

COVENANT OF PEACE INTERNATIONAL

4745 US Route 127N, Eaton, Ohio 45320

Employer Identification Number: 31-0933854

BYLAWS EXCERPT—ARTICLE III

ARTICLE III—STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

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Preamble

The Corporation, as an ecclesiastical nonprofit corporation, shall accept the Holy Scriptures (the authorized King James version of the Bible) as the revealed will of God and the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Faith and Doctrine (which are Corporation's Religious Beliefs and Tenets).

As a Christian Corporation, and according to the Holy Scriptures, we are not required to provide and we specifically choose against the provision of services, accommodations, facilities, goods, or privileges to an individual if such request is in violation of the Corporation's religious beliefs as duly set forth in the Corporation's governing documents, policies, and the Holy Scriptures. However, any and all decisions pertaining to providing such services shall be carried out in a manner that promotes the salvation (the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and the biblical acceptance of the provision of Jesus Christ for eternal life) of all persons.

The Corporation believes that living contrary to (conflicting with, disobedient to, and/or in opposition with) the Holy Scriptures is sin and as a religious organization this ministry does sponsor, support, and practice repentance according to the Holy Scriptures.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Corporation as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the organization in any capacity, or who serve as members, volunteers, students, and/or interns should abide by and agree to this Statement of Faith and Doctrine (the Corporation's Religious Beliefs and Tenets) and conduct themselves accordingly.

Section 1—Statement of Faith

1. GOD (The Trinity)

- God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit—one God, eternally existent in three persons.
Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19-20, 1 John 5:7
- God is eternal, unchanging, no variableness, and no shadow of turning.
I Timothy 1:17, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 1:10-12, Psalm 90:2, James 1:17
- God is sovereign
Daniel 4:34-35, Romans 11:29, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Psalm 139:7-10, Job 34:21, Matthew 19:26, Romans 9:16-21, Matthew 24:36
- The Lord, He is God in Heaven above and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.
Deuteronomy 4:39, 1 Timothy 2:5
- God is omnipresent and omnipotent.
Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Jeremiah 32:27, I Samuel 2:3
- Our God is triune in personality (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), yet one God, eternally existent in three persons.
Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16-17, 1 John 5:7, Matthew 28:19-20
- The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
Deuteronomy 6:4-6
- We shall not go after other gods.
Deuteronomy 6:14, Joshua 24:15

2. JESUS THE CHRIST

- The virgin birth—we believe that our Lord was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.
Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:26-35
- The Deity of Christ—Jesus is God incarnate and was manifest in human flesh. He was like us in all ways except for one, being free from sin.
Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:1-14, John 5:22-23, John 8:54-58, John 10:30, Hebrews 4:15
- Jesus is the Word and He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
John 1:1-14

- Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, that by Him all things were created that are in Heaven and that are on the earth, and that all things were created by Him and for Him.
Colossians 1:15-16
- Jesus is before all things, and by Him all things consist. That He is the Head of the Body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
Colossians 1:17-18
- Christ is the Head of the Church, and all attention and glory are directed to Him alone. It is Christ whom we preach, praise, worship, and serve.
Ephesians 1:22, John 12:32, Colossians 1:14-19
- God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and of things on earth, and of things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11
- Christ is the risen savior. Jesus arose from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
Romans 8:31-35, Acts 1:8-11, I Corinthians 15:3-4, 20

3. HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and that He was an agent of creation—“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”
Genesis 1:2
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, He will guide us into all truth, and He will tell us of things to come.
John 14:16-18, John 16:13
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for every believer and that speaking in tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit.
Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:38-39, 1 Corinthians 14:22, Luke 11:13
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit is distinct from and subsequent to the new birth.
Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 11:14-16, Acts 15:7-9
- The initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.
Acts 2:4, Acts 10:46, Acts 19:6

- The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. That the gifts of the Spirit are the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.
Galatians 5:22-23
- We should live in the Spirit and also walk in the Spirit.
Galatians 5:16, 25

4. CREATION

- God is the Creator of all things.
Genesis 1 and 2
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1
- My help comes from the Lord, which made Heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:2
- Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and earth.
Psalm 124:8

5. MAN (Mankind)

- God created man in His own image, after His own likeness, and that He gave man dominion over the earth.
Genesis 1:26-27
- Human beings are created by God, in His image, with a free will, making every human being a free moral agent, with the ability to make choices.
Deuteronomy 30:19, Exodus 32:26, Genesis 3:1-6
- Each and every individual has to choose whom he or she will serve.
Joshua 24:15, Revelation 3:20, John 1:11-12, Revelation 22:17
- All believers have power over all the power of the enemy, and they are to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, and preach the good news.
Luke 10:19, Matthew 10:7-8
- Sin has no more dominion over the believer.
Romans 6:9, Romans 6:14, Matthew 1:21

- Man, by voluntary transgression, fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death.
Romans 5:12-19, Genesis 2:16-17
- All humans have sinned and need to be reconciled with God.
Romans 3:23, Galatians 3:22, 1 John 1:8, 10 John 8:7-9, Romans 5:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:18
- All will be judged: the saints for their works, the sinners to condemnation, and satan and all his demons to the lake of fire.
Revelation 20
- As many as receive Jesus and believe in His name, to them He gives the right to become the children of God.
John 1:12
- Christ delivered us by the exceeding greatness of His power. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.
Ephesians 1:19-23, Philippians 4:13, Romans 8:37
- That we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
Mark 16:15

6. FAITH

- The just shall live by faith.
Hebrews 10:38
- Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1
- Without faith it is impossible to please God; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
Hebrews 11:6
- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.
Romans 10:17
- Faith is exercised by believing in the heart, confessing what one believes from the Word of God, and being a doer of the Word and not a hearer only.
Mark 11:23, James 1:22, James 2:18
- Through faith we have access to all the grace of God—salvation, forgiveness, deliverance, baptism in the Holy Spirit, knowledge of His Word, answered prayer, and a personal relationship as a child of God.
Romans 5:2, Matthew 9:29
- Through our faith we overcome the world.
1 John 5:4-5

7. SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
John 3:16-17
- God’s will is that ALL should be saved—that none should perish, but all should come to repentance unto salvation.
1 Timothy 2:4-6 2, Peter 3:9, 1 John 2:2, 1 Timothy 4:10, John 3:16-17, Revelation 22:17, Romans 10:13, Luke 19:10, Titus 2:11
- One must be “born again” to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Therefore, one must confess the Lord Jesus and believe in their heart to obtain salvation.
Acts 4:12, Romans 10:9, John 3:3-6, John 14:6
- The vicarious atoning death of Jesus, who died on the cross so that we might live, offering Himself up as the perfect sacrifice for sinful man—the salvation of man.
Romans 5:6-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, John 3:16-17 2 Corinthians 5:21
- That Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, providing eternal life to those who believe and accept Him as their personal Savior and Lord.
John 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 5:6-10
- Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
Hebrews 7:25
- Those who confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in their heart that God has raised Him from the dead, they shall be saved.
Romans 10:8-10, Matthew 10:32
- That God has given Jesus the name above every name. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
Philippians 2:9-11, Acts 2:32-33, Ephesians 1:21
- Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
Acts 4:12
- Salvation unto everlasting life is a result of God’s grace and is received through faith. It is God’s gift and is not earned or secured as a result of our works or efforts.
Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, Galatians 3:26, Romans 10:1-11, Galatians 2:16-21, Romans 6:23, Romans 3:20-22, 1 Timothy 2:5-6

8. PHYSICAL HEALING AND HEALTH ARE GOD’S WILL FOR ALL

- Jesus bore our sins and by His stripes we were healed.
Isaiah 53:4-5, Deuteronomy 7:15, 1 Peter 2:24
- Jesus made a way to take sickness away from us.
Exodus 23:25, Psalm 107:20, Jeremiah 30:17
- Jesus went about healing sickness and disease among the people.
Matthew 4:24, Matthew 9:35, Matthew 8:16-17 , Matthew 12:15, Matthew 14:14, Matthew 15:30, Matthew 21:14, , Luke 4:38-40, Acts 10:38
- I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.
3 John 2
- Believers can lay hands on the sick and they will recover.
Mark 16:18, Acts 28:8-9, Luke 9:1-6, James 5:14-15, 1 Corinthians 12:9
- God has provided us with precious benefits, including forgiving our iniquities, healing our diseases, redeeming our lives from destruction, crowning us with loving kindness and tender mercies, and renewing our lives.
Psalm 103:1-5, Proverbs 4:20-22

9. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (The Word of God)

- Man should live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.
Deuteronomy 8:3, Luke 11:28
- God’s thoughts and God’s ways are higher than ours. God’s Word will always accomplish what He sends it to do.
Isaiah 55:8-11, Jeremiah 1:12
- The Word of God is pure and we should not add to it. God’s Word stands forever, we should be careful to do it.
Proverbs 30:5-6, Isaiah 40:8, Deuteronomy 12:32, Revelation 22:18-19, 1 Peter 1:25, Matthew 24:35, Psalm 119:89
- We should meditate in the Word day and night and observe to do what it says.
Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:13
- All Scripture (Old and New Testament) is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, and are considered the actual Word of God.
2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Corinthians 10:11, 1 Peter 20-21, Psalm 119:89, Psalm 19:7-8

- The Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12
- The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.
Ephesians 6:17
- We are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.
James 1:22, Matthew 7:24-27

10. CHURCH (Christian assemblies, venues)

- Christ is the Head of the Church, and all attention and glory are directed to Him alone. It is Christ whom we preach, praise, worship, and serve.
Ephesians 1:22, John 12:32, Colossians 1:18
- That we should make gathering together in God's House a high priority.
Hebrews 10:24-25, Psalm 122:1, Psalm 84:10
- God builds His Church on the foundation of the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. The gates of Hades (hell or anti-Christ motives and movements) will not prevail against His Church.
Matthew 16:13-18
- Church is where people of like precious faith gather together to increase their knowledge of God, faith, and godliness. It is where people are equipped (taught, trained, coached, and mentored) for living a Christian life and so members of the Body can be fruitful Christians who are prepared for life and eternity.
2 Peter 1:1-11
- Church is where we come together in the unity of the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, recognizing Jesus as the Head of the Church. It is where people mature as Christian believers.
Ephesians 4:13-16
- Church is not a public forum where individuals or groups have the right to express their opinions or demonstrate against the church, its members, or their doctrine. Such activities are works of the flesh (hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, etc.) and not acceptable in a Christian assembly (church).
Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3-4
- For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. Each member has a place in the body of Christ (the Church).
(1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Romans 12:4-6)

11. THE HOUSE OF GOD (Church facilities and property)

- We ought to conduct ourselves properly on church property and in the church facilities.
I Timothy 3:14-15
- We should fear God and when we go to the house of God we should conduct ourselves prudently with wisdom, honor, respect, and discretion.
Ecclesiastes 5:1
- When we conduct ourselves properly before God the church will multiply.
Acts 9:31
- People should not be allowed to do things in the house of God that are not in accordance with the Holy Bible.
Matthew 21:12-13

All properties (land, building, assets, goods, resources, etc.) of this ecclesiastical Corporation will be used in compliance with the Corporation's bylaws and will not be permitted to be used in violation of the Corporation's religious beliefs as duly set forth in the Corporation's governing documents, policies, and the Holy Scriptures. The Board of Directors shall be the express and final authority, and shall make the final decision with respect to usage of ministry property.

12. PROSPERITY

- We should remember the Lord our God, for it is He who gives us the power to get wealth that He may establish His covenant.
Deuteronomy 8:18
- God wants believers to prosper in all things and be in health.
3 John 2
- Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.
John 10:10
- The Lord takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.
Psalm 35:27
- God wants all believers to be healthy and prosperous, and through Him we live under a more efficient economic system with God as our source and supply.
Matthew 6:31-33, 2 Corinthians 8:9
- That God is able to make all grace abound toward us; that we, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8

- God shall supply our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19
- The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction and not be visited with evil.
Proverbs 19:23
- There is no want or lack to those who fear God.
Psalm 34:9-10

13. TITHING AND GIVING

- Christians should give (sow) as they purpose in their heart and they will reap according to their level of giving. Give and it shall be given.
Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Leaders receive offerings from the people for the work of the sanctuary (church).
Exodus 36:3-5
- Ministers have a grace from God, to be ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ, to minister the gospel of God, and to receive offerings.
Romans 15:15-17
- All believers are to tithe the first tenth of all their increase and honor God with their substance.
Proverbs 3:9-10, Numbers 18:12
- All the tithe is the Lord's and does not become the Lord's when we decide to present it.
Leviticus 27:30-31
- Tithing was initiated before the law though taught in both the Old and New Testaments.
Matthew 23:23, Hebrews 7:2-10, Genesis 14:18-21, Genesis 28:20-22
- The tither has tither's rights.
Malachi 3:8-12, Hebrews 7:8

14. FELLOW BELIEVERS

- As we have opportunity we should do good to all, but especially to those who are of the household of faith.
Galatians 6:10
- We should minister to and help those of our own company.
Acts 4:23-24

- We should take care of those of our own company—who are of like precious faith.
2 Peter 1:1-4
- Leadership should be chosen from those of your own company.
Acts 15:22, 25
- We should seek out from among us those who are of good reputation to appoint over ministry business.
Acts 6:3

15. THE SACRAMENTS AND ORDINANCES

- The cardinal doctrines of Christ are repentance, faith toward God, baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
Hebrews 6:1-2

There are ordinances by which one can demonstrate and express their faith:

- Holy Communion
Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:24-27
- Baptisms
Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, 1 Corinthians 12:13

There are sacraments we hold sacred and live by with deep conviction:

- Anointing of the Sick
Mark 16:18, Acts 28:8, James 5:14-15
- Holy Matrimony Between a Man and a Woman
Genesis 2:21-24, Matthew 19:4-6, Hebrews 13:4, Ephesians 5:31
- Child Dedication
Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 1 Samuel 1:26-28, Luke 2:21-22
- Ordination of Ministers
Acts 13:1-4, 1 Timothy 2:7, Exodus 28:41

16. THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

- Jesus Himself has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the perfecting of the saints and the work of the ministry.
Ephesians 4:11-12

17. THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE AND THE HOME

- Life begins in the womb.
Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13, 16
- Marriage is between a man and a woman only.
Genesis 2:18-25, Proverbs 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16
- God Himself created and instituted marriage as the holy union between one man and one woman, according to the Holy Scriptures. No other form of union or marriage is acceptable in the eyes of God or by this Corporation/church.
- “But from the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
Mark 10:6-9
- Children are a heritage from the Lord and are to be brought up scripturally.
Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 22:6
- The husband is the head of the home, and he must give an account to Christ.
Ephesians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:18-19

18. JESUS IS COMING FOR THE CHURCH

- Jesus will literally come again for His Church—perfected, without spot or blemish, looking for faith in the lives of believers.
Luke 18:8, Ephesians 5:27, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- The saints, the bride of Christ, shall be with Him and reign with Him.
1 Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 20:6

19. ETERNAL JUDGMENT

- All will be judged: the saints for their works, the sinners to damnation, and satan and all his demons to the lake of fire.
Matthew 25:31-34, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, Revelation 20, Hebrews 6:1-2

20. RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

- The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
I Thessalonians 4:16, Psalm 49:15, Daniel 12:2, John 11:25-26, John 5:28-29
- There is a resurrection of the dead.
Matthew 22:23-32, 1 Corinthians 15:12-54, Hebrews 6:2, Revelation 20:12-15

21. ANGELS

- Angels are beings created by God, existing both to worship and serve Him.
Matthew 4:11, Acts 27:23, Acts 8:26
- God will send His angels.
Matthew 24:31, Daniel 6:22, Exodus 23:20, Hebrews 13:2, Acts 12:23
- Angels are ministering spirits.
Psalm 91:11, Hebrews 1:13-14, Psalm 34:7, Matthew 1:20, Psalm 103:20, Luke 15:10

22. THE LORD'S SECOND COMING

- The Lord's second coming is a distinct, separate event from the rapture of the Church. It is the personal, imminent return of Christ at the end of the seven-year tribulation, when He will personally and visibly return, with His saints.
Revelation 19:11-16, Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:30, Zechariah 14:4-6, 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10, Titus 2:13, John 14:3, Acts 1:11

23. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

A thousand years on earth, during which satan will be bound, and the Lord will have things the way He always intended for His kingdom and His saints.
(Revelation 20:1-6)

24. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

- God will create new heavens and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth will pass away.
Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:1, 2 Peter 3:10-13, Isaiah 66:22, Matthew 24:35, Revelation 21:1-7

Section 2—Statement of Doctrine

Doctrines are the principles, tenets, teachings, and instructions that constitute the basic beliefs of a person or an organization. The doctrines of this ecclesiastical nonprofit corporation are the foundation of our Christian fellowship, and they are the sum total of the Holy Scriptures, the Corporation's organizing and governing legal documents, the Statement of Faith and Doctrine, and the following:

- The Bible—the Holy Scriptures are the source of our doctrine.
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
2 Timothy 3:10-17, 4:1-5
- Jesus said, My doctrine is not Mine, but His (God the Father) who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.
John 7:16-18

The Board of Directors shall be the express and final arbiter of all matters of ecclesiastical governments, doctrine, **religious beliefs and tenets**, ministry discipline, etc., and shall be handled in accordance with Article X—Church and Ministry Polity and Discipline of these Bylaws.

Section 3—Statement of Ethics and Conduct

Ethics are the principles of conduct and values that govern the practices of an individual, a group, or a corporation. They are the principles and values that pertain to their lifestyles, their actions, and the actual performance of their purposes—a standard of what they hold to be righteous, virtuous, good, and proper.

1. Walk properly

- The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.
Romans 13:11-14
- For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. See that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:8-21

2. Walk worthy of the Lord, being filled with the knowledge of His will

- For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you . . .
Colossians 1:9-12
- “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”
James 4:13-17

3. Walk in the Spirit—bear fruit of the Spirit

- Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are. . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
Galatians 5:19-23

4. Principles and values—Christian Character and Conduct

- Live by principles and values that pertain to Christian character and conduct.
- Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ.
Philippians 1:27-28
- Seek and set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth (the world).
Colossians 3:1-4

- Put off the carnal things of the old nature and live being renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Reject, turn from, and refuse to practice unrighteousness and lawlessness.
Colossians 3:5-11
- Conduct yourself according to the nature and character of the “new” man.
Colossians 3:12-17

5. Behave like a Christian

- Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good . . .
Romans 12:9-21

6. Conduct yourselves in the fear of the Lord

- Conduct yourselves in the fear of the Lord, for you have been redeemed.
- Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your sojourning here in fear . . . being redeemed from your aimless conduct.
1 Peter 1:15-19

7. Conduct yourselves honorably before the world

- Conduct yourselves honorably before the Gentiles, that they may by your good works, which they observe, glorify God.
1 Peter 2:11-12

8. Hate what the Lord hates

- The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
Proverbs 8:13
- These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him . . .
Proverbs 6:16

9. Public displays of affection

- Biblical etiquette demands that people refrain from public displays of affection that are inappropriate (unsuitable, unfitting, and wrong) and unacceptable (improper, intolerable, deplorable, and offensive). And, accordingly, this Corporation, church, its pastors, staff, employees, volunteers, members, etc. will not tolerate inappropriate public displays of affection at any activity or venue.
- Such conduct will not be tolerated if: it is unbiblical; if it is a display reserved for married couples (a man and a woman); it is an activity that should be done in a private and not a public venue.

- Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
1 Peter 2:11-12

- Certain displays of affection are reserved for those who are married and are only for a husband and wife. In Genesis 26:8-9 Isaac was sporting (or showing endearment) to Rebekah (his wife) and the king saw it through a window. The king said to Isaac “Quite obviously she is your wife.”

Whatever the precise meaning of the word sporting, it certainly indicates that there were liberties taken and freedom used on the occasion, which were not lawful but between husband and wife.

- It is not good for a man to touch a woman inappropriately (and vice versa).
- Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.
(1 Corinthians 7:1-3)
- Inappropriate public displays of affection are not acceptable. Abstain from every form of evil.
1 Thessalonians 5:22

Section 4—Unacceptable Behaviors and Lifestyles

The following are just some of the behaviors and lifestyles that violate the belief systems of the Corporation:

1. God-intended purpose—males and females

- God created males and females for the purpose of the continuance of the human race, for the purpose of procreation as an act of marriage (Genesis 1:27-28). Therefore, it is unacceptable for people to change (alter, adapt, modify, convert, or pervert) the God-ordained and God-intended purpose and use of the human body and human sexuality.
- We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and likeness of God. Rejection of one’s biological gender is a rejection and denial of what God has ordained for His creation.

- Behaviors and lifestyles such as homosexuality, bisexual conduct, same-sex marriage, sodomy, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, pornography, pedophilia, transgender, any attempt to change one's gender or appear as the opposite gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender is sin, offensive, an abomination, and detestable to God. And, accordingly, it is considered absolutely inappropriate (unsuitable, unfitting, and wrong) and unacceptable (improper, intolerable, deplorable, and offensive) by this Corporation, church, its pastors, staff, employees, volunteers, members, etc.
- You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.
Leviticus 18:22
- Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves . . . For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful.
Romans 1:24-32
- Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites . . . will inherit the kingdom of God.
1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- Knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.
1 Timothy 1:9-11

2. Works of the flesh

- Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication . . .
Galatians 5:19-21

3. Adultery

- You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
Matthew 5:27-28
- Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
Hebrews 13:4

4. Fornication

- For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders . . .
Mark 7:20-21
- Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord . . .
1 Corinthians 6:13-16
- For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
Ephesians 5:5

5. Sexual immorality

- . . . as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
Jude 1:7

6. Witchcraft and sorcery

- For rebellion is the sin of witchcraft . . .
1 Samuel 15:23
- There shall not be found among you *anyone* who . . . who practices witchcraft, *or* is a soothsayer, or is one who interprets omens, or is a sorcerer, or is one who conjures spells, or is a medium, or is a spiritist, etc.
Deuteronomy 18:10-12
- Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery . . . sorcery, hatred, contentions . . .
Galatians 5:19-21

7. Any form of sexual immorality

- We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, pedophilia, any attempt to change one's gender or appear as the opposite gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sin, offensive, an abomination, and detestable to God. Hence, this Christian Corporation opposes any such sexual immorality.
Leviticus 20:10-20

Section 5—Statement of Marriage Doctrine

1. Procreation as an act of marriage

- God created males and females for the purpose of continuance of the human race, for the purpose of procreation as an act of marriage.
- So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it . . .
Genesis 1:27-28

2. God instituted marriage

- God instituted marriage as the union between one man and one woman. That is the way it has been since the very beginning of mankind, and according to the Holy Scriptures that is the way it will remain. God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him”—so the Lord God **formed a woman** for Adam (a female who was comparable and compatible with him).
- And the Lord God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.
- And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.
- And Adam said: “*This is* now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; **She shall be called Woman**, Because she was taken out of Man.” **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.
Genesis 2:18-24

3. One man, one woman

- Marriage between one man and one woman is honorable
- Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.
Hebrews 13:4

4. Marriage—one husband and one wife

- Marriage is between one husband and one wife (male and female).
- Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his **own wife**, and let each woman have her **own husband**.
1 Corinthians 7:2

5. What God has joined

- Marriage is between one man and one woman (husband and wife), and God joins them together in an intimate bond, and man should not divide it or change it.
- And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”
Matthew 19:4-6

6. A lifelong union

- Marriage is meant to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman.
- For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.
Romans 7:2

7. Marriage for physical love

- Marriage is a means of sexual love between one man and one woman (and no other person).
- Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. *As a* loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?
Proverbs 5:18-20

8. Marriage—spiritual and natural union

- Marriage is a spiritual and natural union between a husband and wife, centered on biblical principles.
- Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.
Ephesians 5:22-24

- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
Ephesians 5:25-28
- “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.
Ephesians 5:31-33

9. Weddings

- Weddings (marriages) are worthy of Jesus’ presence. Jesus approves of marriage, and His first miracle took place at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.
- On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
John 2:1-2
- This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.
John 2:11

10. Marriage—a biblical institution

- Marriage is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. This ecclesiastical Corporation recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Christian Church, its pastors, staff, and members will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.

Section 6—Statement of the Sanctity of Life

Upholding the sanctity and dignity of life for people of all ages, from conception to natural death, is an integral part of our purposes.

1. In the image and likeness of God

- Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God.
- God created man in His own image, after His own likeness, and that He gave man dominion over the earth.
Genesis 1:26-27

2. Life at conception

- Natural life begins at the time of conception in the mother’s womb. God knows us as individuals in our mother’s womb. In the womb we grow and mature until we are prepared for birth.
- Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.
Jeremiah 1:5
- For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.
Psalm 139:13
- Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?
Job 31:15
- And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary; that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
Luke 1:41

3. Life in the womb

- Terminating life in the womb is not acceptable. In the womb babies are recognized as distinct individuals who are in the process of development. There they will grow and mature in preparation for birth.
- As you do not know what *is* the way of the wind, *Or* how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.
Ecclesiastes 11:5
- Because he did not kill me from the womb, That my mother might have been my grave, And her womb always enlarged *with me*.
Jeremiah 20:17

4. Protecting the sanctity of life

- God will deal well with those who do their best to protect the sanctity of life.
- Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one *was* Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him; but if it *is* a daughter, then she shall live.” But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?”

And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women *are* not like the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.”

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

Exodus 1:15-21

5. Long life

- It is God’s intention that people live out their full days on this earth, with a full, satisfied life-span. He purposes to take care of his sons and daughters in their old age and He intends on us doing the same for them.
- He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”
Psalm 91:15-16
- Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.
Isaiah 46:4
- Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails.
Psalm 71:9
- They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing, To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.
Psalm 92:14-15

Section 7—Statement of Biblical Repentance

True Biblical repentance is available to people who have committed sin. People who commit sin should repent quickly. True repentance is purging the sin out of your life because you abhor it (truly detest and hate it) and are totally committed to walk away from it and never do it again.

1. Repentance

- God wants everyone to repent from sins (true Biblical repentance) there is no other alternative.
- The Lord is not slack . . . not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9
- I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
Luke 13:1-5

- Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent . . .
Revelations 2:5

2. True repentance

- Let being sorry or sorrowful lead to true repentance.
- Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance.
2 Corinthians 7:9-10
- Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
Romans 2:4-6
- Pursue peace with all people, and holiness . . .
Hebrews 12:14-17

3. Confess, repent

- We should confess our sins, which is the initial evidence of repentance, and we should repent of those sins.
- If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie . . .
1 John 1:6-9

4. Depart from iniquity and cleanse ourselves

- We should depart from iniquity and cleanse ourselves (turn from it).
- Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
2 Timothy 2:19-21
- Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
2 Corinthians 7:1

5. Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts

- We should deny ungodly behavior and worldly lusts.
- For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.
Titus 2:11-12

6. Biblical repentance

- True repentance means we go and sin no more.
- She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”
John 8:11

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
I John 1:9

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.
1 Peter 3:9-12, Matthew 9:36, Jude 1:22-23

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF RECORD

The Officers and Directors of the Corporation on the date of adoption of Article III—Statement of Faith and Doctrine of the Bylaws are:

Name:	Title:	Date:
_____ Rev. Kenneth E. Harbaum	, President	_____
_____ Raymond Johnson	, Vice Pres/Treasurer	
_____ Georgia L. Powell	, Secretary	
_____ M. James Arnett	, Director	
_____ Michael R. Brubaker	, Director	
_____ William VanBrederode	, Director	