

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

OLCOTT BIBLE CHURCH

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - Name

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Olcott Bible Church.

Section 2 - Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ for all purposes required in or consistent with Scripture, including, but not limited to the purpose of:

- (1) Evangelizing the unsaved, as mandated in the Scriptures, through worship, evangelistic services, training and educational ministries by means of both “in house” and “open air” type meetings.
- (2) Strengthening and building up Christians in the most holy faith through worship, training and fellowship.
- (3) Actively engaging in the enterprise of missions, both at home and abroad with prayers, financial support and active participation.
- (4) Educating our members and their children in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Scriptures.
- (5) Lending our individual and organized support to all moral and civic betterment.

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

Section 1 - Articles of Faith

1. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the 66 books of the Bible, as originally written, are verbally and plenary inspired by God and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore are truth without a mixture of error. We believe they are the complete and final revelation of the will of God to man and that they are the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions are to be tried. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Acts 1:16; Luke 24:44,45; John 17:17; 12:48; Romans 15:4; Psalm 19:7-11)

2. GOD

We believe that there is only one true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love: that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2,3; 15:11; John 4:24; Psalm 90:2; Revelation 4:11; Mark 12:29,30; Matthew 28:19)

3. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He was divine as no other man can be, being God in every respect, existing from all eternity, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God; that He took upon Himself man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof, and yet without sin. (John 1:1,14,18; 10:30; Philippians 2:6-10; Hebrews 1:8; 2:14-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:20) We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner and that He was born of a virgin, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:14; 1 John 5:20)

We believe that Jesus Christ rose bodily the third day according to the Scriptures; that He ascended into heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father; that He alone is our merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God. (Matthew 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1)

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in Creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled: that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and that He bears witness to the truth. We also believe that He is the agent of the new birth: that He baptizes, indwells, seals, endues, teaches, sanctifies and helps the believer. (Acts 5:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:7,13; John 3:5,6; 14:26; 15:26,27; 16:8-13; Ephesians 1:13,14; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14,16,26,27; 1 Corinthians 4:1-40; 12:13)

5. THE DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe that Satan, an angel created by God, was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy. He is destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire, a place prepared for him and his angels. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9,10; 20:10)

6. CREATION

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is the historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process, and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively. (Genesis 1:1,2; Colossians 1:16,17; Acts 17:23,26)

7. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man, in the person of Adam, was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by birth, but also by choice: and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18-20; 3:10-19; 5:15)

8. THE SACRIFICE FOR SIN

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through faith in the finished work of the Son of God who freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and by His death made a full, vicarious, and final sacrifice for our sins. We believe that His sacrifice was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust. Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. (John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4,5; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8,9; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18)

9. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer to be righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness. This righteousness is bestowed by God on the basis of our faith, not of our works. (Romans 3:23-26; 4:1,8,5; 1-9; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21)

10. FAITH AND SALVATION: THE NEW BIRTH

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which in its nature includes repentance from sin and turning to God, is the only condition of salvation, and that this faith will produce evidence in the life of the convert by a supernatural rebirth. (Acts 16:31; Galatians 3:26; John 1:12,13; 3:3,6,7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1; 5:9; 1 Peter 1:23, 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10)

11. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that all who receive Christ as their Savior are born from above and are eternally and unconditionally secure in Christ. (John 1:12; 10:28,29; Romans 6:23; 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:11-13)

12. THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is a New Testament institution unknown to the Old Testament prophets; established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole Head: revealed through the apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit: Christ's "Body" for service and His "Bride" for glory. It began with the New Testament saints at Pentecost and will be consummated at the coming of Christ at the rapture. (Ephesians 1:22,23: 3:1-12: 5:23-32: Acts 1:8: 2:1-13: 2:41-47: 1 Corinthians 12:4-28: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: 1 Peter 1:10-12)

We believe that the Body of Christ is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in it by His Word and the Holy Spirit: and that its scripturally designated officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 1:2: 7:17: Acts 2:41-47: 1 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:4-8: Ephesians 4:11-13)

13. WATER BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of a local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through whom we died to sin and rose to a new life. Baptism is a command of the Scriptures and shall be a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership of this church. (Acts 2:41-42: 8:35-38: Romans 6:3-5)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death by born-again Christians, until He comes again and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. (Luke 22:14-20: 1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

14. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. We believe that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His sight; while all that continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse. This distinction holds among men both in and after death. We believe in the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire. (John 3:18,36: Romans 3:23-26; Revelation 20:11- 15)

15. THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe in the imminent, personal, bodily, pre-tribulational return of Christ for His Church and at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies. Those believers living when He returns for His Church shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54)

We believe that the seven year tribulation period, the seventieth week of Daniel, which immediately follows the rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the bodily, pre-millennial return of Christ to the earth in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and establish the millennial reign. Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; Daniel 9:24-27; Luke 1: 30-33)

16. SEPARATION

We believe the following movements are out of harmony with the Word of God and contrary to the official doctrine and position of the Olcott Bible Church. (11 Corinthians 6:14-18)

A. The modern Ecumenical movement with such advocates as the National and World Council of Churches.

B. The Neo-Evangelical movement characterized by co-operation and dialogue with liberal theological systems.

C. The so-called "Charismatic Movement" characterized by a strong emphasis on experiences beyond the teachings of Scripture such as the "Baptism of the Spirit" as a second work of grace for the believer to seek and a judging of spirituality or salvation by the practice of tongues speaking.

Section 2 – Covenant

Having been born again by the Spirit of God upon repentance from sin and trust in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and identifying with our Lord in water baptism, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We covenant, therefore, to walk in obedience to God's Word and in Christian love toward one another and others; to endeavor to maintain the unity of this body in the bond of peace; to strive to walk in a way that brings glory to God and becomes an example to others.

We also covenant to keep ourselves separate from sin and worldliness; to maintain Godly standards for our homes, and to keep our homes and our public dealings above reproach.

We furthermore covenant to give ourselves to the work of the Lord through this local church; to support its leadership, to be faithful in serving, cheerful in giving and prayerful in attitude; to lend our full support to the local as well as worldwide purpose that God has laid out in his Word for the Church.

We moreover covenant that, when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership

Membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in, and acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior: who renounce sin, who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord, who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein and who enter into the Church Covenant contained herein.

A. Application for membership may be based upon any of the following conditions:

- (1) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Christ Jesus as personal Lord and Savior.
- (2) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church with like doctrinal position, applicant having been duly baptized.
- (3) By experience, having been duly baptized and having demonstrated through profession and life-style, Christian experience and faith in Jesus Christ; and
- (4) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon confession, made publicly before the church membership, of the sin or sins involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance.

B. Application for membership shall be made to the Pastor or one of the Deacons. The Pastor and Board of Deacons shall hear the testimony of candidates and seek to determine the reality of their experience of salvation, and their understanding of a Christian's obligation to live an exemplary life. Each candidate must subscribe to the constitution and bylaws. Approved candidates will be publicly received into membership at a subsequent Lord's Day service.

Section 2 - Duties of a Member

On becoming a member of this church, each covenants to honor, esteem and love their pastor(s); to pray for them; to recognize their authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer and financial support as the Lord enables, and in accordance with Biblical commands to support the beliefs and practices of this church through a life-style walk.

Members who evidence no interest in the church by attendance, communication or contribution for a period of six months or longer are classified as inactive members. Inactive members have neither voice nor vote in church affairs, may not hold office, and are not counted for quorum requirements. The Pastor and Deacons shall contact each inactive member, counsel with them, and inform them of this constitutional requirement. After an additional six months, if no interest in restoration is indicated, the Deacon Board shall remove them from the membership rolls. This action shall not apply to a member who is physically unable to attend the services, or to any non-resident member whom we believe to be leading an active Christian life and who wishes his name to be left on our roll (i.e. missionary, serviceman, student, etc.).

Section 3 - Associate Membership

Associate membership is limited to bona fide students (including spouse) or temporary residents of the area who desire to retain their membership in their home church of like faith and practice. They are required to meet all church membership requirements, and shall have all privileges and responsibilities given regular members. Such relationship shall automatically terminate when their temporary residence ceases.

Section 4 - Discipline

All cases of discipline shall be handled by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. They shall deal with all matters of discipline and move promptly in order to safeguard the purity and peace of the church. All discipline shall be conducted in the spirit of Christian meekness and love, with a goal of restoration.

When there is conduct unbecoming to professing Christians, and in all cases of immorality, or when a member no longer adheres to the doctrinal basis of this church, steps will be taken toward discipline. The Pastor and Board of Deacons will proceed according to the principles established in 1 Corinthians 5; Galatians 6 and Matthew 18:15-17. Disciplined members may be dropped from the active rolls of the church until such time as a satisfactory explanation or acceptable evidence of honest repentance and confession are acknowledged.

Members of, or persons identifying themselves with the Olcott Bible Church found guilty of practicing adultery or fornication shall automatically be removed from the active membership rolls and be placed on the inactive rolls for a period of one year with reinstatement based upon the decision of the Pastor and Board of Deacons. Names of individuals disciplined shall be announced at a regular business meeting. Unrepentant individuals who continue in the practice or rebel at the discipline of the church shall be excommunicated from the fellowship of the church and shall be reinstated into fellowship at the discretion of the Pastor and Board of Deacons. A public confession of the sins that made it necessary for the excommunication shall be made at a regular business meeting.

Section 5 - Transfer

Members in good standing may, at their request and on the recommendation of the Pastor and Board of Deacons, receive letters of transfer to another church.

ARTICLE IV

ORGANIZATION

I. OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

A. Pastor

1. ELECTION: The Pastor shall be elected at a special or regular business meeting of the church, public notice of such meeting having been given from the pulpit two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting: 75 per cent of the ballots cast will be necessary for the election of a Pastor.

2. DUTIES: The Pastor, whose qualifications are set forth in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7), shall function as the shepherd of the flock, overseer of the work of God, preacher and teacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ, and the chief executive officer of the church. He shall give himself to prayer and the ministry of the Word. He shall have the general oversight of the spiritual matters of the church and its members, and oversee all organizations of the church. He shall serve as ex-officio member of all boards, committees and organizations of the church and their respective committees. He shall be the moderator of all church business meetings, except in matters pertaining to himself. The Pastor of the Olcott Bible Church must have a strong heart for missions and whole-heartedly support the missionary program of the Olcott Bible Church. In the case of Associate Pastors, they shall function in co-operation with and under the authority of the Senior Pastor in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Pastor.

3. TERM OF OFFICE: The Pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or until his resignation is requested at a special meeting called for that purpose. The question of severing the pastoral relationship may be considered at any regular or special business meeting by the presentation to the Board of Deacons a written request for such action, signed by ten adult members, representing not less than ten households. Notice of such a meeting shall be given on two successive Sundays before such meeting and 75 per cent of the ballots cast shall be necessary to terminate the Pastor's ministry.

4. SALARY AND VACATION: The Pastor's salary shall be mutually agreed upon by both parties involved. The church shall make every effort to properly support its Pastor to the best of its ability. The pastor shall be released from his duties for vacation each year at least 28 days, not to include more than four Sundays. Conferences and travel for church ministry shall not be considered as vacation as they are necessary for the work of the ministry and are vital to his ministry.

B. Deacons

1. ELECTION OF DEACONS:

a. The Deacons shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected at the annual business meeting. They shall be 21 years of age or older and qualified according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The term of office shall be for three years and end alternately.

b. The minimum number of Deacons shall be six except when there is an insufficient number of spiritually qualified men in the church. The number of Deacons shall then revert to a minimum of three. The election shall be adjusted to accommodate the number of candidates involved.

2. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS

- a. To oversee the preparation of the elements and table for the Lord's Supper and assist in serving the same
- b. To assist the Pastor in administering baptism.
- c. To confirm, with the Pastor, the testimony of all candidates for church membership.
- d. To disperse Deacon fund monies.
- e. To aid the Pastor in all matters of discipline of members and supervision of the church.
- f. To serve as corporate vice presidents (trustees) in all legal and financial matters of the church and as soon as possible after the annual business meeting to elect from among themselves a secretary who will keep an accurate account of all the business of the Board of Deacons.

3. QUORUM

A quorum of the Board of Deacons shall consist of one member more than half the members of the board.

II. OTHER BOARDS AND STAFF

All nominations to boards and committees shall be made by the nominating committee and shall be elected by the congregation at the annual business meeting. Board and committee members shall serve a term of one year with the exception of Deacons who will serve a three-year term.

A. Board of Maintenance and Capital Projects

1. Election: The Board of Maintenance and Capital Projects shall include one Deacon, assigned by the Board of Deacons, and at least five other men from the church membership nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the congregation at the annual business meeting.
2. Duties: The board shall oversee the maintenance and use of all buildings, grounds and equipment. It shall investigate and present proposals for capital projects or improvements to the Board of Deacons for approval before presentation to the church for final approval.

B. Church Clerk

1. Election: A church clerk shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the church at the annual business meeting.
2. Duties: The clerk shall have charge of church membership records and shall be responsible for correspondence pertaining to church membership and for the preparation and transmittance of other official correspondence. The clerk shall keep accurate records of all business meetings and be prepared to read the minutes as occasion demands.

C. Treasurer and Financial Secretary

1. Election: The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected at the annual business meeting.
2. Duties: The Treasurer shall receive all money, bank it and pay bills as authorized by the church. He and the Financial Secretary shall count all offerings or have a substitute in the absence of one. He shall present to the pastor a total of each offering after the counting. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of each

bill paid and shall keep all receipts. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of contributors and present, at the end of each year, a record of total giving to each person for tax purposes. The records of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall be available for audit annually.

D. Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant

1. Election: The Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the church at the annual business meeting.
2. Duties: The superintendent and assistant, along with the pastor, will appoint all teachers and oversee the work of the Sunday School ministry.

E. Nursery Supervisor

1. Election: The Nursery Supervisor shall be nominated by the nominating committee and elected at the annual business meeting.
2. Duties: The Nursery Supervisor shall supervise the church nursery, making provision for nursery workers during all services and whenever a nursery is needed.

F. Pianist, Organist, Choir Director

1. The pianist, organist and choir director shall be appointed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.
2. Duties: It shall be the duty of the pianist, organist and choir director to see that musical accompaniment is available for each service of the church and other programs as needed.

G. Paid Staff

- 1 Hiring: Hiring of paid staff shall be done after the approval of the position and pay by the Board of Deacons and church. Applicants for paid positions, other than the Pastor, shall be screened by the Pastor and Board of Deacons and hired by same.
2. Accountability: The paid staff of the church shall be under the supervision of the Pastor. The Pastor and Board of Deacons will have authority to hire and dismiss the same. No paid staff member shall serve as a member of the Board of Deacons which has power to hire or dismiss the same.

III. COMMITTEES

All appointees to committees shall be active members nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the congregation at the annual business meeting. Each committee member shall serve for a term of one year. The nominating committee shall fill vacancies to complete a term as necessary. If the need shall arise for any other committees not mentioned in the constitution, appointments shall be made in the same way.

A. Pulpit Committee

Existing Pastor(s) and the Board of Deacons will constitute the pulpit committee plus any other Spirit-filled men as the board deems necessary not to exceed 3 additional men. All additional appointees shall be elected by the church.

It shall be the duty of the Pulpit Committee to present candidates for the pulpit to the church. The church shall consider and vote on only one candidate at a time. No new candidate shall be heard or considered until the candidate under consideration has been voted upon.

B. Nominating Committee

The Pastor, the Board of Deacons, and five members shall act as the nominating committee. Close relatives shall not serve together during the same term of the nominating committee. The five members, who shall not succeed themselves, shall be elected by the congregation from a slate of no more than ten names submitted by the nominating committee. The committee is charged with nominating members of the church, by prayerful consideration and receiving of recommendations from the congregation, to the various positions needed for the church to function the next year. A list of all nominations shall be posted four weeks prior to the annual business meeting. Any member who sees a spiritual reason for one or more of the nominations to be dropped from the list shall meet with the pastor at least two weeks prior to the annual business meeting. If the reason is valid, the nominating committee shall reconvene to replace the unqualified person. There will be no nominations entertained from the floor at the annual meeting. All matters of business of the nominating committee are to be held in strict confidentiality.

C. Finance Committee

The treasurer, financial secretary, Pastor and one Deacon, appointed by the Board of Deacons, shall form the finance committee, Its duties shall include the drawing up of a proposed budget for the coming year, which shall be completed at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

D. Music Committee

The music committee shall consist of the organist, pianist and choir director. Its duties shall be to supervise the music ministry of the church in cooperation and consultation with the Pastor. They shall provide special music at Sunday services and on special occasions when called upon. They shall appoint a chairman from among themselves.

E. Ushers Committee

The ushers committee shall consist of a head usher who will be nominated by the nominating committee and elected at the annual business meeting. He shall choose his assistants and shall be responsible for all duties relative to his office, including appointing individuals to welcome visitors.

F. Flower Committee

The flower committee shall consist of two people appointed by the Board of Deacons. This committee shall see that flowers are present at each worship service of the church and at special meetings as requested.

G. Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality committee shall consist of two people appointed by the Board of Deacons. This committee shall oversee and organize church socials as requested and be responsible to arrange for housing and meals for visiting guests and missionaries.

H. Sunshine Committee

The sunshine committee shall consist of two people appointed by the Board of Deacons. This committee shall see that cards and communication are sent to church members, missionaries, college students, servicemen, etc. in cases of sickness, bereavement, etc. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to assist the Pastor in sending flowers for appropriate situations.

I. Other Ministries or Committees

As God would burden members of the Olcott Bible Church to minister in specific areas, church ministries

may be initiated. The ministry must be defined in writing, with the burden, Biblical rationale, and desire of the person submitting the request. The Pastor shall present the ministry to the Board of Deacons for evaluation and recommendation. An approved ministry may be placed on the church budget and carry the endorsement of the church in its publications and outreach (i.e. jail, crisis pregnancy, Bible clubs, etc.).

IV. VACANCIES

In the event of a vacancy from any elected or appointed position in the church caused by a member declining to act, resigning, dying or by ceasing to be a member of this church, the Board of Deacons shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy to complete the remainder of the term of office.

V. FINANCES

A. The funds of this church, both for its own support and for missionary and benevolent enterprises, shall be raised by volunteer offerings only. No fairs, sales, entertainment, suppers or other worldly means of fund raising shall be conducted, or entered into, within the church, or outside the church, in the interest of the church.

B. No financial claim, or lien, upon the church shall be incurred by any member, official or organization of the church without the authorization of the church.

VI. MEETINGS

A. Worship meetings shall be held each Lord's Day both morning and evening, and a mid-week prayer meeting shall be held on one evening each week. The Lord's Supper shall be observed one Sunday of each month and at special times as directed by the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

B. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held on the night of the third mid-week prayer meeting of January. Quarterly business meetings shall be held on the night of the second mid-week prayer meeting of each quarter. Special meetings may be held at the request of the Pastor, Board of Deacons or ten families who present in writing to the church clerk a reason for a special meeting. Special meetings shall be limited to the business of the reason for which they were called. Meetings shall be announced two Sundays in advance except in an emergency situation at which time membership shall be contacted by phone or personal letter.

C. Quorum: A quorum shall consist of one-fourth of the membership or 30 people, whichever is smaller. To be counted as a voting member one must be at least 18 years of age and on the active member roster of this church.

VII. USE OF CHURCH BUILDING AND FACILITIES

A. The Board of Maintenance and Capital Projects, in consultation with the Pastor, shall govern what use groups outside the church can make of church property.

B. There shall never be any smoking, drinking, dancing, etc. allowed by any person or group using the church facilities.

C. The Board of Maintenance and Capital Projects shall be responsible to make sure a church member is present when outside groups are using the facilities.

D. A charge to cover heat, lights, etc. shall be made to all outside groups using church facilities. This charge shall be determined by the Board of Maintenance and Capital Projects and the Pastor.

E. Groups using the church facilities must leave things in proper order, as they were found, and will be

responsible for any damage done.

VIII. ORDINATIONS

If a member of this church applies for ordination, his request will be presented to the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. The Pastor, along with the Board of Deacons, will examine the candidate concerning his conversion, call and doctrinal position. Upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons, this request will be presented to the church at any regular or special business meeting. A two-thirds majority vote will be necessary to pass the recommendation. If the church decides that he possesses the Scriptural qualifications for ordination, it shall call a council of pastors and messengers from other churches of like faith in order to examine the candidate concerning his conversion, call to ministry and doctrinal beliefs. Upon recommendation of said council, the church may proceed with the ordination. The church reserves the right to withdraw its ordination if, in its judgment, such action is warranted.

IX. LICENSE

The church may grant a license to preach to men of its membership whose labors may include preaching opportunities, but who do not seek regular ordination. Such license indicates the church's endorsement of such ministry.

A person seeking a license shall first counsel with the Pastor and then meet with the Board of Deacons for examination of his written statement of conversion, call and doctrinal position. If he is found satisfactory on these matters, the Board of Deacons shall recommend to the church that such a license be granted upon the approval of the church. A majority vote is required for licensing.

The licensee's written statement of conversion, call and doctrinal position shall be filed with the church clerk. The church reserves the right to withdraw such license if circumstances warrant.

X. AMENDMENTS

This constitution, with the exception of Articles I & II, may be amended at a regular business meeting by a two-thirds majority vote, providing notice of the proposed amendment shall have been registered with the church clerk in writing, announced from the pulpit, and the text of the proposed amendment posted for at least three previous Sundays.

XI. DISSOLUTION

No part of the net earning of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, or officer of the Corporation or any private individual. 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. Such Corporation must be in agreement with the letter and spirit of this constitution.

ARTICLE V

BIBLICAL MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

Section 1 - Biblical Definition of Marriage

It is the desire of the Olcott Bible Church to maintain a consistent testimony for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We believe the term marriage has only one meaning. Marriage is a sanctioned covenant given by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as expressed in the Holy Scriptures. It is a picture of Christ (the Bridegroom) and the Church (the Bride) as a holy union. (Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:21-27; Matthew 19:4,5)

Section 2 - Non-Biblical Perversions of Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God commands that no intimate sexual activity be committed outside the boundaries of marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography (Leviticus 18:6-30) or any attempt to change one's sex, transvestitism or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Exodus 4:11; Deuteronomy 22:5).

Section 3 - Members and Non-Members Serving in the Church

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, abide by and agree to this Article V, statement on Biblical Marriage and Sexuality, and conduct themselves accordingly.

Section 4 - Policy and Restrictions for Pastors and Use of Facilities

We do not recognize the license or ordination of any Pastor whose beliefs do not agree with this Article on Biblical Marriage and Sexuality.

We prohibit our licensed and ordained Pastors from performing homosexual "marriages" on or off the church's property. We also prohibit the church property from being used for homosexual "marriages", celebrations, receptions, or any type of gatherings.

The church maintains a marriage policy providing specific details about use of the church facilities for weddings. Anyone interested in marriage will be given a copy of the church's Marriage Policy, and must agree with and abide by it.