

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF LITTLE FLOCK FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this church shall be Little Flock Fellowship Church, of Ashland, Ohio.

ARTICLE II

COVENANT

The covenant by which this church exists as a distinct body, and which every member accepts, is as follows:

Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Savior and Lord, and submitting to the authority of the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship, the observance of Christian ordinances, the public worship of God, and the advancement of His church on earth, we do now, in the sight of God and invoking His blessing, solemnly covenant and agree with each other to associate ourselves as a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to maintain the teaching and the preaching of the Word of God, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the church and to walk together in brotherly love.

This we do depending on the aid of our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ who has redeemed us with His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide.

ARTICLE III

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The "Statement of Faith" which this church shall embrace, preach, and defend, is specifically set forth as follows:

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19).
2. We believe the Bible to be fully and uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it is the only authoritative, inerrant and infallible Word of God (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21).
3. We believe in the eternity and deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, inerrant teaching substitutionary death and atonement, bodily resurrection, ascension to the right hand of the Father and coming again (Matt. 1:18-23; Lk. 24:36-43; John 1:1-3; Acts 1:1-11; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:14-16).
4. We believe that man, created in the image of God, was tempted by Satan and fell, and because of his consequent spiritual death, requires regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation (Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 3:1-24; John 3:3-5; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-4).
5. We believe that salvation consists in the remission of sins, the imputation of Christ's righteousness, and the gift of eternal life, received by faith alone, apart from works, and that all true believers, once saved, are kept by God's power, secure in Christ forever, and assured of

their salvation through the testimony of God's Word (Tit. 3:5-7; John 6:37-40; I John 5:11-13).

6. We believe in the personal ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who, at the moment of regeneration, baptizes, indwells, and seals each believer, and by whose filling empowers for Christian life and service (John 16:7-15; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:18ff.).
7. We believe that the one true Church, the Body and the Bride of Christ, is composed of all true believers of this present age, and is organized on the basis of local, autonomous churches, for the purpose of worship, edification and worldwide Gospel witness (Eph. 1:22,23; 4:11-16; 5:25-32; Matt. 28:19,20).
8. We believe in consistent Christian character and conduct as an outgrowth and evidence of salvation, and that our responsibility is to set apart our lives for the set purpose and will of God, that we may honor our Savior, encourage the faithful, and testify to the lost (Eph. 2:10; I Cor. 6:19,20; Tit. 2:11-14).
9. We believe that the ordinances of the Church, given by our Lord Jesus Christ, are baptism of believers by immersion, and the Lord's supper, as celebrated by the bread and the cup (Matt. 28:19,20; I Cor. 11:23-26).
10. We believe that Satan personally exists as the great adversary of God and His people, and shall consequently suffer the eternal horrors of the lake of fire (Job 1:6,7; Rev. 12:1-10; Matt. 25:41).
11. We believe in the imminent, visible and personal return of Christ to remove His Church from the earth before the tribulation, and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (I Thess. 1:10; 4:16,17; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-20:6).
12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgement and everlasting punishment (John 5:28,29; Matt. 25:41).

We understand that the above articles of faith do not by any means exhaust the content of our creed, which is the whole Word of God, and they are not intended to set any limit beyond which faith may not go within the Word. But we do believe that insofar as these articles extend they are a true presentation of that sound doctrine taught in Scripture, and therefore binding upon us as Christian believers.

ARTICLE IV

CHARTER

Section 1. Authority.

1. The primary authority by which this church exists as an ecclesiastical body is received from God through the Holy Scriptures. The government of this church shall be conducted according to congregational form, with the final authority being vested in the body of believers who compose it and not subject to any other ecclesiastical body. However, the church does recognize the sustaining obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation with other churches of like faith, but these obligations are purely advisory and in no sense mandatory.

2. The secondary authority is by the laws of the State of Ohio under which it is incorporated.

Section 2. Property.

1. The title of the property of this church shall be vested in the corporate body of the church.

2. All property or assets owned by the local church and its auxiliaries shall be irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, and upon dissolution such property or assets shall

not inure to the benefit of any private citizen but shall revert to a religious organization which is a qualified tax exempt organization and which shall be selected by the members of the local church, or in the event of their failure to make such a selection, by The Judge of Court of general jurisdiction in the county where said church shall be located.

3. No church property or equipment may be borrowed or the facilities of this church used without consent of the Board of Elders-Overseers or the Pastor.

4. The congregation shall not authorize a debt or aggregation of debts in excess of three thousand and five hundred dollars (\$3500.00) except by a two-thirds vote of all members present at a regular or specially called business meeting.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications.

1. Any person who shall have confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is committed to Him as Savior and Lord, and who shall have publicly submitted to the authority of the Bible as the complete, final, inerrant, and inspired revelation of the Triune God to man, and who shall have been baptized by immersion, and who shall have consented to the covenants and provisions of this Constitution and by-laws, may formally become a member of this church.

2. Prospective members will be asked to attend new members class before formal induction into membership. The church may waive this requirement at the discretion of the Pastor or Board of Elders-Overseers.

Section 2. Duties.

Members are expected to be faithful in all spiritual duties essential to the Christian life, to participate in the communion ordinances, to be loyal to the church, to attend regularly its services, to contribute to its support and charities, and to share in its organized work.

Section 3. Privileges.

1. Only those members in good standing, sixteen years and older, are eligible to vote in all business sessions.

2. All members under sixteen years of age shall be called junior members. These shall not have voting privileges until they are recognized publicly as regular members through due process as stated in Section 1.

3. Any member who feels a dissatisfaction with the general procedure of any department of this church shall make known his case to the Pastor or Board of Elders-Overseers in writing. Such written grievance must be signed. If any grievance deals with a difficulty with another member of the church, Matthew 18:15-19 will form the basis of procedure.

4. All members shall agree not to pursue legal action or bring suit against the Pastors, Board of Elders-Overseers, Deacons, or church staff in connection with the performance of their official duties (I Cor. 6:1-8).

Section 4. Withdrawal.

1. A letter of recommendation may be granted, upon request, to any member in good standing by the Pastor and Board of Elders-Overseers. The member is considered released from membership on the date the letter is granted. The letter is null and void after six

months. A letter shall only be issued to another organized body of believers.

2. A member's name may be dropped from the roll upon written request of the member involved.

3. Withdrawal from membership will not constitute reason for discontinuance of Biblical discipline in process.

Section 5. Dismissal.

1. Should a member fail to perform his duties as outlined in Article V, Section 2, and due efforts by the proper officials of the church have failed to encourage his interest and after this condition has prevailed for one (1) year, his name may be dropped from the membership by action of the Pastor and Board of Elders-Overseers. Persons may be reinstated to membership by a public reaffirmation of faith.

2. Excommunication is the right and duty of this church in cases where members are in opposition to the doctrinal teaching of the Word of God as accepted and practiced by this church, or where members are found guilty of unscriptural conduct. All such cases shall first be investigated by the Pastor and Board of Elders-Overseers and the person shall be given due hearing. The Board of Elders-Overseers shall then recommend action to the church, and a two-thirds vote shall be required for excommunication. The basis of this procedure shall be in accordance with the Biblical guidelines of Matt. 18:15-19 and I Cor. 5:1-13.

3. It is to be understood that the ultimate goal of Biblical discipline is the restoration of the member to fellowship in the body of Christ (II Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1).

ARTICLE VI

GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Meetings.

1. An annual congregational meeting shall be held on a date set by the Board of Elders-Overseers when the annual reports shall be presented and such other business transacted as may properly come before the meeting. If such a meeting conflicts with dated spiritual activities, the Pastor may, by consent of the Board of Elders-Overseers, designate any other day of the month as the day in which such meetings shall be held.

2. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or the Board of Elders-Overseers. All business meetings shall be publicly announced in at least two regularly scheduled services.

3. The presence of 20 percent of the voting membership at any duly called business meeting shall constitute a quorum required for the transaction of business.

4. All congregational decisions require a majority vote unless otherwise specified in this constitution.

Section 2. Officers and Committees.

1. Pastor.

a. Call.

The initial call shall be for three years and subsequent calls shall be for two years. When a vacancy occurs, one candidate at a time shall be recommended to the church by the Board of Elders-Overseers, and a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose shall be necessary for his call.

b. Duties.

In addition to the responsibilities unique to the roll of the Elder-Overseer as listed in paragraph two of this Section, he shall provide leadership for the congregation and the Board of Elders-Overseers. He shall consider his primary responsibility that of edifying the saints in accord with Ephesians 4:11-16. In addition to preaching and teaching the Word of God, he will set a pattern of good works commensurate with his office. He shall be directly responsible for the selection, conduct, and dismissal of the staff in consultation with the Board of Elders-Overseers. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees of this church.

c. Termination

His leadership can be terminated voluntarily by the submission of a written resignation to the Board of Elders-Overseers and to the congregation at any regular service or business session. If the Pastor desires to cease his services with the congregation he shall give three months notice to the congregation and the congregation in case it desires to dispense with his services, will render him three months notice. Immorality, insubordination, or teaching contrary to Article III, the "Statement of Faith," shall be cause for immediate termination.

2. Elders-Oveseers.

a. Call.

The congregation shall elect its own elders-overseers according to the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Any member sensing God's call to this office may present himself to the Board of Elders-Overseers and, upon their recommendation, shall be submitted to the church for congregational election in accordance with the needs of the church.

b. Duties.

These elders-overseers shall be responsible for the oversight of all matters of church life and practice, and shall see that opportunity be given for regular schedules of public worship, prayer and observation of the Christian ordinances. The Board of Elders-Overseers shall serve as corporate officers of the church and will be responsible for moderating all congregational business meetings.

The Board of Elders-Overseers will submit to the congregation for election each year a sufficient number of names to provide a full complement to their Board. The number of elders-overseers will be commensurate to the size and growth of the church, but at no time will the Board be less than three members. Initially, the election of the board of Elders-Overseers shall be divided into one-thirds: one-third for a three-year term; one-third for a two-year term; and one-third for a one-year term. After the initial election, all terms shall be for three years.

A confirmation of the oversight of this Board shall be attested by:

(1) Congregational approval on pastor, elders-overseers, deacons and deaconesses, and all standing ministries and commissions.

(2) Congregational approval on all financial indebtedness and all salaries paid by the church.

(3) Congregational approval on any and all amendments to this Constitution.

(4) The Board may at any time request the voice of the congregation on matters of particular significance.

c. Termination.

An Elder-Overseer may terminate his office to the Board by a written resignation to the Board or Pastor. Immorality, insubordination or teaching contrary to Article III, the "Statement of Faith," shall be cause for immediate termination.

3. Deacons and Deaconesses.

a. Call.

Deacons and Deaconesses shall be chosen from the members of the church according to the qualifications of I Timothy 3:8-13. Recommendations for this office shall be submitted to the board of Elders-Overseers who will then present to the church those names approved for election. The number of Deacons and Deaconesses shall be determined by the immediate needs of the congregation. The term of service shall be for a period of three years.

b. Duties.

Their ministries shall be to assist the Board of Elders-Overseers in ministries of service as needed by the church.

c. Termination.

A Deacon or Deaconess may terminate his or her office by a written resignation to the Board of Elders-Overseers or Pastor. Immorality, insubordination, or teaching contrary to Article III, the "Statement of Faith," shall be cause for immediate termination.

4. Financial Secretary.

The Financial Secretary will be elected for a two year term by congregational vote at the annual election of officers. It will be his responsibility to oversee counting, recording and providing contributors a written receipt for funds given. He shall turn all moneys of the church over to the Treasurer and shall issue orders upon the Treasurer for such sums as directed by the church or any authorized person. He shall make full or partial report as often as requested to do so by the church and shall make a full report at each annual meeting.

5. Treasurer.

The Treasurer will be elected for a two year term by congregational vote at the annual election of officers. It will be his responsibility to keep separate accounts of all moneys paid to him by the Financial Secretary. All money received by him for the church shall be deposited in the name of the church in a bank selected and named by the church. Any checks of the church drawn on any bank or depository shall be valid when signed by the Treasurer upon the proper order from the Financial Secretary.

6. Recording Secretary.

The Recording Secretary will record the minutes of all church business meetings and provide copies of those minutes to the Pastor and Board of Elders-Overseers. He shall read these minutes for approval at the next following business meeting.

7. Moderator.

The Moderator of the church shall be the Vice-Moderator of the Board of Elders-Overseers. He shall be assisted by an Elder-Overseer selected from, and by, that board. His responsibilities shall be to preside at all business meetings of the congregation and to appoint such committees as are needed when special circumstances arise, in accordance with these by-laws.

8. Christian Ed. Director.

The Director of Christian Ed. will be elected by a congregational vote at the annual election of officers. It will be his responsibility to provide leadership for all departments of Christian Ed., which will include providing needed classes, appropriation of teachers and securing needed materials for classroom use. He shall work in consultation with the Pastor and Board of Elders-Overseers.

9. Requirements.

All officers and teachers of the church and its auxiliaries must be active members of this church in good standing, with the unity of the church body at heart.

10. Committees.

a. The Board of Elders-Overseers shall act as the Nominating Committee or appoint a Nominating Committee to supply names for the annual election as well as any vacancies which may occur. The Nominating Committee shall nominate willing and qualified candidates for each office with space for an additional name at non-pastoral, elder or diaconate offices.

b. Any other committee can be established for specific purpose and when purpose is completed, committee is dissolved.

c. All elected boards and committees shall form their own organization annually unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.

Section 3. Manner of Election.

The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Business Meeting. All officers shall be elected by ballot.

Section 4. Amendments.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members who are eligible to vote and present at any regular or special meeting, provided that a notice of at least ten days be given of such proposed amendment. Such notice must contain a copy of the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE VII

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

A written financial report detailing the preceding year's income and expenditures shall be reviewed by the church in a formal business meeting on an annual basis.

(Revised January 1995 by Congregational vote)

(Revised January 1998 by Congregational vote)

(Revised January 2004 by Congregational vote)