

New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc.

4301 First Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409
Reverend Ian D. Bethel, Sr., Pastor
Reverend Jimmy Ashford, Co-Pastor



“We’ve Come This far By Faith ”

Hebrews 11:1

Now Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Where our vision is **H**aving **E**nough **L**oving **P**eople **S**erving God
Faithfully

Constitution

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WHAT WE BELIEVE

I. The Scriptures.

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

II. The True God.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; 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.

III. The Fall of Man.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. The Way of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; 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 atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. Justification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; 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; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. The Freeness of Salvation.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Regeneration.

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Repentance and Faith.

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced 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; at the same time heartily receiving

the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX. God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Sanctification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

XI. Perseverance of the Saints.

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

XII. The Law and Gospel.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII. A Gospel Church.

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; 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; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV. The Christian Sabbath.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI. Civil Government.

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XVII. Righteous and Wicked.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; 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; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII. The World to Come.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

ARTICLE I NAME AND LOCATION

1. The name of this corporation shall be New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Incorporated.
2. Its principal office shall be located at 4301 South First Avenue, Minneapolis, MN, subject to the approval of the church.
3. Other offices for the transaction of business shall be located at such places as the Pastor may from time to time determine subject to the approval of the church.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

Our purpose for existing as a church is not just for the sake of existing, but rather to serve the community. We believe with the national debt and the deleting of federal programs; it becomes the churches charge to assist the needy. Too often the church has been an echo rather than a voice, a tail light behind secular agencies, rather than a headlight guiding mankind progressively and decisively to understand what it means to be the "Salt of the Earth".

The very premise of our church is that we believe too often Christ has been viewed as a historical figure, or kept imprisoned in the church's stained-glass windows. Our aim is to bring Christ principles to life by reaching out to those in financial, mental, and spiritual need. When Jesus spoke of the gates of hell not prevailing upon the church, He spoke of the gates of poverty, the gates of crime, the gates of welfare, and the gates of unemployment. Therefore, it is our church duty and divine mandate to help those in our community who are in need.

When Jesus painted that symbolic picture of the great assize, he made it clear that the norm for determining the division between those who are destined for hell or heaven would be deeds done for others. One will not be asked how many academic degrees he obtained or how much money he acquired, but how much he did for others. Did he feed the hungry, did he give a cup of cold water to the thirsty, did he clothe the naked? These are the questions asked by the Lord of Life. Life's most persistent and urgent question is "What are we doing for others?"

Hinged on these biblical principles, NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST Ministries, Inc. seeks to service humanity. Our concept rests upon not merely setting claims to the Judeo-Christian values, but that our conduct match our claims. We are convinced more than ever that Christ intends for HIS church to be a servant to the community, and we seek to serve.

- A. The purposes of the Church are:
- a. To promote Christianity throughout the Community.
 - b. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as set forth in the Bible to everyone and in every place to advance the cause of Christ in ushering in the Kingdom of God on earth.
 - c. To maintain the public worship of God as a visible testimony of the faith and fellowship to which God has called His people.
 - d. To promote a program of Christian education to future the study and practice of right living as revealed in the sacred scriptures.
 - e. To affiliate with Baptists and other religious groups expressing similar purposes and doctrines.

ARTICLE III MISSION STATEMENT

Affirming our belief that God has called us, a kingdom of worshiping Baptist believers, whose desire is to glorify God in the obedience of the Great Commission - in Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry - as witnesses of the "Good News" of Jesus Christ our Lord, to Church and Community.

We engage therefore to unite our ministries for the purpose of developing spiritual and social outreach programs to bring about a transformation in the lives of men, women, boys and girls.

We believe that through prayer and perseverance "TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE IT."

ARTICLE IV VISION STATEMENT

Having **E**nough **L**oving **P**eople **S**erving God Faithfully

ARTICLE V AFFILIATIONS

Recognizing our obligations and privileges in fostering the worldwide mission of the church. Therefore, we shall affiliate with district, state, national, global Baptist bodies, and other entities having the same general objectives.

ARTICLE VI ORGANIZATION

The organizations of this church shall include Ministries and Commissions working under the direction of the Pastor, for the good of the church and the advancement of its program.

- a. Duties and responsibilities of the servants and ministries shall be found in the By-Laws of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc.
2. In the overall structure of the church organization, there shall be such ministries; committees; commissions; staff and other entities deemed necessary for the administration of the overall program.
 - A. All Ministries, Committees, Commissions, staff, and other entities shall be subject to the Church.
 - B. All Ministry servants shall attend listed and call meetings.
 - C. Servants shall; (1.) Be a born-again believer; (2) Pray daily; (3) Love God and his/her fellow person; (4) Tithe; (5) Attend Bible Study, Prayer Service, and/or Sunday School; (6) Be a regular participant at Sunday Worship, Fellowship engagements, Association and State Convention sessions, Church business meetings, and ministry meetings; (7) Work cooperatively, honestly, prayerfully, and faithfully with the Pastor.
 - D. In preparation for the Annual Meeting each ministry shall prepare a listing of prospective servants every 2 years on or before the 1st Sunday in August to be presented to the Pastors and Deacons.
 - a. Each potential-Servant must meet the qualifications of Article VI, Section C.
 - b. Any individual desirous of serving does not have to be a member of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc. but must meet the qualifications of Article VI, Section C to be considered
 - E. Each ministry shall prepare their goals, budgets, events, and ministry servant listing.
 - F. Electronic participation in church meetings
 - a. To be considered as present your camera must be on and you visible
 - i.If using a phone be aware of the Chat function

3. ASSIGNMENTS

President

- a. The Pastor is deemed as President of the Corporation.

Trustees

- a. Trustees of the Corporation may be servant's representative of the Ministerial Ministry, Deacons Ministry, Finance/Foundation Ministry, Youth (Ten Plus yrs. of age) and designated persons appointed by the Pastor with the approval of the congregation at the Annual Church Convention or any Special Call meeting should a vacancy occur.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Meetings shall be governed by the Bible, Baptist polity and the currently revised edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

VOTING

- A. On non-legal matters shall be by all members 10 years of age and older in good standing.
- B. On legal and financial matters shall be by all members 21 years of age and older in good standing (see Article VIII – Member Status).
- C. On the business of the church shall require a quorum of 25 members in good standing.

BUSINESS MEETING

All meetings shall be presided over by the Pastor or in the absence of a Pastor the Chairperson of the Deacons Ministry.

- A) Notice of the time and place of the Annual Church Convention shall be posted - in both locations and via social media - 3 weeks in advance of said meeting.

CALL MEETING

- A) Call meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor or in the absence of a Pastor, the Chairperson of the Deacons Ministry.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONVENTION

- A) Shall be held during the month of January at the registered office of the church or at such other place as may be designated by the Pastor.
- B) Shall be held to make the congregation aware of the goals of the Pastor, ministry goals, budget approval, the appointment of ministry servants, make amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, and any other such business pertinent to the operation of the church.

ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

A) Membership in New Beginnings Baptist Ministries shall be by the following;

- 1) Individuals who have been accepted into the Church through Baptism upon the confession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Individuals who have been accepted into the Church by letter from other Baptist Churches.
- 3) Individuals who have been accepted by transfer, having previously held membership in some other church, and having been baptized by Immersion.
- 4) By way of Restoration.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

A) Upon confession of Faith in Christ and a desire to place membership with this congregation, they shall be given the Right Hand of Fellowship following the completion of the Discipleship Institute.

B) Members coming from other faiths or not having been baptized by immersion must be baptized and complete the Discipleship Institute.

DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS

A) A letter of transfer shall be granted to members who are in good standing, who desire to become a member of another Baptist Church.

B) Any member whose conduct becomes below the standards of a Christian by an act or actions done publicly shall be investigated, in love, by the Pastor, Deacons Ministry or a commission (appointed by the Pastor) to determine the validity of the act or actions.

1) Every effort shall be pursued to bring this person back into fellowship, by counseling, prayer, etc., if the member fails to hear the Pastor, Deacons, or a commission, he or she shall be brought before the Church. If the member fails to repent and acknowledge his or her sins, a vote to withdraw fellowship shall be called for, and if the vote prevails, a letter of dismissal shall be given (Matthew 18:15).

MEMBER STATUS

A) Members are listed on the roster of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries as either active or inactive.

1) A member in good standing is an Active member who is present, at least three (3) times during a period of three (3) months, a person who is regularly present at worship and contributes to the activities and programs of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc. and meets the criteria of Article VI Section C.

2) An Inactive member is a person who has not been present at or contributed to the programs or activities of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc. at least three (3) times during a period of three (3) months New Beginnings Baptist Ministries; and does not meet the criteria of Article VI Section C.

Article IX FINANCING THE CHURCH

New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc. shall be financed by Tithes and Offerings, Individual Financial Pledges, Annual Days, Special Offerings and Gifts, Love Offerings, Special Projects, and Grants.

- A. All funds of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries shall be deposited to the credit of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries under such conditions, and in such banks, as shall be designated by the Finance/Foundation Ministry with the approval of the Pastor.
- B. All contracts, checks, and orders for the payment, receipt or deposit of money, and access to the financial assets of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, shall be as provided by the Finance/Foundation Ministry.
- C. An annual budget of the estimated income, expenses, and capital expenditures, shall be provided by the Finance/Foundation Ministry to the Pastor for review and approval by the congregation.
- D. Title to all properties shall be held in the name of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc.
- E. A summary report of the financial operation of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries shall be made by the Finance/Foundation Ministry at least annually to the senior pastor and the congregation.
- F. All disbursements of New Beginnings Baptist Ministries funds shall require two signatures of the Finance/Foundation Ministry.
 - a. The Finance/Foundation Ministry shall review signatures annually

ARTICLE X STAFF

- A) The Pastor, with the assistance of the Deacons Ministry, shall hire, review and dismiss persons to fill the employment needs of the church pursuant to the EEO guidelines.
- 1) The New Beginnings Baptist Ministries, Inc. at the Annual Church Convention will set positions needed.
- B) The Pastor, with counsel from the Deacons Ministry, shall discharge any employee who does not perform his or her duty in accordance with the Job Description.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

Amendments may be made at any Annual Church Convention or Special Meeting providing a notice in writing of the intent to amend is presented to the congregation two (2) weeks prior to the meeting with a majority of the members (in good standing) present voting to accept the changes.

- A. **Consistency of Bylaws.** Bylaws shall be consistent with the Church's Articles of Incorporation, and with the Minnesota Statutes.
- B. **Proposals by the Voting Members.** Unless the Articles of Incorporation provide otherwise:
 - a. 2/3rd of the members in good standing or
 - b. at least 25 members in good standing or
 - c. the consensus of the members in good standing who are present

whichever is less, may propose a resolution for action by the Members in good standing to adopt, amend, or repeal any provision of the Church's Bylaws adopted, amended, or repealed by the Congregation.

A. The resolution must contain the provisions proposed for adoption, amendment, or repeal.

B. Proper notice of the proposed amendment must precede by 10 days a Meeting of the Members in good standing at which the amendment will be considered, and must include the substance of the amendment.