the Board of Elders shall be elected by the membership to serve as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of all meetings. In their absence any other member of the Board of Elders shall assume the chair.

(3) General

A. The duties of the Official Board of Elders shall be fulfilled by those whose qualifications have been recognized by the Official Board of Elders and elected by the membership.

B. The Official Board of Elders shall serve a term of three years except for the first election under these By-Laws when three (3) will be appointed to serve for one year, three (3) for two years, three (3) for three years.