

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We the members of Yankee Springs Bible Church in framing this constitution do seek to establish it as a guide to further the Lords work both at home and abroad. Setting forth the articles as directions to accomplish this goal, our intention in formulating these articles is to bring each one into use or practice as is practical, without hindering our ultimate purpose of glorifying the Lord and limiting our ability to function. For example a specific number of persons may be stated for board members, but should there be insufficient qualified persons to fulfill that number, the board may function as a full board by congregational consent.

ARTICLE I NAME:

The name of this church shall be: **YANKEE SPRINGS BIBLE CHURCH**

ARTICLE II PURPOSE:

To provide a fellowship for persons who have been justified by faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross and regenerated by the Spirit, who desire to worship and serve God in spirit and in truth. Our aim shall be to live for the glory of God, the salvation of lost sinners, and the edification of those justified by faith in Christ, at home and abroad.

ARTICLE III STATUS OR AFFILIATION:

This church shall be and remain Independent. It shall not be now nor any time hereafter under any authority of denomination, federation of denominations, federal council of denominations, conferences, or conventions. This church will seek fellowship with all those who uphold the fundamentals of the faith and who honor Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of all who come unto Him.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Reception

- A. All persons desiring to unite with this church shall be examined by the Executive Council at a regular or special meeting as to their Christian experience and the basis of their salvation. The Pastor shall review the doctrinal statement of the church with such applicants and request their signature thereto before their application for membership is considered by the Executive Council.
- B. Applicants for membership whose examination is satisfactory will be recommended to the congregation for membership at any regular Sunday Service or congregational meeting. Approval of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present will be required for acceptance.

Section 2 Discipline

- A. It shall be within the province of the Executive Council with the Pastor to order a review of the church membership whenever they deem it necessary. At this time members who show indifferences toward the life and work of the church shall be interviewed for the purpose of remedying any weaknesses in their Christian lives. Any members who fail to be restored, manifest flagrant sin, wrong attitudes, or indifferences toward the church's doctrinal standards shall be dealt with and may be dropped from membership at the discretion of the Executive Council with final approval by the membership.

Section 3 Erasing from the Roll

- A. The name of any member who shall be absent from the services of the church for a period of twelve (12) months, without giving satisfactory reason for such absence will be erased from the

roll of membership.

Section 4 Active Members

- A. Active members who have reached the age of eighteen (18) and are walking in obedience to the doctrines of the Word of God are eligible to vote in church matters. For quorum purposes those members who have taken residence away from the area for reason; e.g. school, military or temporary job placements shall be considered INACTIVE members.

ARTICLE V GOVERNMENT

Section 1 Authority

- A. The government of this church is vested in its membership, executed through its Executive Council. No more than two members of any family shall serve at one time on any board.

Section 2 Executive Council

- A. The Executive Council shall consist of the pastor, elders and deacons of the church or trustees.
- B. It shall be responsible for all business of the church except when congregational meetings are in session including:
1. Examination of candidates for membership
 2. Appropriation of all monies (except expenditures in excess of \$1000.00 which must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the congregation.)
 3. Supervision of all sub-organizations.
 4. Shall meet as time and need warrants.
 5. Shall have the responsibility of all discipline within the membership of the church.
 6. Shall act as a nominating committee with the assistance of any member(s) it chooses and make recommendations to the membership as to qualified people to fill needed offices. These recommendations should be posted two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting. Any member shall have the right to submit any eligible person to the committee for consideration providing that:
 - a. Nomination of a person is approved by Nominating Committee
 - b. Person so nominated has been contacted four (4) weeks before the Annual meeting.
 - c. The person must be willing to serve in that position
 - d. There is a second to the nomination.
 7. Minutes shall be taken at all Executive Council meetings and published within 10 business days.
- C. The Pastor, if he desires, shall chair the Executive Council Meetings. If he is absent or does not desire to act as chairman, the chairman shall be elected from the Executive Council.

Section 3 Congregational Meetings.

- A. The members shall hold two meetings annually. These meetings will consist of annual written reports from all department heads, election of officers, review of old business, and consideration of new business. Written reports will become part of the minutes of these meetings. Robert's Rule of Order shall govern these meetings. One third (1 /3) of the

Present Active membership shall constitute a quorum.

- B. Additional meetings can be called by the Executive Committee, the pastor, or any five members. Business can be transacted at the close of any regular service with notice given at all regular services one week prior to such meeting.

Section 4 Terms of Office

- A. The Pastor shall serve an indefinite term of office.
- B. The Elders and Deacons or Trustees shall serve three (3) years on a rotating basis.
- C. All other officers shall be elected or appointed for one (1) year. They may succeed themselves.

Section 5 Qualification of Officers

- A. All officers must be members of the church, shall be required to subscribe to the statements of doctrine contained in the constitution and shall give evidence by life and testimony of being born again. Separation from world alliances, such as secret orders and a moral conduct beyond reproach will be expected of all officers. James 4:4; I Cor. 6:14-7:1

Section 6 Selection and Duties of Officers

A. Pastor

- 1. Selection:
 - a. Upon the need of the selection of a pastor potential candidates shall be heard at least two Sundays and selection shall be made from these. If possible the potential candidate could be heard in his present pulpit. The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time, with reciprocal rights to terminate his service upon three (3) months notice.
 - b. No man shall be heard as a candidate until he has given written consent to the entire Constitution and Doctrinal Statement, and has been examined by the Executive Council.
 - c. After candidates have been heard for a call, the Executive Council shall call the congregation together for prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and recommend one man to be heard again. The candidate shall then be voted upon prior to calling a vote on another candidate. Election shall take place at a meeting especially called for that purpose. Voting shall be by ballot and two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be necessary for a choice.
- 2. Authority:
 - a. The Pastor shall have the authority to chair all congregational and Executive Council meetings. If he desires not to chair or in his absence, the Executive Council will choose a Chairman for the congregational and Executive Council meetings;
- 3. Duties:
 - a. The Pastor shall have the oversight of all sub-organizations.
 - b. The Pastor shall preach and teach the Word of God.
 - c. The Pastor shall seek to advise and guide the spiritual lives of all the members.
 - d. The Pastor shall fulfill those duties incumbent upon his office as defined by the congregation.
 - 1. These duties shall be determine by a vote at one of the annual

congregational meetings or any special congregational meeting called.

B. Elders

1. Selection
 - a. Elders shall be recognized by majority vote of the congregation at its annual meeting after being determined by the Council that they exhibit the characteristics of an elder as described in I Timothy 3 :1-7
2. Duties
 - a. The Elders constitute the spiritual advisors of the church, along with the pastor, and shall have at heart the spiritual welfare of the members.
 - b. The Elders shall assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper.
 - c. The Elders shall visit the sick and delinquent members. They shall confidentially counsel with the Pastor on any problem of pastoral relations that may arise.

C. Deacons/Trustees

1. Selection
 - a. Three or more Deacons/Trustees shall be recognized by a majority vote of the congregation.
 - b. Each shall serve a three (3) year term with no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
2. Duties
 - a. The Deacons/Trustees shall have charge of the property of the church, and shall be responsible for the upkeep and repair of the property, but shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber the property without the consent of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose.
 - b. In the absence of Elders the Deacons/Trustees shall assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

D. Clerk

1. Selection
 - a. Shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership or by appointment of the Executive Council if necessary, until a new Clerk can be elected.
2. Duties
 - a. Shall record minutes of all Congregational meetings.
 - b. Shall maintain records of all minutes.
 - c. Shall maintain record of church membership.

E. Treasurers (Incoming and Outgoing)

1. Selection
 - a. Treasurers shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership or by appointment of the Executive Council if necessary, until a new Treasuer can be elected.
2. Duties
 - a. Counts the money each week.
 - b. Provides receipts to those who request a receipt.
 - c. Will keep a record of those who have given money by check or in envelopes and give statements to each at the end of the year.
 - d. Will keep an account of all monies.
 - e. Record the amount that will be banked.

- f. Will make payments of all obligations incurred by the church by check.
- g. Prepare and distribute a written statement at the Annual Meeting.

F. Sunday School Superintendent

1. Selection

- a. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership or appointed by the Executive Council if necessary until a Sunday School Superintendent can be elected.

2. Duties:

- a. The Sunday School Superintendent shall direct the program of the Sunday school under the supervision of the Pastor and Executive Council and oversee the general well being of the Sunday school.
- b. The Sunday School Superintendent shall have the authority to ask for help and relegate duties to others and shall be responsible for seeing that a substitute is provided for an absent teacher.
- c. The Sunday School Superintendent shall be responsible for ordering or authorizing orders of Sunday school material.
- d. The Sunday School Superintendent shall recruit needed teachers and advise the Executive Council of the recommendations.
- e. The Sunday School Superintendent shall see that both Sunday School attendance and offering are counted and put in a permanent record.

G. Sunday School Teachers.

1. Selection

- a. Sunday School Teacher shall be appointed by the Sunday School Superintendent with advisement and approval of the Pastor and/or Executive Council.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- a. Sunday School Teachers will be under the supervision of the Superintendent and be responsible to report to the Superintendent any problems concerning material, discipline, supplies, etc.
- b. Sunday School Teachers shall make every effort to come to all teachers meetings.
- c. Teachers will make an effort to contact absentees as needed.
- d. Teachers will contact the Superintendent as soon as possible so that a substitute may be secured.
- e. Teachers may provide suggestions as to Sunday school improvements to the Superintendent.

H. Other Offices

- 1. Other offices may be added, such as Head Usher, President of Young Peoples, President of Mission Society, Chairman of Music, etc. As need arises, these offices can be added at the discretion of the Executive Council and approval of the congregation. Responsibilities of such offices will be written and become part of this section of the Constitution.

I. Removal from Office

- 1. Any Pastor, officer, or staff is subject to removal from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Church Council. The accusation will be considered within accordance to 1st Timothy 5:19. "Against an elder receive not an accusation but before two or three witnesses." A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the congregation

present at any properly called business meeting is necessary to uphold the decision of the Church Council.

J. Subsidiary Organizations

1. No subsidiary organization in affiliation with this church shall exist apart from the authorization of this church. When the need for the formation of any given organization becomes apparent, appeal may be made to the church body for authority to form such an organization. The said organization in turn shall be held accountable to the church as to all phases of its operation. The officers or leaders of said organization shall be members of the church and shall be required to present annual reports of functions and finances to the congregation.

ARTICLE VI ORDINANCES

Section 1 The Lord's Supper

- A. The Lord's Supper shall be observed the first Sunday of each quarter (or as designated otherwise). This Communion shall be open to all members and to visitors who are born-again believers in Christ as Savior.

Section 2 Baptism

- A. Baptismal services shall be held according to need determined by the Pastor and/or the Executive Committee. Baptism shall not be required for membership.

ARTICLE VII FINANCES

This church shall be financed by the offerings presented at any regular or special meetings, without assessments, pledges, or money-raising schemes, such as suppers, bazaars, rummage sales, or the like. Monies of this organization shall not be used to support any individual (s) and/or organizations who do not seek to confine themselves to the establishment and support of local churches which adhere to the Doctrinal Statement of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII POWER TO ORDAIN

It shall be within the power of this church to ordain into the Gospel Ministry those men whom God has called and equipped. It shall have the authority, by vote of the congregation, to call ordination councils and issue proper credentials. The ordaining council shall convene to thoroughly examine all candidates for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service and handling the Word of God.