

# ARTICLES OF FAITH

Midway Bible Church  
Pelzer, South Carolina

## ARTICLE I -- THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testaments to be the verbally inspired, completed Word of God, and the final authority for faith and life, inerrant and infallible in the original writings. II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Isaiah 8:20; Psalm 119:105; Revelation 22:19, John 17:17.

## ARTICLE II -- THE GODHEAD

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-equal in power and glory. Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19-20.

## ARTICLE III -- THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. John 1:1, 2; John 1:14; Luke 1:35.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His perfect, sinless life, the shedding of His blood, and His death on the cross. We believe that Jesus bore the righteous wrath of God upon the sins of men by His representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice. We believe that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Romans 3:24-25; 4:25; Isaiah 53:5-6; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 2:2, 4:10.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. Acts 1:9; Hebrews 9:24; Romans 8:34; I John 1:1, 2.



We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall return to the earth at an hour known only to the Heavenly Father, and that because the time of His coming is hidden, believers should live in a state and attitude of constant readiness for

His return. Titus 2:15; John 14:3; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

#### **ARTICLE IV -- THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that He indwells the souls of all believers, sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12, 13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13, 14.

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates the heart of the unbeliever, giving him spiritual life. John 3:6-7; Titus 3:5.

We believe that He is the divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, speaking through the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege as well as the duty of all the saved to be filled with and controlled by the Spirit. John 16:13; Ephesians 5:18.

#### **ARTICLE V -- CREATION**

We believe that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the beginning, by the word of His power, made *ex nihilo* the heavens and the earth and all things therein within the space of six days, and all very good. Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11; Jeremiah 10:12.

#### **ARTICLE VI -- THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN**

We believe that Satan is a person, influential in Adam's sin, and currently blinding the eyes of the unbeliever with sin; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10.

#### **ARTICLE VII -- THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that man is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition, and every part of mankind (mind, will and emotions) has been tainted with evil.



Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12. We believe that human beings who do not repent and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation shall suffer endless, conscious torment. Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10-15; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:22-24.

## **ARTICLE VIII -- JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that whom God truly calls to Himself, He also justifies. Justification is an objective, legal declaration by God that the sinner's sin has been transferred to Jesus Christ, and that Christ's obedience has been imputed to the sinner-thus declaring him righteous. Romans 4:5-7; Acts 10:43; Romans 5:1, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

We believe that because of justification the one who is now "in Christ" is perfect in the sight of God. Faith, then, is directed to Jesus Christ and His work, rather than any experience of the believer. The believer's righteousness resides in Christ alone, by faith alone. Ephesians 1:3-4, 7; Galatians 2:20; Romans 3:22-25.

## **ARTICLE IX -- ADOPTION**

We believe the sinner, being made righteous in God's sight by justification through faith in Christ, is then adopted into the family of God. While justification relates to the sinner's relation to the Law, adoption relates to one's personal relation to God the Father Himself. Ephesians 1:4-5; Galatians 4:4-6; Romans 8:15-16; Romans 8:23.

The following benefits and privileges of adoption do immediately pass to every true believer:

1. The Father places his name upon the Christian, assuring protection and provision (Ephesians 2:19; 3:14-15);
2. He is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13);
3. He or she becomes Christ's brother or sister and co-heir with him (Romans 8:17, 29);
4. He inherits the promises (1 Peter 1:4); and
5. He may approach the throne of God boldly and without fear (Galatians 4:6).



## **ARTICLE X -- SANCTIFICATION**

We believe the Christian, being spiritually united to Christ by the Holy Spirit, is positionally sanctified. That is, the mastery of sin is destroyed, the believer is liberated from its dominion, and freed to obey his new Master, Jesus Christ.

We believe this sanctification is wholly throughout the person resulting in a new nature, and he is considered a "holy one," or "saint" (Ephesians 1:1). Regardless, there remains some measure of corruption from the old life with which the new Christian must constantly battle and mortify.

We believe progressive sanctification in the Holy Spirit to be the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to live unto righteousness and true holiness and die to sin. Ephesians 4:23, 24; Romans 6:6; 6:14; 8:4; II Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 4:1-2; Romans 7:4-6.

## **ARTICLE XI -- FAITH AND REPENTANCE**

We believe that faith is a gift of God in the heart of the Christian, enabling him to believe that whatever God reveals in his Word is true and must be obeyed. Faith accepts, receives and rests upon Christ alone for salvation and His promises, both in this life and the life to come. Ephesians 2:8-9; Ephesians 1:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:20; Acts 15:11.

We believe that repentance is a gift of the grace of God whereby the unbeliever realizes the hideous nature of his sin before a holy God, turns from that sin and endeavors to walk with Christ by following all His commandments. Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25; Psalm 80:3, 7, 19; Luke 24:46-47; Luke 13:3; 1 John 2:3.

## **ARTICLE XII -- GOOD WORKS**

We believe good works to be a necessary manifestation and fruit of a living faith; thus they, too, are a gift from the Spirit of God. They do not bring justification, nor do they evoke any obligatory blessing from God. James 2:18, 22; John 15:4-5; Philippians 2:13; Romans 3:20; Luke 17:10; Galatians 5:22-23; Isaiah 64:6.



The benefits of good works are these:

1. Strengthened assurance (1 John 2:3)
2. Edification of the brethren (2 Corinthians 9:2; Matthew 5:16; Hebrews 10:24-25)
3. Protection of the integrity of the Gospel (Titus 2:5, 9-12)
4. Silencing the enemies of the Gospel (1 Peter 2:15)
5. Glorifying God (Philippians 1:11)

### **ARTICLE XIII -- THE ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS**

We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word. While it is possible that for a time a true believer may have their assurance shaken or diminished by giving in to some sin or neglecting the means of grace (i.e., preaching of the Word, the ordinances, and fellowship of believers), yet they are never utterly destitute of the love of God and conscience of duty. They should not despair in this state, but rather pray earnestly that the Spirit may witness with theirs that they are in Christ, and do all diligence to make their calling and election sure. Psalm 51:8, 12, 14; Ephesians 4:30-31; Psalm 31:22; Isaiah 50:10; 1 John 3:9; Luke 22:32.

### **ARTICLE XIV -- OBLIGATIONS OF BELIEVERS**

We believe that it is the obligation of the redeemed to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. All believers are under obligation, therefore, to sustain established witnesses and to contribute by prayers, gifts, and personal effort to the extension of the Gospel throughout the whole earth. Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19, 20.

### **ARTICLE XV - SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE**

We believe that God's inerrant and infallible Word, the Holy Bible, speaks clearly and authoritatively to the matters of marriage, consensual sexual activity and gender identity. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4) Its clear teachings on these matters govern and are central to the beliefs and practices of Midway Bible Church.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person and a rejection of God's



authority as Creator. (Ps. 139:13-16)

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenanted union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25; Matt. 19:2-6) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any consensual sexual activity outside such marriage is sinful (1 Thess. 4:1-8). We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.) but that those known to be unrepentant practitioners of sexual sin cannot remain within the membership of Midway Bible Church. (Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 11-13) Allowing them to remain in membership in an unrepentant state brings God’s displeasure on the church and forfeiture of His blessings.

## **ARTICLE XVI - THE SANCTITY OF LIFE**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Therefore, human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We believe and affirm that human life begins at conception and therefore believe that abortion of pre-born children violates the Sixth Amendment. In rare cases when continuing a pregnancy jeopardizes the physical life of the mother, we believe it is morally and ethically reasonable to seek treatment to preserve the life of the mother and the child, even if the unintended effect of necessary medical care to the mother may ultimately result in the death of the child she is carrying. We also believe and affirm that God alone has the right to determine the limits of human life and therefore believe that euthanasia has no legitimate justification. Genesis 1:27, 31; Exodus 20:13; Job 14:5; Psalm 139:13-16.



# CONSTITUTION

## Midway Bible Church Pelzer, South Carolina

### ARTICLE I -- NAME

The name of this church shall be called Midway Bible Church, Pelzer, South Carolina.

### ARTICLE II -- MISSION STATEMENT

Midway Bible Church exists for four purposes:

- A. EVANGELISM: to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in both deed and word;
- B. EDIFICATION: to preach and teach sound doctrine and to equip the saints for the work of the ministry;
- C. FELLOWSHIP: to assimilate believers into a local body where they can mutually encourage and minister to one another;
- D. WORSHIP: to passionately worship God in His glory, in our church, our homes, and our persons.

### ARTICLE III -- GOVERNMENT

This church shall acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head. In the government of this church, authority shall be vested in its members, who shall hold title to all properties, and whose vote shall be final in all matters pertaining to the church. The Elders and Deacons, elected by the congregation, will rule and make decisions on behalf of the members, except as enumerated elsewhere in this document.



## ARTICLE IV -- MEMBERSHIP

- A. Members of this church shall be born-again, baptized believers who shall subscribe to the charter documents (i.e., Statement of Faith, and Constitution) of this church.
- B. The mode of baptism is not the basis for fellowship in this church, but a person must have submitted to believers' baptism in order to be eligible for membership. Baptism at this church is by immersion.
- C. Those desiring to hold offices or positions of authority within the church (i.e., pastoral staff, paid staff members, Elders, Deacons, teachers, worship leaders, small group leaders, etc.) may not be inactive members or involved in church discipline.

D. The Procedure for Membership

Prospective members shall:

- 1. Fill out an application form;
- 2. Read and study the charter documents;
- 3. Be questioned by at least two members of the board of Elders concerning their testimony; and
- 4. Be presented to the congregation as members.

This procedure shall cover a minimum of three weeks. Objections may be voiced to the Pastor or Elder Board by any member during this time of consideration.

- E. Members shall not be received into this church by letter from other churches, and letters transferring membership to other churches shall not be granted.
- F. We extend the privileges of Associate Membership to those who are residing temporarily in the Upstate. Such members must be members of churches of like precious faith and must meet the requirements of membership as demanded of our regular members.
  - 1. Associate members are entitled to all the privileges of work and worship in the church, excluding the right to vote or hold the position of Elder, Deacon, Financial Manager, Treasurer, or Clerk.
  - 2. Associate members shall be subject to the same discipline and regulations as regular members. Upon removal from the Upstate, they shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll.



3. An associate member may request the Board of Elders in writing to change his membership to a regular membership at any time.

G. Inactive Membership:

1. We consider inactive those who no longer reside in this area, but desire to hold their membership in this church. This intent must be presented in writing to the Elder Board.
2. Those who have been absent from the services of the church for a period of six months without having given satisfactory explanation for their absence shall be dropped from the roll. This action shall be recorded in the minutes of the board of Elders.
3. Those who have come under some disciplinary action of the church shall be deemed inactive members. If the situation for discipline is not rectified within a period of two years, the member's name shall be dropped from the roll.
4. When a member joins another local church and informs one of Elders or Deacons of this fact, he shall be dropped from the roll. This action shall be recorded in the minutes of the board of Elders.
5. Inactive members shall not have the right to vote or to hold office in the church.
6. Inactive members must apply to the Elder Board and be approved for reinstatement to active membership.

## **ARTICLE V -- CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

All matters of discipline shall be conducted in the spirit and letter of the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-18). Such discipline shall be entrusted to the Pastor and Elders who shall take the case or cases into prayerful consideration and act with promptness and, if deemed advisable, bring the matter before the church. No action calling for suspension or dismissal shall be taken against any person until such member be informed and the charge cited. The member shall be given an opportunity to appear at a meeting of the Elder Board, at which time the charge shall be considered.



## ARTICLE VI -- MEETINGS

- A. The following shall be regular fellowship and worship services, as facilities permit:
  - 1. Sunday morning worship.
  - 2. Sunday PM service.
  - 3. Baptismal services, when necessary, normally conducted in conjunction with a Sunday service.
  - 4. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least quarterly.
  - 5. An evangelistic series, Bible conference, missionary conference, or other special services shall be held with outside speakers at the discretion of the Pastor and Elder Board as they determine the needs of the church.
  - 6. Other fellowship and worship services, as called by the Pastor and Elder Board.
- B. Business Meetings:
  - 1. There shall be one meeting annually to determine financial and budget affairs, and to elect Deacons, Elders and other officers. The time will be determined by the Official Board to coincide with the fiscal year of the church, which shall be from May 1 to April 30.
  - 2. Other business meetings may be called by the Official Board or upon the written request submitted to the Elders, of 25% of the voting membership.
  - 3. The pastor will be the moderator unless an alternate is chosen by the Official Board.
  - 4. In all business meetings, twenty-five percent (25%) of eligible voting members shall be considered a quorum. When fewer than fifty percent (50%) of eligible voting members are present, a two-thirds majority shall be required to pass any measure, except when voting for a new pastor. When fifty percent (50%) or more of eligible voting members are present, a majority shall be required to pass any measure. Any active member at least eighteen years of age shall be entitled to vote. (See Article IV.)



5. Any proposition to be voted upon by the congregation shall be announced verbally and in writing at all Sunday services for two weeks prior to the vote and the vote taken at a regular service the next Sunday.
  6. Business meetings will be open to non-members unless a members-only meeting is designated by the Official Board.
- C. Informational Meetings: there shall be informal meetings for the purpose of facilitating communication between the Official Board and the congregation on at least a bi-annual basis.

## **ARTICLE VII -- FINANCES**

- A. The church is supported by voluntary contributions from its members who shall give according to their abilities and according to the dictates of their own consciences.
- B. No paid performances or sales shall be used to raise money for the church.
- C. All undesignated tithes and offerings will be disbursed as follows:
1. Budgeted missions giving shall be divided into two categories: identified and unidentified. Identified missions shall be used to support missionaries on a monthly basis. Unidentified missions giving shall be used for one-time gifts such as special missions projects and home missions. In an emergency, these funds can be used to support missionaries on a monthly basis or for other budgeted needs of the church. The church shall maintain a minimum of \$2000 of unidentified mission funds. When unidentified mission funds drop below this minimum, the annual budget of the church shall include funding to restore it to \$2000. These unidentified mission funds shall remain in this fund from year to year, not to exceed a maximum of \$10,000.
  2. Any vote for indebtedness must be accepted by an eighty percent (80%) vote of the eligible members at an officially called business meeting.
- D. Records of all financial transactions shall be kept by the church Treasurer and the Deacon charged with financial oversight, who shall submit a monthly financial report to the Official Board. Said report shall also be posted publicly.



- E. A proposed budget shall be prepared and presented by the Official Board, and shall be voted on by the members at the annual financial business meeting. The proposed budget shall be posted at least two weeks prior to the business meeting.
- F. The proposed budget for the new year shall not exceed the income of the last 12 months previous to the budget planning session. Exceptions to this rule shall be shown as a separate line item, approved by the Official Board, and passed by a 2/3 vote of the congregation in a duly called business meeting.
- G. The Board of Deacons may disburse funds that have been budgeted in the annual budget without church approval. This Board may not disburse more than one thousand dollars (\$1000) per month, without congregational approval, for items not in the annual budget.
- H. The Official Board may appoint two board members to represent the church in major transactions and to sign legal documents, including documents that obligate the church financially (i.e., land purchases, contracts, etc.).

## ARTICLE VIII -- OFFICES

Those desiring to hold official offices or positions of authority within the church (i.e., pastoral staff, paid staff members, Elders, Deacons, teachers, worship leaders, small group leaders, etc.) voluntarily enter the following covenant for the sake of their example to the church:

### LEADERSHIP COVENANT

*We, the leaders of Midway Bible Church, covenant together to support this church with our prayers, regular attendance, and regular tithes and offerings; to live a life separated from the world; to abstain from actions which might hinder weaker brothers in Christ; to abstain in particular from tobacco products, beer, wine and alcoholic beverages, and illicit, addictive drugs; to observe neatness, propriety, modesty, and reverence in deportment; and to "set no wicked thing before our eyes."*

- A. Official Board:
  - 1. The Official Board shall be comprised of all Elders and Deacons who are currently serving. The entire Official Board shall meet at least quarterly.



2. The Elders shall be responsible for nominating candidates for the office of Elder and Deacon.
3. Deacons and Elders shall be elected by vote of the congregation at the annual organizational business meeting and shall serve a term of two years. Elders and deacons may succeed themselves.
4. The Elders shall have responsibility for proposing new paid staff positions and devising their job descriptions. The Official Board shall consider how such positions will be funded and propose recommendations to the congregation for their approval.
5. The Elders shall consider appropriate applicants for paid staff positions. When hiring pastoral staff, the Elders shall recommend an applicant to the congregation for their approval in accordance with section C. 5. b. below. When hiring other paid staff, the Elders may make hiring decisions without congregational approval.
6. The Official Board shall be responsible for the supervision and evaluation of staff members.
7. The Official Board shall be responsible for the agenda and conduct of the annual organizational meeting as outlined in Article VI.
8. For the purpose of training men who are preparing for the pastorate or mission field, the Official Board, the board of Elders or the board of Deacons may open portions of their meetings to these individuals.

B. Elders

1. The Elders shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of Elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 6-9. When qualified men are willing to serve, a majority of the active Eldership shall be composed of church members not in the regular pay of the church, and no Elder shall hold the office of Deacon during his tenure.
2. Subject to the will of the congregation, the Elders shall oversee the ministry and resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6: 1-6 and I Peter 5: 1-4, the Elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock.



3. Any two members with reason to believe that an Elder should be dismissed should express such concern to the Elders and, if need be, to the congregation, in a regular or called business meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17 and I Timothy 5: 17-21. Any of the Elders may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the members at any members' meeting of the church.
4. The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions, oversee the work of the Deacons, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, equip the membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions. If the church is without a pastor, the Elders are to ensure that all who minister the Word, including outside speakers, share our fundamental doctrinal convictions.
5. The Elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities.
6. The Elders shall be responsible to form a pulpit committee for seeking and examining a prospective pastor.
7. The Elders shall elect their own chairman and secretary.
8. The Elder Board shall make no binding decisions unless a majority of the elders are present.

C. The Senior Pastor

1. The Pastor shall be a male and shall meet the Scriptural qualifications for his calling as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7.
2. The Pastor shall be an Elder. He shall perform the duties of an Elder described in Section B above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the ministry of preaching and teaching. The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church and shall advance the spiritual life and interest of the congregation. The Pastor is an ex-officio member of every committee in the church.



3. His call shall not be subject to the reaffirmation or to the term limitation set out in Section B, for Elders.
4. He shall preach on the Lord's Day, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in the constitution.
5. He shall be responsible for the pulpit ministry of the church. However, if the church is without a pastor, or the senior pastor is incapacitated, the Elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.
6. Calling the Pastor:
  - a. A candidate for acceptance to the senior pastor's position shall be heard at a minimum of four regular worship services. His wife and family must accompany him to at least two of the services, and he shall, with his family, meet with the Elder Board.
  - b. Any Pastor shall be accepted on to the pastoral staff by an eighty percent (80%) vote of the eligible members present.
7. Dismissal of the Pastor:
  - a. Any two members with reason to believe that the pastor should be dismissed should express such concern to the Elders and, if need be, to the congregation, in a regular or called business meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17 and I Timothy 5: 17-21. The pastor may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the members at any members' meeting of the church.
  - b. Before the congregation may vote on a candidate for a pastoral position, that position must be vacant.
  - c. If dismissed, the Pastor's services shall be terminated immediately.
  - d. Salary and other benefits shall continue for forty-five days maximum or until he has obtained a full-time, paid position, whichever comes first.

D. Deacons

1. The office of Deacon is described in I Timothy 3: 8-13 and Acts 6: 1-7. The church shall recognize men who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular



gifts of service. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as Deacons.

2. Deacons shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration.
3. The Deacons shall receive, hold, and disburse a fund for benevolence, reporting on its use to the Elders at their request, and reporting to the church its total receipts and total disbursements only.
4. The Deacons shall elect a Secretary to keep minutes of their meetings.
5. The Deacons, with the agreement of the Elders, may establish unpaid administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities in the church.
6. A Deacon may be dismissed by recommendation of the majority of the board of Elders. Confirmation of dismissal shall be by a majority vote of the congregation.
7. If, for any reason, it is impossible to secure Deacons, the duties of the office will fall to the Elders.
8. The Deacons shall be especially responsible for the financial program of the church, for seeing that all property of the church is properly cared for. They shall be responsible to supervise the Treasurer and Financial Manager who keep an accurate record of all contributions of funds and their disbursement. (See Article VIII, Sections F and G below.)

E. Clerk:

1. The Church Clerk shall be recommended and appointed by the Elder Board and shall serve a one-year term, or until his or her successor is appointed.
2. The Church Clerk shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the church, a record of the membership, and shall present, in writing, an annual report at the annual business meeting.



F. Financial Manager

1. The Financial Manager shall be appointed by the Elder Board and shall serve a one-year term.
2. The Financial Manager shall counter-sign checks written by the Treasurer. In the absence of the Financial Manager, a deacon may counter-sign checks.
3. The Financial Manager shall make up all deposits with the Treasurer. At least two persons shall oversee the counting of cash receipts and the deposits of funds. In the absence of the Financial Manager, a deacon may fulfill this role.
4. The Financial Manager shall submit a complete report of the church financial operations to both the Elder Board and Deacon Board each month and shall submit a complete annual report at the annual financial business meeting.
5. The books of the Financial Manager and Treasurer shall be audited annually under the direction of the Deacons.

G. Treasurer:

1. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Elder Board and shall serve a one-year term.
2. The Treasurer shall keep a complete and accurate record of all contributions and disbursements of the church.
3. The Treasurer shall be responsible to make payments to vendors and individuals as necessary and to make the deposits of the church's receipts. The Financial Manager shall assist in this function as defined in Article VIII, Section F.

**ARTICLE IX -- ORDINATION TO THE MINISTRY**

- A. Midway Bible Church has authority as a local church body to ordain candidates for pastoral ministry.
- B. A candidate seeking ordination in this church must approach the Elder Board for permission to be examined. The Elders must decide whether to grant permission based on the character, spiritual gifts, maturity, and education of the candidate.
- C. If permission has been granted, a date for examination will be set.



- D. The Examining Board will consist of the senior Pastor, other ordained Pastors on staff, the Board of Elders, and any other ordained minister(s) the candidate wishes to attend, subject to the approval of the Pastor and Elders.
- E. The candidate's examination shall include, but is not limited to, the following topics:
  - 1. The qualifications set forth in Scripture (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9) and his personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - 2. Knowledge of Bible content.
  - 3. Knowledge of Theology.
  - 4. Knowledge of church Polity/Discipline.
- F. Upon passage of the examination a date shall be set for an ordination service. This service shall contain, but is not limited to, an address to the candidate and the congregation by a Pastor and prayer for the candidate by each member of the Examination Board. Upon completion of this service, the candidate is officially considered an ordained minister and is entitled to all rights and privileges thereto.

## **ARTICLE X -- ORDINANCES**

- A. Water Baptism sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and the effects of our union with Him: death to sin and resurrection to newness of life. Those who profess Christ as Savior should receive water baptism.
- B. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death until He comes, a reminder of our dependence on Him, and a symbol of our unity in the body of Christ. All who have professed Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are free from moral scandal shall be welcome to join in this service.

## **ARTICLE XI -- DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION**

In the event of dissolution of Midway Bible Church, the assets of the corporation shall be given and paid over to a tax-exempt corporation of like faith and practice. Said corporation shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the corporation present at a duly called business meeting for said dissolution.



- A. Notice of dissolution shall be sent, in writing, to each member at least forty-five days prior the scheduled meeting, and public notice shall be given at least forty-five days prior to the meeting.
- B. All recommendations for recipients of the corporation assets will be placed, in writing, by a member of the corporation to the Elder Board no less than thirty days prior to the dissolution meeting. No other recommendations shall be considered.
- C. It shall be the duty of the Elder Board to examine all recommendations submitted to it and to make its own recommendations to the congregation concerning the distribution of the church assets.
- D. Said recommendation from the Elder Board shall be made available, in writing, to the congregation fifteen days prior the dissolution meeting.
- E. The recipients of the assets of the corporation shall be determined by the mutual consent by secret ballot of the majority of the members present at the dissolution meeting.
- F. The official Elder Board, in the stead of the members of the corporation, shall assume the responsibility of wrapping up the dissolution, and may seek and obtain legal assistance to complete said proceedings.

## **ARTICLE XII -- AMENDMENTS**

- A. As a working, flexible document, this Constitution, except those articles listed in Article XII, Section C, may be amended, altered, or revised at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- B. Amendments to this Constitution shall be presented, in writing, to the Official Board and, if accepted, shall be published to the church for at least two weeks prior to the vote at a called business meeting.
- C. The following articles, sections, and paragraphs shall not be altered, revised, or amended:
  - 1. Article IV, Sections A and B
  - 2. Article VII, Section A
  - 3. Article VIII, Section C, Paragraph 1
  - 4. Article X, Sections A and B



5. Article XI, Sections A, B, and C

Revised 10/20/2019



Dear Prospective Church Member:

We are thrilled that you are considering becoming a member of Midway Bible Church. Any person who testifies to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and is willing to follow our statement of faith can unite with this fellowship.

- To become a member you must complete and submit the application in this booklet after having read the church's Articles of Faith and Constitution.
- In response to your application, two members of the Elder Board will interview you regarding your salvation and answer any questions you may have concerning Midway Bible Church.
- On a designated Sunday, you will give your testimony of salvation in Jesus Christ, sign the church roll and be presented to the congregation as a new member of Midway Bible Church.

While we try not to put undue stress on membership as a requirement for fellowship or involvement at Midway Bible Church, we do require anyone assuming a teaching or leadership role to be a member of the congregation.

Once again, we are delighted that you are considering joining our fellowship, and we ask that you make this decision prayerfully and in accordance with the Holy Spirit's leading in your life.

Your fellow laborers in Christ,  
MBC Elders

### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT(S)**

I (We) have read the Church Constitution and Articles of Faith, and wish to apply for membership in Midway Bible Church. (Please sign below.)

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1.

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2.

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3.

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4.

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Date

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