

CONSTITUTION

AGAPE NEW TESTAMENT FELLOWSHIP

ARTICLE I

1.0 NAME AND AFFILIATION

1.1 The “Agape New Testament Fellowship” is an Independent Church.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 This Church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its Head. Guidance is found in the Holy Scriptures as interpreted by the Holy Spirit through faith, reason, and conscience. John 15:26

2.2 The government of this Church is vested in its members, who exercise control in all its affairs. A pastor and other officers are chosen to the body as described in the following sections.

3.0 PURPOSE

3.1 The purposes are:

3.1.1 To conduct public worship of Almighty God

3.1.2 To strengthen the Body of Christ

3.1.3 To evangelize

4.0 STATEMENT OF FAITH

4.1 The Old and New Testament Scriptures (HOLY BIBLE) were written by men divinely inspired and are the only sufficient and perfect rule of faith and practice. II Timothy 3:16, 17 Luke 24:44

4.2 There is one GOD, triune in nature, who is self existent, eternal, infinite in every excellence, and who has revealed Himself as FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT. Deut. 6:4 Isa. 45:21, 22 Isa. 43:10, 13 Isa. 44:24 Jer. 10:10 Rev. 1:8 Deut. 32:4 John 1:1-14 Eph. 2:18 Eph. 4:4-6 John 14:26 15:26

4.3 Man was created innocent, by disobedience of the command of God he fell, thereby losing his innocence, becoming subject to death. Gen. 1:27, 31 3:1-7 Ps. 14:1-3 Eccl. 7:29 Isa. 53:6 Romans 5:12 6:23 3:23

4.4 Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, came into the world to save men from their sin, offering His blood as an Atonement, a free gift received by faith. John 1:14, 29 Luke 1:26-35 Acts 4:12 Romans 3:20-26

John 3:14-17 Eph. 2:8, 9 Matt. 26:28 John 6:53

Man is brought into a state of peace and favor with God when he repents and yields to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Mark 1:5 Matt. 3:2 Acts 26:20 Romans 5:1 10:9, 10 Rev. 12:11 Eph. 2:8, 9

- 4.5 We believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever; and that His purpose and will for the Church have not changed since the great commission. A personal Pentecost experience with Jesus Christ as Baptizer of the HOLY SPIRIT and Fire is the promise for every Believer. The manifestations of the Spirit are given to the Church for edification, exhortation, comfort, direction, equipping of the Saints for service and confirmation of the preached WORD. We will seek to give the HOLY SPIRIT freedom to move in the services. Heb. 13:8 Matt. 3:11 Mark 1:8 Luke 3:15, 16 John 1:33, 34 Luke 24:49-53 Acts 1:1-8 2:1-4 Eph. 4:11, 12, 13 I Cor. 14:3, 27 Heb. 2:4 Mark 16:15-20 I Thess. 5:16-21 I Cor. 14:32, 33
- 4.6 The ordinances of the Gospel are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion in water of a Believer in Christ, in the name of the FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. Baptism symbolizes the Believer's death to self, burial with Christ and resurrected life with Christ. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration service of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ which was willingly given as the final and complete sacrifice for the remission of sin. It is God's will for the Believer to be continuously fed and nourished by Christ. Matt. 28:19-20 Mark 1:9-11 Acts 8:36-38 Romans 6:4 Col. 2:12 Matt. 26:26-30 Mark 14:22-25 Luke 22:19-20 John 6:51-58 I Cor. 11:23-29
- 4.7 Jesus Christ is to come again, judge the nations, and fill the earth with His glory and power. Matt. 24:25-51 John 14:3 Acts 1:11 I Thess. 4:16, 17 Rev. 1:7
- 4.8 There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust - the just for an eternal life of blessedness and reward, the unjust for judgement and eternal doom. Dan. 12:2 John 5:28, 29 Acts 24:15 Matt. 25:31-46 II Cor. 5:10 Rev. 20:10-15

ARTICLE II

1.0 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 A member of this Church is one who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and has so stated publicly; who has been baptized subsequent to conversion; who accepts the statement of faith in Article I, Section 4 of this Constitution and agrees to be governed by this Constitution and By-Laws as herein set forth. Members who have failed to support the Church for one (1) year will be notified that they are being placed on an Inactive Roll and their voting privileges are suspended.

ARTICLE III

1.0 PASTOR

- 1.1 The Pastor, as presiding Elder, is the leader or shepherd of the Church and has the broad responsibility and authority due that office. I Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:5-9 I Peter 5:1-4 Acts 6:4
- 1.2 He is elected by the membership for an indefinite period of time.

2.0 ELDERS

- 2.1 Elders supervise the spiritual welfare of the Church. I Tim. 3:1-7 Titus 1:5-9 Acts 6:4 15:6 20:28 James 5:14
- 2.2 Elders are elected by the membership for an indefinite period of time.

3.0 CHURCH SECRETARY

- 3.1 The Church Secretary shall keep minutes of Congregational and Church Board meetings. He shall write letters of correspondence and perform other duties of a secretarial nature.
- 3.2 A Church Secretary shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

4.0 CHURCH TREASURER

- 4.1 The Church Treasurer shall count, record, and deposit monies in an approved bank account. He shall also disburse monies as directed by the Church Board and keep proper records of all incomes and transactions.
- 4.2 A Church Treasurer shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

5.0 SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

- 5.1 The Sunday School Superintendent shall oversee the operation of the Sunday School Department under the direction of the Elders.
- 5.2 A Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

6.0 YOUTH DIRECTOR

- 6.1 The Youth Director shall coordinate the activities of the youth of the Church under the direction of the Elders.

- 6.2 A Youth Director shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

7.0 QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS

- 7.1 The Pastor must become a member of the Church immediately following his election.
- 7.2 Candidates for the other offices listed in this Constitution must be members of the Church.

8.0 CHURCH BOARD

- 8.1 The Church Board shall represent the Church in routine matters of business between Congregational Meetings.
- 8.2 The Church Board shall consist of the Pastor, Elders, Secretary, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and Youth Director. The Pastor shall preside over the meetings.
- 8.3 The Church Board shall meet at least once each month. Additional meetings will be held as needed.
- 8.4 Sixty (60) percent of the members shall constitute a quorum for Church Board Meetings.

ARTICLE IV

1.0 CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- 1.1 In addition to the Annual Congregational Meeting held in October, additional meetings may be held at the request of the Church Board, or by twenty-five (25) percent of the Church members. The location and time of the meeting will be announced two (2) Sundays in advance. If twenty-five (25) percent of the members notify the Elders by the close of the second announcement that they are unable to attend, the meeting shall be rescheduled and the members notified of the change.
- 1.2 A quorum for conducting business shall consist of thirty (30) percent of the members.
- 1.3 Motions shall be considered passed when they receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present.
- 1.4 The Church Secretary shall record all motions, the votes counted and major discussion points.

ARTICLE V

1.0 AMENDMENTS

- 1.1 Proposed amendments to this Constitution, signed by three (3) members of the Church, shall be published two (2) weeks prior to the Congregational Meeting.
- 1.2 A quorum for considering the Constitutional change shall be eighty (80) percent of the members.
- 1.3 A two-thirds (2/3) majority of members voting shall constitute adoption

ARTICLE VI

1.0 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

- 1.1 This Church is organized exclusively for charitable purposes as such purposes are defined by § 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Internal Revenue law of the United States). No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of any individual and no member, director, officer or employee of the Church shall receive any pecuniary benefits of any kind except reasonable compensation for services in effecting the corporate purposes.
- 1.2 The Church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or personal property as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.
- 1.3 All property, real or personal, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the Church.
- 1.4 No real or personal property of the Church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership. A quorum for such a meeting shall be eighty (80) percent of the membership.
- 1.5 The Pastor and the Secretary of the Church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- 1.6 In the event of the Church is dissolved and liquidated, the board of directors shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all of the liabilities of the Church, distribute the corporate property and assets to such organization or organizations as in their judgement have purposes most closely allied to those of this Church; provided, however, that the transferee organization or organizations shall then be a qualified tax-exempt charitable organization within the meaning of § 501 (c) (3) and § 170 (b) (1) (A) other than in clauses (vii) and (viii) of the Internal Revenue Code or their successor provisions, shall have been in existence and so described for a continuous period of at least sixty (60) calendar months, and shall also be an organization contributions to which are deductible under Sections 170, 2055 and 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code or successor provisions. Any of the property or assets not so distributed shall be disposed of by the court having jurisdiction of the

dissolution and liquidation of a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation exclusively to such charitable organization or organizations as are then qualified tax-exempt organizations as defined above.