

**CONSTITUTION  
OF  
ROLLA BIBLE  
CHURCH**

# CONSTITUTION

## ROLLA BIBLE CHURCH of Rolla, Missouri

### PREAMBLE

Sensing a need in Rolla, Missouri for an expository pulpit where the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, rightly divided, should be proclaimed and explained in such a manner as to be better understood and applied, we, the members of this local group of believers, recognizing the Lord Jesus Christ as the head of the church, the Holy Spirit as His agent, and the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, subscribe to the following Articles of Faith and Constitution, and voluntarily submit ourselves to be governed thereby.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

- I. Authority of Scriptures. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21.
- II. God. That God exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that these three persons have precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections; and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience. Matt. 28:19-20; II Cor. 13:14; Heb. 11:6.
- III. Man. That man was created holy and upright in the image of God; that he fell from this condition through disobedience; and that in consequence, the whole human race is by nature dead in trespasses and sins. Gen. 1:26; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3.
- IV. God the Son
  - A. That the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; that He 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 redeem man from sin. Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2; Heb. 2:14.
  - B. That He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Rom. 4:25; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5, 18, 19; 2:24.

- C. That He ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He is our intercessor and advocate. Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2.
  - D. That He will come again to receive us to Himself, and that this return of our Lord Jesus Christ will be personal, physical, and premillennial. Luke 17:26-29; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; 15:14-17; I Thess. 4:16-17; II Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 20:4-6.
- V. God the Holy Spirit
- A. That the Holy Spirit is that person of the Holy Trinity who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. John 16:8-11. He is the divine agent in regeneration. Rom. 8:9. He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ. I Cor. 12:12-14. He indwells and seals them unto the day of redemption of the body. Eph. 1:13-14.
  - B. That the Holy Spirit is the Divine teacher, who guides believers into all truth. John 14:26; 16:3; I John 2:20, 27. He will fill and control the life of all believers who yield to him. Gal. 5:18. Speaking in tongues and working sign miracles are not necessarily evidences of a Spirit-filled life. I Cor. 12:4-11; 14:1-40.
- VI. Satan. That Satan is a personal being, the strongest personality apart from God, the avowed enemy of God and man, the agent of the fall of man in the Garden, and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6-7; Is. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10.
- VII. Angels. That the angels of God are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. Heb. 1:14.
- VIII. Afterlife. That the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when spirit, soul, and body re-united shall be associated with Him in the glory; but the souls of the unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium, when spirit, soul, and body re-united shall be cast into the Lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:2-3; I Thess. 4:13-18; II Thess. 1:7-9.
- IX. Salvation
- A. That our salvation has been accomplished solely by our Lord Jesus Christ through the offering of His precious blood on Calvary, where He was made to be a sin offering for us, dying in our place in order that we might be made righteous in Him before God forever. I Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 1:18-19.
  - B. That this salvation is offered to us by the grace of God apart from works of merit on our part whatsoever. Eph. 2:8-9.
  - C. That this salvation becomes ours when we repent of our sins and receive Him by faith. Luke 13:3; John 1:12; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 2:10; I Thess. 1:9.

- X. Old and New Natures. That those that are born of the Spirit possess two natures. They may be victorious over the old through the power of the new by the indwelling Spirit, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature resulting in sinless perfection in this life are unscriptural. Rom. 6:13; 8:1-13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; I John 1:8-10.
- XI. Christian Life. That all the saved should live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; I Cor. 6:14-7:1; I Pet. 1:13-16; I John 2:15-17; II John 1:7-11.
- XII. Witnessing. That it is the obligation and blessed privilege of the saved to witness by life and word to the truths of Holy Scriptures and to proclaim the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:9, 10; II Cor. 5:14-20.
- XIII. Baptism. That the saved should be baptized with water as a public testimony that they have identified themselves by faith with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection; and that they resolve to walk with Him in newness of life. Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-42; Acts 18:8; Rom. 6:1-4.
- XIV. Communion
- A. That all believers should regularly observe the Memorial Supper of the Lord in obedience to and remembrance of Him, the elements of the bread and wine being emblems of His body and of His blood.
  - B. That only true believers are proper participants in the observance of the Memorial Supper. Matt. 26:26-29; I Cor. 10:16; 11:23-32. Each believer should examine himself before participating in the Memorial Supper. I Cor. 11:27-32.
  - C. That the Memorial Supper should be considered purely testimonial and as a memorial of our Lord and not as a means of securing forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness of sin is to be sought at once through self-judgment and confession to our one and only High Priest and Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-15; I John 1:9.
- XV. The Church
- A. That the church of Jesus Christ universal is made up of all true believers irrespective of color, race, or denomination. Matt. 16:18; Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 12:13.
  - B. That it is an organism constituting the body, or bride of the Lord Jesus Christ which He is building now and will someday present to Himself a glorious church not having a spot or wrinkle. I Cor. 12:12-20; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:12-26; 5:25-32.
  - C. That a local church of Jesus Christ is a company of believers organized for more efficient and effective service Christ and observing forms, ordinances, and principles laid down in the New Testament. Acts 2:41-47; Rom. 6:17; I Cor. 1:2; 11:2; Eph. 4:11-12; I Tim. 3:1-15; II Tim. 1:13; Titus 1:5; I Pet. 5:1-4.

XVI. Marriage

- A. That God instituted marriage when He presented Eve to Adam, and ordained that there be but one man and one woman in marriage (Gen. 1:27-28a; 2:20-24; Eph. 5:31). It is established on the basis of their mutual commitment of loyalty to each other, to which God is the highest Witness (Pro. 2:17; Mal. 2:14).
- B. That sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between a man and a woman within the love and bonds of marriage. Therefore, any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Ex. 20:14; Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Deut. 22:13-30; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:3-6; Heb. 13:4).
- C. That the marriage covenant is binding as long as both live, for God commanded that Adam should cling to his wife (Gen. 2:24). He further declared that He hates divorce (Mal. 2:16) and that no man should separate that which God has united in marriage (Matt. 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10-11).
- D. That marriage is ordained by God for both believers and unbelievers, yet believers are to marry only believers (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 7:39).

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

The name of this local assembly shall be called Rolla Bible Church of Rolla, Missouri.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this church shall be to preach the Gospel and declare the whole counsel of God, thereby nourishing the saved and winning the lost.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PRACTICE**

The Old Testament and New Testament as interpreted in our Statement of Faith and Constitution shall constitute our rule of Faith and Practice. We agree to grant differences of interpretation of non-essentials. This church shall be and remain free of all associations which would lessen the freedom of the local church. We shall contend for the Faith without being contentious.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ORDINANCES**

Rolla Bible Church will encourage baptism and administer water baptism of believers by immersion upon their confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. An unbaptized candidate who is otherwise qualified for membership will be eligible for membership if he agrees to promptly initiate discussion with the Pastor or Elders concerning his willingness to become publicly baptized in obedience of scripture. The Memorial Supper shall be open to all regenerate believers and shall be observed at the time or times designated by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Purpose. Membership serves the purpose of clarifying the desire and intent of a believer to identify with the local body of Christ known as Rolla Bible Church. Membership involves a certain commitment to and from other members of this local body of believers, including the responsibility to watch over one another in brotherly love, to pray for one another, to encourage one another, to humbly correct one another, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to be slow to take offence, and to regularly assemble with the local congregation. Membership allows the Elders to know who desires to be beneficiaries of the attention of the Elders as they carry out their responsibilities of praying, teaching, counseling, and disciplining

with respect to the local body of believers. Membership serves as a mutual commitment between the individual and the membership of the Church to help the local body grow to maturity in Christ by using the spiritual gifts of its members.

Section 2. Eligibility. Each candidate for membership shall give testimony in the presence of the Pastor and Elders of the candidate's salvation by grace through personally accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and shall further express agreement with the Statement of Faith and the Constitution of Rolla Bible Church.

Section 3. Inactive Membership. Membership may be changed to inactive status with voting privileges suspended if a member has willfully failed to attend church at Rolla Bible Church for at least three (3) months in spite of contact or attempted contact by the church. The Pastor or his designee should attempt to contact a member who has not attended church for a month or more to encourage continued attendance and fellowship with this church or another assembly of believers. Inactive status will then be by request or by action of a majority of the Elder Board regarding circumstances deemed to be in accord with the principles and best interests of the church. The Elders shall be guided by the principles set forth in Scripture in dealing with such circumstances.

Section 4. Termination. Membership may be terminated either:

- A. By request or by action of the elders for conduct that is not in accord with the principles and best interests of the church. The elders shall be guided by the principles set forth in Scripture in dealing with such conduct.
- B. If a member becomes a member of another church.
- C. If a member has willfully failed to attend church at Rolla Bible Church for at least one (1) year in spite of contact or attempted contact by the church. The Pastor or his designee should attempt to contact a member who has not attended church for a month or more to encourage continued attendance and fellowship with this church or another assembly of believers.

## **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS**

The officers of Rolla Bible Church shall consist of the following: Pastor, Elders, Deacons (also known as Trustees), Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Church Clerk. The Elders and the Deacons, with the Pastor, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. Pastor. It shall be the duty of the Pastor as “Shepherd of the Flock” to minister to the spiritual needs of the members , report to the Elders any material needs of persons for possible assistance by the church, and to perform such other duties as are included in a pastorate. He shall be ex officio member of all committees. A report shall be submitted by the Pastor at all regular business meetings of the church. No man shall serve as Pastor who does not heartily agree with doctrinal position and the Constitution of the church.

Section 2. Elders. The Elders shall have especially the care of the spiritual welfare of the church and all the branches thereof, such as Sunday school, etc. They shall assist in the administration of the Memorial Supper, Baptism, etc., and shall have the matter of discipline in their charge as provided for in the Constitution. They shall perform such as the Word of God prescribes. 1 Tim. 3:1-16; Titus 1:5-11; etc.

Section 3. Deacons. The Deacons shall take up the offerings and shall be entrusted with the financial matters of the church, such as acquiring and maintaining the physical properties of the church. They shall sign notes and other documents in behalf of the church when authorized to do so. A report shall be made at the regular business meetings of the church. A custodian appointed by the Executive Committee shall have charge of the deeds and other valuable papers of the church. One of the Deacons may be chosen by the church to serve as Financial Secretary.

Section 4. Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold and disburse church funds as directed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make a report at the quarterly and annual business meetings of the church. The Treasurer shall submit the record books for an annual audit in such manner as may be directed by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be elected for one year at a time.

Section 5. Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record of all financial receipts and disbursements and shall also assist the Church clerk. The Financial Secretary shall be elected for one year at a time.

Section 6. Church Clerk. The Church Clerk shall keep a record of the minutes of all business meeting of the church. The Church Clerk shall be custodian of the membership list, keeping an accurate list of all addition and removals and shall discharge other duties usually devolving upon this office. The Church clerk shall be elected for one year at a time.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **SELECTION AND TENURE**

In the selection of a Pastor, the Elders shall serve as a Pulpit Committee. The Pastor shall be chosen by the voting membership, upon the recommendation of the elders, a two-thirds (2/3) majority being necessary. The pastoral relationship may be terminated at the option of the either the Pastor or the Executive Committee after reasonable notice or by mutual consent. Other members of the Executive Committee may be chosen by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership. Each Elder shall be chosen in accordance with Biblical qualifications for Elders and shall serve for a term of three (3) years. The terms of the Elders shall be staggered so that each year the terms of approximately one-third of the elders expire. Each Deacon shall be chosen in accordance with the Biblical qualifications for Deacons and shall serve for a term of three (3) years. The terms of the Deacons shall be staggered so that each year the terms of approximately one-third of the deacons expire. Any member of the Executive Committee absent from three (3) meetings of the Committee in succession, without proper excuse, shall be deemed to have disqualified himself from continuing in office.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The elders and three members from the church at large to be elected by the church at the Third Quarterly Meeting Shall constitute the Nominating Committee. This shall be a standing committee to serve for one (1) year. This Nominating Committee shall submit one or more names for each of the following offices:

- 1 Elder for 3 years
- 1 Deacon for 3 years
- 1 Deaconess for 3 years
- 1 Treasurer for 1 year
- 1 Financial Secretary for 1 year
- 1 Church Clerk for 1 year
- 1 General Sunday School Superintendent for 1 year
- 1 Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for 1 year
- 1 Youth Director for 1 year
- 1 Assistant Youth Director for 1 year
- 1 Head Usher for 1 year
- 1 Assistant Head Usher for 1 year
- 1 Music Director for 1 year

Only members shall be nominated unless the Elders for good cause waive the requirement of membership with respect to a particular nominee for a specific office. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate persons to fill vacancies occurring through the year. The Nominating Committee shall give prayerful diligence in its efforts to secure and place in nominating only persons who give satisfactory evidence in testimony and daily conduct that they meet the Scriptural qualifications to fill the office to which they are nominated as set forth in Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9. In the event that there is no qualified person to fill one of the positions listed above, the Nominating Committee shall communicate this to the Executive Board, which shall determine whether to leave that position vacant or combine it with another until such time as a qualified person becomes available.

Any member of the church shall have the privilege of submitting or suggesting to the Nominating Committee the name or names of persons whom they desire to have considered as possible nominees. However, these suggestions must be in the hands of the committee at least two (2) weeks prior to the business meeting in which the election is to take place. No nominations shall be made from the floor at the business meeting.

## **ARTICLE X VOTE OF CONFIDENCE**

A vote of confidence as to services of the pastor may be taken whenever this is deemed necessary. The vote of confidence shall be by secret ballot. The ballots shall be delivered immediately to the Chairman of the Executive Committee and shall be kept in confidence by the members of the Committee. Appropriate action, based on the results of the vote, may then be taken by the Pastor and/or Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI CHURCH PROPERTY**

All property belonging to the church shall remain intact. Members severing their connections with the church, for whatever reason or reasons, relinquish all claims to its property. In case of a division of the church, the church property shall revert to that group that adheres to this Constitution.

Dissolutionment Clause: No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to benefit of any donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation or any private individual; and no donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal

Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

## **ARTICLE XII BUSINESS MEETINGS**

The church shall meet in regular quarterly business meetings preferably in January, April, July, and October, the exact time to be set by the Executive Committee. Officers of Rolla Bible Church shall be elected in the meeting usually scheduled for October so as to be ready to assume office on January 1 of the following year. Special meetings of the church may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee; or by the Pastor; or by ten (10) members of the church. Notice of such specially called meeting shall be given at least ten (10) days including two (2) Sundays prior to the convening of such meeting. Reasonable effort shall be made to notify the entire membership.

## **ARTICLE XIII QUORUM**

At least thirty (30) percent of the voting members shall be required to constitute a quorum at any business meeting of the church.

## **ARTICLE XIV AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

The Sunday School and/or other educational programs of the Rolla Bible Church shall be under the direct supervision of an Educational Committee. This committee shall consist of the Elders, the Pastor, the General Sunday School Superintendent, and Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.

## **ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended at any quarterly business meeting under the following conditions: the proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to a quarterly business meeting not less than three (3) months prior to the meeting at which the vote on the proposed amendment is to be taken. It shall be announced at the morning service on at least three (3) Sundays prior to the balloting. A two-thirds (2/3) or more majority of votes shall be required for adoption of the amendment.

## **ARTICLE XVI DEACONESSES**

There shall be a Board of Deaconesses to serve under the direction and authority of the Executive Committee. Each Deaconess shall be chosen in accordance with Biblical qualifications and shall serve for a term of three (3) years. The terms of the Deaconesses shall be staggered so that each year the terms of approximately one-third of the Deaconesses expire. The Board of Deaconesses shall in serve in such areas as:

1. Preparing the elements for the Communion Service.
2. Arranging for and serving meals and refreshments at the social functions of the church.
3. Supervising the Nursery.
4. Promoting the comfort and welfare of mothers and children in attendance at the various services and activities of the church.
5. Promoting in every way possible the spiritual and physical welfare of the church.

## **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior (Mark 1:15; Acts 16:31), we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully submit to one another and covenant together as one body in Christ (Eph. 5:21; Rom 12:5).

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love (Rom. 13:8) as is fitting for our calling (Eph. 4:1); to use our spiritual gifts to build each other up (Rom. 14:19) with the Word of God (Col. 3:16), by exhorting, admonishing, encouraging, and helping one another as the occasion may require (1 Thess. 5:14); to work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3); and to rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows (Rom 12:15; Gal 6:2);

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love (Rom 12:10); to restore those caught in sin (Gal. 6:1); to remember each other in prayer (Eph. 6:18); to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling (Eph. 4:2) and courtesy in speech (Eph. 4:29); to be slow to take offense (James 1:19), but always ready for reconciliation (Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:32), and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-17).

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to encourage one another toward love and good deeds (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24-25). We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church (Eph. 4:12), as we sustain its worship,

ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations (1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 9:6-7).

We will seek to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:12), and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life (Rom. 6:3-4).

We will endeavor to bring up those who may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family and friends (Eph. 6:4; Matt. 5:16).

We moreover engage that, when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word (Heb. 10:25).