

*Constitution
&
By-Laws*



North Park Baptist Church

3365 Coit NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

(616) 364-9532

BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I Articles of Association

- Sec. A. Name and Location: The name of this organization shall be the North Park Baptist Church. It is located in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Sec. B. Incorporation and Polity
1. This church is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and is in fellowship with the Grand Rapids Association of Regular Baptist Churches, the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches and the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.
 2. All business procedure shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise indicated in these By-Laws.
 3. Government shall be vested in the members who shall elect their officers to administer their affairs.
- Sec. C. Object and Purpose:
1. Teach the Holy Scripture (Col. 2:6,7).
 2. Maintain divine worship and Christian fellowship.
 3. Administer the ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) of the church.
 4. Exercise a spiritual watch-care over each other and build one another in the Christian faith and encourage each other in holy living by observing the covenant of this church. (Refer to Article II, Sec. A-1, d and e)
 5. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world, making disciples (Matt. 28:19-20), baptizing and teaching those we reach to be obedient to Christ.
 6. Encourage families in their responsibility to provide education for their children which prepares them to be literate and Christian citizens (Deut. 6:6,7).

ARTICLE II

Membership

Sec. A. Requirements and Responsibilities for Membership

1. All members must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Give satisfactory evidence of having been born again of the Spirit of God to the deacons and to the congregation and of being willing followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - b. Be baptized (immersed) following salvation (new birth).
 - c. Accept the Bible as the final authority in all spiritual matters.
 - d. Subscribe to the Confession of Faith of the North Park Baptist Church.
 - e. Agree to walk in harmony with the covenant of this church.
2. Persons may be received into the membership of this church by baptism, by personal testimony of salvation and of Christian experience, by letter from a Baptist church of like convictions, or by restoration.
 - a. Persons requesting membership shall be present for introduction to the congregation one (1) week prior to being voted on.
 - b. During the interim between the candidate's introduction and voting time, members should notify the Board of Deacons of any reason why the prospective member might be disqualified.
 - c. On a mid-week evening following the candidate's introduction and (or) after receiving a letter of transfer, his/her name shall be presented to the church.
 - d. Upon receiving the majority vote of the voting members present, the candidate becomes a member.
 - e. New members will normally receive the hand of fellowship at the next regular service after acceptance.

Sec. B. Classification of Membership

The membership shall be classified as follows:

1. Voting and non-voting
 - a. Voting members are members in good standing, eighteen (18) or more years of age.

- (1) A member in good standing shall be defined as one whose attendance has been recorded in at least six services of the church (Morning, Sunday School, or Evening) during any three month period while living in the Grand Rapids area and who has no physical impairment which would prevent his/her attendance.
 - (2) After the respective Deacon has made a personal contact, the church clerk shall notify by letter any individual who has not met these minimum attendance requirements that they are being placed on the inactive list.
- b. Non-voting members are those less than eighteen (18) years of age, or those under discipline, or those placed on the inactive list as defined above.
2. Student watch-care
- a. Any student attending school in our area desiring watch-care membership for his own spiritual welfare may do so upon meeting the qualifications for membership.
 - b. They shall have all responsibilities and privileges as regular members except they may not hold elected church office.
 - c. Membership ceases upon conclusion of the student's schooling.

Sec. C. Dismissal from Membership

Members may be dismissed from membership by:

1. Letter of transfer
Members in good standing may be transferred by letter to other evangelical Baptist churches when so requested by the church.
2. Letter of commendation
Members may be given a letter vouching for their Christian character and good standing if so requested by other evangelical churches upon the member's desire to join said church.
3. Letter of dismissal
 - a. Members may be given a letter of dismissal if so requested by the member in order that said member may join a non-evangelical church.
 - b. Members shall be given a letter of dismissal by disciplinary action of the church for failure to perform Christian duty so defined by our By-laws. Such action may be taken at any duly called business meeting of the church.

- c. Inactive members shall be personally contacted by their respective deacon and shall be given a letter of dismissal if their attendance has not been recorded at any service of the church (Morning, Sunday School, or Evening) for any three month period while living in the Grand Rapids area and who have no physical impairment which would prevent their attendance.
 - d. Members who permanently relocate out of the Grand Rapids area shall be placed on the inactive list if not meeting the requirements of Article II, Sec. B 1. a. 1 and shall be given a letter of dismissal after a six month period.
4. Death
- Member's name shall be removed from the membership rolls by the church clerk upon the death of the member, without any church action.

Sec. D. Discipline of Church Membership

1. Private offenses

Members may be disciplined when they refuse reconciliation with a fellow member on a private offense. The disciplinary action of such offenses shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18:15-17.

2. Public offenses

A public offense is one in which a member's doctrine, Christian conduct or spirit of insubordination to the church and pastor is under question. In such case the deacons shall meet with the offending member and if repentance and correction is not forthcoming, then said member shall be given a written statement of charges and such charges shall be presented to the church membership for disciplinary action. Such action will take place at a quarterly or annual business meeting or at a specially called meeting if an emergency exists. (I Cor. 5:1-5, 11, 13; II Thess. 3:14-15; Gal. 6:1,2) (Refer to Article II Sec. C, 3-b)

Sec. E. Marriage and Divorce

This church maintains that marriage and the home are sacred institutions established by God, and in no wise does God will that they be altered, modified or disregarded by man. God ordained in the beginning and still intends today that the marriage relationship be a life-time contract not to be broken. (Matt. 19:3-8; Luke 16:14-18; I Cor. 7:11, 12, 39) At the same time, recognizing the increasing disregard for God's ordained laws on those matters both by believers and unbelievers, this church takes the following position in considering such cases:

1. Because of the many varied and complicated factors involved in marital irregularities, each case arising shall be considered in its particular light and in the light of the Scriptural teaching bearing on the particular case. It shall be the duty of the Board of Deacons to carefully, fairly, and prayerfully weigh all the circumstances involved, determining the teaching of God's Word, seeking the mind of the Lord and considering the welfare of the church.
2. When unbelievers, who are not submissive to the laws of God nor capable of understanding the things of the Spirit of God (Rom. 9:7, I Cor. 2:9-14), become involved in separations, divorces, or remarriages, and such persons are later converted, this church considers that their sin and guilt in the matter has been forgiven through the atoning blood of Christ, which covers sins of marital wrongs along with all other sins (Isa. 1:18; John 8:3-11; I Cor. 6:9-11, II Cor. 5:17, Eph. 5:3-9, Col. 3:5-10).
3. When two believers marry in the Lord, such a marriage should never normally have to terminate in separation or divorce. A marriage of this kind typifies the beautiful relationship of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:22, 23); it should also symbolize the highest moral and spiritual purity (Rom. 6:13; I Cor. 3:16, 17, 6:9-11, 19, 20; Eph. 5:3; I Thess. 4:3-5); and further, when problems or difficulties do beset such a marriage resulting in divorce, this church considers that there is divine provision for pardon, correction and reconciliation with God and the church through repentance and confession of sin and subsequent restoration of fellowship. (I Cor. 10:13; Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 3:12-14; I John 1:9).

4. Persons who have been a party to divorce may not hold elective church offices. Such persons, however, shall be encouraged to fellowship and be permitted to share in such capacities as would not be hurtful to the welfare or testimony of the church.

ARTICLE III Pastoral Staff

Sec. A. Pastor

1. Calling the Pastor
 - a. The pastor of this church must meet the qualifications of I Tim. 3 and Titus 1:6-9. If by death, resignation, or removal the pastorate shall become vacant, a successor shall be chosen by the church from pulpit supplies furnished through the efforts of a pulpit committee. The pulpit committee shall consist of five members and shall be selected by the Deacon Board of their own number. The chairman of the Deacon Board shall serve as an ex officio member of the pulpit committee. The pulpit committee shall serve until the completion of their work and the calling of a pastor.
 - b. Election notice for a new pastor shall be read at two (2) regular Sunday morning and evening services preceding such election. (Refer to Article VII, Sec. H and I)
 - c. A minimum of two-thirds (2/3) vote (of all votes by members present and including absentee ballots) shall be required to elect a new pastor at a properly called meeting for that purpose. Voting will be by secret ballot. (Refer to Article IV, Sec. L)
2. Duties of a Pastor
 - a. As the undershepherd for this flock, he shall preach the Word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. (II Tim. 4:2, I Pet. 5:1-4)
 - b. He shall visit the sick and minister to the spiritual needs of the individual members.
 - c. He shall oversee the ministration of the ordinances.
 - d. He shall have the privilege of moderating all congregational business meetings and board meetings and shall be a member ex officio of all boards and committees.

- e. He shall submit a written report to the congregation at the annual business meeting.
 - f. He, with the chairman of the Board of Deacons, shall review the condition of the church clerk's records prior to the annual meeting.
3. Severing of Pastoral Relationships
- a. In the event the pastor desires to resign his office or the church body desires to sever its relationship with the pastor, at least a thirty (30) day notice shall be given, except for moral grounds when an immediate suspension shall be affected. Salary and all benefits will continue for the thirty (30) day period.
 - b. In the event there are serious accusations against the pastor, these shall be submitted to the deacons and shall not be considered unless supported by the testimony of two (2) or three (3) witnesses (I Tim. 5:19). If he errs in doctrine or conduct, the deacons shall, in brotherly love, attempt to correct him. (Gal. 6:1) If this is not effective, the matter shall be referred to the church body which alone has the authority to act.
 - c. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by ballot (of all votes of members present including absentee ballots) shall be required at a properly called business meeting for a pastor's removal. (Refer to Article VII, Sec. H and I) Voting shall be by secret ballot. (Refer to Article IV, Sec. L) The chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside at the special business meeting.

Sec. B. Associate Pastors

1. Calling of the Associate Pastor
- Associate pastors will be called according to need as determined by the pastor and the deacons, and as confirmed by the congregation. A prospective associate shall be interviewed by the pastor and the deacons and upon favorable response shall be presented to the church for a call. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote (of all votes by members present and including absentee ballots) shall be required.
2. Duties of an Associate
- The duties of an associate shall be carefully outlined by the pastor and board in a job description relating to the particular phase of the ministry to which he is called. His personal

qualifications shall be the same as for the pastor. (I Tim. 3 and Titus 1:6-9)

3. Termination of Associate's Ministry

- a. In the event an associate desires to resign his office or the church body desires to sever its relationship with an associate, at least a thirty (30) day notice shall be given, except for moral grounds when an immediate suspension shall be affected. Salary and all benefits will continue for the thirty (30) day period.
- b. In the event there are serious accusations against the associate pastor, these shall be submitted to the deacons and shall not be considered unless supported by the testimony of two (2) or three (3) witnesses (I Tim. 5:19). If he errs in doctrine or conduct, the deacons shall, in brotherly love, attempt to correct him. (Gal. 6:1). If this is not effective, the matter shall be referred to the church body which alone has the authority to act.
- c. A two-thirds (2/3) vote by ballot (of all votes by members present and including absentee ballots) shall be required at a properly called business meeting for an associate pastor's removal. (Refer to Article VII, Sec. H and I) Voting shall be by secret ballot. (Refer to Article IV, Sec. L) The chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside at the special business meeting.

ARTICLE IV
Officers and Church Government

Sec. A. The officers of the church shall consist of pastor(s), deacons, treasurer, and church clerk. Other offices may be created by congregational vote as may be deemed necessary. No person may hold more than two (2) major offices at one time.

Sec. B. Pastors
Refer to Article III

Sec. C. Deacons

1. As availability of spiritually qualified men may permit, the church shall elect from its membership twelve (12) or more men to serve as deacons. These men and the pastors shall

constitute the church board. A deacon shall be chosen for each additional fifty (50) members above three hundred (300).

2. The qualifications for deacon shall be such as are prescribed and set forth in the New Testament. (Acts 6:3, I Tim. 3:8-13) (Refer to Article IV, Sec. H)
3. The tenure of office for deacon shall be three (3) years and arranged to end sequentially. One-third (1/3) of the deacons shall be elected annually. No deacon shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms (one-half [1/2] or more of a term is considered a full term).
4. Deacons shall at their first meeting after the annual election select from within their own group a chairman and a clerk. Three (3) deacons shall be appointed to serve as deacon-trustees of the church. The deacons shall appoint the chairmen of the standing committees and approve all other recommended committee appointments. One member on each committee shall be a deacon.
5. The chairman of the Board of Deacons shall conduct business meetings of the church in the absence of the pastor or in the event the church is without a pastor. He shall act as treasurer of the benevolent fund with authority to request funds for benevolent purposes. He shall assume responsibility for the regular functions of the deaconesses and help in the organization of their group after the annual meeting. He shall appoint and instruct the deacons in their responsibilities in helping with baptisms and communion.
6. It shall be the duty of the deacons to:
 - a. Be responsible for preparation of the elements and table for the Lord's Supper and assist in serving the same.
 - b. Examine all candidates for church membership and recommend to the church those they consider eligible for membership. (Refer to Article II, Sec. A)
 - c. Assist the pastor in administering baptism.
 - d. Have charge of all matters of discipline of the members of the church. (Refer to Article II, Sec. D)
 - e. Assist the pastor in the oversight of the church and act as guardians of its purity and piety.
 - f. In the absence of the pastor they shall be responsible for the services of the church and provide for pulpit supplies.

- g. They shall have charge of ministering to the sick and needy members and of whatever temporal affairs may require attention.
7. It shall be the duty of the deacon-trustee to:
- a. Keep a faithful record of any important work, acts, or transactions performed by the body.
 - b. Care for the property of the church: hold, repair, and preserve the same including the hiring and supervision of custodians and superintend any improvements.
 - c. They shall, after consultation with the board and pastor, employ a church secretary.
 - d. Act as legal representatives and perform such business concerns of the church as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the church. The deacon-trustees are at all times the servants of the church and subject to its corporate action.
 - e. They shall not have authority to sell, lease, mortgage or encumber, give away or dispose of church property in any manner to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) in value, except as the church shall order the same by corporate act.
 - f. They shall bond all financial officers of the church.
 - g. They shall be responsible for the counting and banking of church funds and presentation of a deposit voucher to the treasurer.
 - h. Under church direction they shall provide for the raising of church finances on the basis of free-will offerings which shall be placed in the general fund from which budgeted amounts shall be drawn.
 - i. They shall present a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year at the annual meeting for approval or disapproval. The budget may be changed at any regular quarterly business meeting.

Sec. D. Church Treasurer

- 1. Deacons shall at their first meeting after the annual election select from within their own group the church treasurer.
- 2. He shall keep a true and fair record of accounts and make a full report to the church at each quarterly and annual meeting and when otherwise directed by the church.
- 3. He shall make a monthly statement of all accounts to the church board.

4. He shall receive vouchers for all funds of the church including Bible School.
5. He shall pay out such funds as directed by the church board and treasurer of the benevolent fund.
6. Assistants to the treasurer may be appointed by the church board to assist the treasurer in the proper maintenance of accounts.

Sec. E. Church Clerk

1. At each annual meeting the church shall elect from its membership a clerk.
2. The clerk shall keep a fair and complete record of the proceedings of the church and charge of all its records, notification by letter of placement on the inactive list, letters of dismissal, secret ballots, give notice of church business meetings, announce the offices to be filled at an annual meeting and perform other particular duties as may be prescribed by the church.
3. The clerk shall be the custodian of all church records except those of the treasurer and church board.
4. Shall prepare and submit a statistical report for the annual meeting.

Sec. F. Deaconesses

1. Deaconesses shall be the wives of the current deacons.
2. Under the supervision of the chairman of the Deacon Board, the deaconesses shall appoint from their number a chairman.
3. They shall call on the sick, prepare the elements of the Lord's Table, assist in the baptism of women and children and any other related duties.

Sec. G. Qualifications of Church Officers

Election and continuing service of officers shall be governed by the following rules:

1. All officers shall have been members in good and regular standing for not less than one year.
2. Deacons shall be male members and shall meet the qualifications of I Tim. 3 with attention called to Titus 2 and II Tim. 2:24-26.

3. All officers shall live an exemplary Christian life before the world and the family of God, abstaining from every appearance of evil and worldly habit. I Thess. 5:22; I John 2:15, 16.
4. Due consideration shall be given to talents, gifts and abilities in view of the requirements of the various offices.
5. So as not to grieve or quench the activity of the Holy Spirit, it shall be *expected that sobriety* and reverence shall characterize each officer's life. It shall be understood that hypocrisy, indulgence in worldly practices, unchristian decorum and doctrinal defection disqualifies an individual from continuing in office. Eph. 4:14, 24-32; 5:8-11; I John 1:6-9; 2:4-6, 28; 5:4; I Tim. 2:8-10; I Tim. 3:8-13; II Tim. 2:4-6; Titus 1:16; 2:11-14.
6. Failure to maintain these standards will, after pastoral counsel, result in disciplinary action and removal from office by the Board of Deacons.

Sec. H. Terms of Office

1. The tenure of office shall be three (3) years for deacons as outlined in Sec. C - 3 of this article and one (1) year for treasurer, church clerk, and all other non-board offices.
2. No one shall hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms or more than seven (7) consecutive one (1) year terms. (One-half [$\frac{1}{2}$] or more of a term is considered a full term.)

Sec. I. Election of Church Officers

1. The church board at its regular organizational meeting shall appoint out of their own number a committee of three (3) to serve as a nominating committee for the ensuing year.
2. The nominating committee shall prepare a list of at least one (1) qualified nominee for each office to be filled and post it three (3) weeks prior to the annual election in a conspicuous place in the church and/or printed in the church bulletin. Additional names may be presented to the nominating committee up to one (1) week prior to the election. No nominations will be received from the floor.
3. The moderator of the annual election shall appoint not less than three (3) tellers to serve during the election.

4. Voting is to be done by ballot, using ballots previously prepared under the direction of the nominating committee, bearing the names of candidates approved by the committee.
5. A majority vote of qualified voting members present and voting shall be required for election.

Sec. J. Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots (regular ballots plainly marked in ink "Absentee") shall be furnished by the church clerk only upon request to voting members who are unable to attend any regular or properly called business meeting because of illness, regular employment with conflicting hours, extended vacations or because they are invalids. Voters qualifying and requesting an absentee ballot will receive such ballot from the clerk, mark it, place it in a plain envelope, seal it and return it immediately to the clerk. Only one (1) ballot may be in each such envelope. The clerk will hold all such absentee ballots till the election, place the ballots in the hands of the election tellers who will count such absentee ballots with the rest of the ballots. The clerk shall keep a record of the names of absentee voters.

Sec. K. Secret Ballots

All secret ballots will be kept by the church clerk in a properly marked sealed envelope for a period of two (2) years and then shall be destroyed.

ARTICLE V
Departments of the Church

Sec. A. Church Organizations and their Reports

1. All church organizations must be approved by the Board of Deacons.
2. All departments of the church shall submit written reports for the annual business meeting.

Sec. B. Sunday School Teachers and Department Officials

1. Department officers and teachers of the Sunday School shall be subject to the same qualifications as officers of the church, other than deacon. (Refer to Article IV. Sec. H)
2. Sunday School teachers shall be appointed by the minister of Christian Education and approved by the Christian Education Committee and Deacon Board.

ARTICLE VI
Standing Committees

Sec. A. Nominating Committee

Refer to Article IV, Sec. I-1 and I-2.

Sec. B. Pulpit Committee

Refer to Article III, Sec. A-1

Sec. C. Standing Committees

1. All standing committee members are appointed by the chairmen of their respective committees subject to approval by the Board. (Refer to Article IV, Sec. C-4)
2. Evangelism Committee
 - a. This committee shall consist of the pastors, chairman of the Deacon Board, and two (2) members appointed by the Board from the membership at large. The senior pastor is to be the chairman.
 - b. It shall be the duty of this committee to:
 - (1) Plan and promote the evangelistic outreach of this church.
 - (2) Recommend all evangelistic policy to the Board for approval and adoption.
 - (3) Supervise and promote the visitation program of the church.
 - (4) Plan and present for Board approval an evangelism budget.
 - (5) Recommend all evangelism personnel such as evangelists, personal workers and follow-up instructors.
 - (6) Plan and supervise all follow-up classes of instruction.

- (7) Annually present a written report to the church at the time of the annual business meeting.
3. Missionary Committee
 - a. The committee shall consist of a deacon and at least five (5) members. The chairman shall be appointed by the Board.
 - b. It shall be the duty of this committee to:
 - (1) Recommend missionary policy for approval by the Board and adoption by the church.
 - (2) Promote only such missionary activity known to be in agreement with our Confession of Faith, both in doctrine and practice, and known to be Baptist in polity.
 - (3) Recommend all missionary personnel for approval by the Board and adoption by the church.
 - (4) Have oversight of all missionary activity of the church and promote participation in such activities.
 - (5) Annually recommend a missionary budget for approval by the Board and adoption by the church.
 - (6) Annually plan and promote a missionary conference.
 - (7) Annually present a written report of the missionary activities to the church at the time of the annual business meeting.
4. Christian Education Committee
 - a. Shall consist of at least six (6) members including a deacon. Members of the committee shall represent each age level of the Sunday Bible School (cradle roll, nursery, primary, junior, young people and adult), and the week-day club work.
 - b. Duties
 - (1) Shall be responsible for the selection of Bible School literature and youth work literature.
 - (2) Shall have necessary supervision over such activities as young peoples' meetings, week-day clubs, Vacation Bible School, Bible clubs, camp program, etc.
 - (3) Shall be responsible for children's churches which are held during the Morning Worship Service.
 - (4) Shall be responsible for coordinating the educational program of the church.
 - (5) They will appoint all Christian education workers subject to approval of the Board.

5. Music Committee
 - a. Shall consist of at least five (5) members, including a deacon and the choir director. All members shall have a knowledge of music and be actively serving in the music program of the church.
 - b. Duties: The committee shall have responsibility to oversee the music program of the church. They shall provide for organist, pianist, choir director, song leader, and special music for all regular and special services of the church. All guest special music shall be approved by this committee, subject to approval by the Board.
6. Library Committee
 - a. Shall consist of a deacon and at least six (6) members. A librarian shall be appointed by the Board.
 - b. Duties: The committee shall meet at least quarterly and will serve in an advisory capacity to the librarian to:
 - (1) Determine methods to be used in acquiring books for the church library.
 - (2) Assist the librarian in approving books to be placed in the library.
 - (3) Suggest promotions, contests, awards and any other activities related to the library.
7. Bus-Van Committee
 - a. The committee shall consist of a deacon and a chairman appointed by the Board and such members as recommended by the chairman.
 - b. Duties: The committee shall oversee the calling program for the bus and van ministry; provide maintenance and repair for the buses and vans; and provide general supervision for all routes. The committee shall also supervise the general use of the buses and vans and make provision for other necessary and spontaneous use of the buses and vans.
 - c. The committee shall submit quarterly reports of the ministry to the Board.
8. Ushers and Parking Lot Committee
 - a. A head usher shall be appointed by the Board and shall be responsible for organizing and scheduling the usher staff and parking lot attendants for all regular and special services of the church.
 - b. Duties: Refer to Ushers' Manual.

9. Fellowship Committee
 - a. Shall consist of a deacon and at least six (6) members. Members of the committee shall represent the adult Bible School classes.
 - b. Purpose of the committee is to promote unity among the church family and the Sunday Bible School classes by means of fellowships.
 - c. The committee shall at the beginning of each church year plan and organize the fellowship calendar and organize the Sunday evening fellowships of the church.

ARTICLE VII

Church Meetings

Sec. A. Regular Church Services

The regular church services shall be Bible School, Sunday Morning Worship, Evening Worship and Midweek Prayer and Bible Study. Special services may be scheduled as determined by the Board.

Sec. B. Election of Officers and Adoption of the Budget

A meeting for election of officers and adoption of the budget for the coming church year shall be held on the first (1st) Wednesday of December at the regular Prayer Meeting hour, unless authorized differently by congregational vote.

Sec. C. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the church will be held the third (3rd) Wednesday of January at the regular Prayer Meeting hour, unless authorized differently by congregational vote.

Sec. D. Quarterly Meetings

There shall be quarterly meetings on the third (3rd) Wednesday of April, July and October. The meetings will be combined with the regular prayer meeting unless authorized differently by congregational vote.

Sec. E. Regular business meetings shall be opened with prayer and announcement of the quorum present.

Sec. F. Quorum

1. One-third (1/3) of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is needed at all regular and specially called business meetings.
2. If a quorum be lacking, the moderator shall declare the meeting adjourned. Notice of such adjourned meeting must be given at the following Sunday Morning and Evening Services of the church. The Board may reschedule the adjourned meeting for a later date.

Sec. G. Reports

All departments and committees of the church shall submit annual written reports to the clerk. The church clerk and treasurer shall submit quarterly reports.

Sec. H. Announcements of regular business meetings of the church shall be printed in the two (2) Sunday bulletins prior to the meeting and announced from the pulpit.

Sec. I. Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor, by the Board or by petition of one-tenth (1/10) of the voting members of the church. Same notice as regular meetings, with the purpose of the meeting stated.

**ARTICLE VIII
Miscellaneous Church Matters**

Sec. A. Use of Church Facilities

1. Use of the church facilities shall be controlled at the discretion of the Board.
2. At no time shall rowdiness, use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or unchristian language be permitted.
3. It is expected that the custodian will be remunerated for his services to those using the church for weddings, receptions, etc.

Sec. B. Purchase and sale of real estate

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all votes by members present and including absentee ballots) at a properly called business meeting for this

purpose, shall be required for the purchase or sale of real estate.
(Refer to Article VII, Sec. H and I)

Sec. C. Dissolution Clause

In the event of dissolution, all assets, real and personal, shall be distributed to such G.A.R.B.C. organizations or such G.A.R.B.C. approved agencies as are qualified as tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of a future United States Revenue Law and that these agencies be in agreement with the doctrines and polity of this church.

Sec. D. Those Called for Christian Service

All persons having been led by the Spirit of God to make decisions for special service for the Lord Jesus Christ should share these decisions with the pastor and the Board of Deacons. Counsel will be given in the choice of schools for training and for fields of possible service.

Those entering missionary service will be given help in the choice of mission boards and in the procedure of deputation. Pastoral and Christian Education candidates will likewise be given counsel on candidating and procedures in making contacts with churches for possible ministry.

Sec. E. Position Clarification

Due to Satan's attack against God's church in America today in four specific areas, we desire to clarify our position on the following:

1. Abortion is murder (Ex. 20:13).
2. Homosexuality is abominable in God's sight (Lev. 18:22).
3. Drug abuse violates the Holy Spirit's indwelling of a believer (I Cor. 3:16-17).
4. We strongly recommend that members abstain from all use of alcohol as a beverage (Prov. 10:1; 23:29-32).

ARTICLE IX Amendments

Sec. A. These By-Laws may be amended at an annual or quarterly business meeting by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present,

providing previous notice of the change has been given in accordance with Article VII, Sec. H.

Sec. B. Exceptions

Any possible exception to these By-Laws where the constitutionally required quorum is not possible may then be by recommendation of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire church board and approval by the majority of a duly called assembly of the church.

ARTICLE X

Acceptance of These Amended By-Laws

It is understood that upon proper presentation, announcement of and opportunity for the congregation to voice its opinion and, further, upon acceptance of these amended By-Laws, according to requirements set down in previous By-Laws, these amended By-Laws shall supersede all other By-Laws heretofore governing this North Park Baptist Church and shall be the rules for governing its actions.

Adopted at a duly called meeting of the church on December 16, 1981.

Appendix

1. Confession of Faith
2. Church Covenant

Members of Constitution Committee

Dr. N. A. Wiens, Pastor
Donald Martyn, Chairman
Jerome Casner, Secretary
Nathan Price
Gerald Robinson
Harry Smith
Jack Zylstra

CONFESSION OF FAITH

ARTICLE I

The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was (a) written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit; (b) that it was truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and (c) therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

(EXPLANATORY)

1. By "*The Holy Bible*," we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not merely contain and convey the word of God, but *is* the very Word of God.
2. By "*Inspiration*" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.
 - (a) II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25.
 - (b) Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Psa. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45.
 - (c) Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

ARTICLE II

The True God

We believe that there is (a) one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; (b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; (c) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

- (a) Exod. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10.
- (b) Exod. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30

- (c) Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

ARTICLE III

The Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; (a) equal with God the Father and (b) God the Son and (c) of the same nature; (d) that He was active in the creation; (e) that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; (f) that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; (g) that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; (h) that He is the agent in the New Birth; (i) that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

And that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance) is the evidence of His indwelling rather than the speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations.

- (a) John 14:16-17.
(b) Matt. 28:19.
(c) Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35.
(d) Gen. 1:1-3.
(e) II Thess. 2:7.
(f) John 16:8-11.
(g) John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32.
(h) John 3:5-6.
(i) Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; John 14:26; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:18-21.

ARTICLE IV

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification has a twofold meaning: (a) that of setting apart of things, days, or persons specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father; (b) the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature, which work will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence.

- (a) I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:10, 14.
(b) Col. 1:26-28; John 17:17; I Thess. 5:23; II Cor. 3:18.

ARTICLE V

The Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was once (a) holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and (b) drew after him a host of angels; that he is now (c) the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. (d) We hold him to be man's great tempter, (e) the enemy of God and His Christ, (f) the accuser of the saints, (g) the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; (h) the Lord of the Antichrist, and (i) the author of all powers of darkness -- destined however (j) to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and (k) to the judgement of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

- (a) Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17.
- (b) Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4.
- (c) Eph. 2:2; John 14:30.
- (d) I Pet. 5:8; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1, 3.
- (e) Zech. 1:3; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:25, 37-39; Luke 22:3-4.
- (f) Rev. 12:10.
- (g) II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22.
- (h) John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22.
- (i) Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11.
- (j) Rev. 19:11, 16, 20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3.
- (k) Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.

ARTICLE VI

The Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and (a) that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; (b) that man was created directly in God's own image and after his own likeness; (c) that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; (d) that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was they should bring forth only "after their kind."

- (a) Gen. 1:1; Exod. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1-3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6.
- (b) Gen. 1:26-27; I Cor. 11:7.
- (c) Gen. 2:7; Gen. 2:21-23.
- (d) Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

ARTICLE VII

The Fall of Man

We believe (a) that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but (b) by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, (c) in consequence of which, all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and (d) therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

- (a) Gen. 3:1-6, 24.
- (b) Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19.
- (c) Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20.
- (d) Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

ARTICLE VIII

The Virgin Birth

We believe (a) that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; (b) born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and (c) that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

- (a) Gen. 3:15
- (b) Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psa 2:7; Gal. 4:4.
- (c) I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

ARTICLE IX

The Atonement for Sin

We believe (a) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (b) through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; (c) that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinners place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; (d) that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

- (a) Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24.
- (b) John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21.
- (c) John 10:18; Phil 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18; Isa 53:11; Heb. 12:2.
- (d) I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

ARTICLE X

Grace in the New Creation

We believe (a) that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; (b) that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; (c) that it is instantaneous and not a process; (d) that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; (e) that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; (f) that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

(a) John 3:3.

(b) II Cor. 5:17.

(c) Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; Acts 16:30-33.

(d) II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13.

(e) John 3:8; John 1:12-13.

(f) Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

ARTICLE XI

The Freeness of Salvation

We believe (a) in God's electing grace; (b) that the blessings of salvation are made free to all through the gospel; (c) that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and (d) that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; (e) which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

(a) I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30.

(b) Matt. 11:28; Isa 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37.

(c) Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38.

(d) Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5;
John 5:40.

(e) John 3:18; John 3:36.

ARTICLE XII

Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; (a) that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; (b) that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

- (a) Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1.
- (b) Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

ARTICLE XIII

Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are (a) solemn obligations, and (b) also inseparable graces, (c) wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; (d) thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; (e) at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

- (a) Acts 20:21.
- (b) Mark 1:15.
- (c) Acts 2:27-38.
- (d) Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7.
- (e) Luke 12:8; Rom. 9:11.

ARTICLE XIV

The Church

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of immersed believers (a) associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; (b) observing the ordinances of Christ: (c) governed by His laws; and (d) exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; (e) that its scripturally designated officers are pastors (elders) and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; (f) we believe the true mission of the church is found in the great commission: First, to make individual disciples; Second, to baptize them; Third, to teach and instruct, as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; (g) we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; (h) that it is scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; (i) on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

- (a) Acts 2:41.
- (a & b) Acts 2:42.
- (b) I Cor. 11:2.
- (c) Eph. 1:22-23.

- (d) Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11.
- (e) Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13.
- (f) Matt. 28:19-20.
- (g) Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4.
- (h) Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2.
- (i) I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

ARTICLE XV

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is (a) the believer's immersion in water; (b) into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; (c) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; (d) that in scriptural order it (baptism) precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ; (e) the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and wine remind us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, "Who spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all," that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination.

- (a) Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16.
- (b) Matt. 28:19.
- (c) Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12.
- (d) Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20.
- (e) I Cor. 11:23-28; Rom. 8:32.

ARTICLE XVI

The Perseverance and Preservation of the Saints

We believe (a) that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; (b) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; (c) that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and (d) that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

- (a) John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21,23.
- (b) I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-20.
- (c) Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14.
- (d) I Pet. 1:5; Phil 1:6; John 10:28; John 10:29; John 16:8; Rom. 8:35-39.

ARTICLE XVII

The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that (a) there is radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; (b) that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; (c) while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

(a) Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 4:18.

(b) Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; I John 3:7.

(b & c) Rom. 6:16.

(c) I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23.

(d) Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34, 41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

ARTICLE XVIII

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is (a) of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; (b) that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; (c) except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; (d) who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

(a) Rom. 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:21-22.

(b) Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17.

(c) Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18.

(d) Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Rev. 10:6; Phil 2:10-11; Psalms 72:11.

ARTICLE XIX

The Resurrection, Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in:

a. **THE BODILY RESURRECTION.**

(a) Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2, 4-6.

b. **THE ASCENSION.**

(b) Acts 1:9; Acts 1:11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2.

c. **THE HIGH PRIESTHOOD.**

(c) Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10.

- d. THE SECOND COMING.
 - (d) John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:27.
 - (d) Matt. 25:13; Jas. 5:8; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28.
- e. THE RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD.
 - (e) I Thess. 4:16; I Cor. 15:42-44; I Cor. 15:52.
- f. THE CHANGE OF THE LIVING IN CHRIST.
 - (f) I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:17; Phil. 3:20-21.
- g. ON THE THRONE OF DAVID.
 - (g) Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6-7.
 - (g) Acts 2:29-30.
- h. HIS REIGN ON EARTH.
 - (h) I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this Faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him.

We purpose by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute, as faithful stewards, such time, talent and money, in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also purpose to maintain family and personal Bible study and prayer; to train our children, by example and instruction, according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; to make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.

We further purpose to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We moreover purpose that when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

Reprinted to include revisions of constitution, by-laws, and covenant as of January 27, 1993.