



Constitution
Of The
Woodland Bible Church



506 Dale Ave. SW, PO Box 1, Warroad, Minnesota 56763

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this Church shall be the Woodland Bible Church at Warroad, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

1. To proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in this area.
2. To provide for the spiritual welfare of its membership, and give spiritual help to anyone needing the same.
3. To exercise itself in promoting Home and Foreign Missions. Heb. 10:25, I John 1:7, Matt. 28:19-20, Deut. 31:12.

ARTICLE III. Declaration of Faith

1. The Bible – We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the revelation of God to mankind, is verbally and fully inspired by Him, is sufficient for the knowledge of God and His will that is necessary for the eternal welfare of mankind, is infallible and inerrant in its original manuscripts, and is the supreme and final authority for all Christian faith and conduct. II Tim 3:16-17, II Pet. 1:21, I Cor. 2:13, Deut. 29:29, II Tim. 3: 15, John 10:35.
2. God – We believe that there is but one God, whose essential nature is that of a living, personal Spirit. He is infinitely perfect in all of His attributes. He is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He exists in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. II Cor. 8:4, John 4:24, 5:26, Gen. 1:1, Col. 2:16-17, Matt. 28:19.
3. Jesus Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, that is, He is fully divine and also fully human. He preexisted eternally with the Father, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, and died a substitutional death for the sins of mankind. We believe that he arose bodily from the grave, that He ascended to heaven where He is presently High Priest and Advocate for his people, and that He will return personally and bodily to the earth at the close of this age. He is the world's only Savior and is the Lord of all. Phil. 2:5-11, John 1:1, Matt. 1:23-25, I Pet. 2:22, I Cor. 15:20, Heb. 4:14-16, John 14:3, Acts 4:12.
4. The Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, the third person of the Trinity. We believe that He was sent from the Father by the Son to convict the world, to regenerate and indwell those who trust in

Christ, to baptize them into the Body of Christ, to seal them for the final day of redemption, to guide them into truth, to fill them for a life of holiness and victory and to empower them for witness and service. We believe that He gives spiritual gifts to believers for the proper functioning of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Acts 5:3-4, John 16:7-14, 3:5-8, I Cor. 2: 9-12, 3:16, 12:3, 13:28-31, Eph. 1:13-14, Gal. 5: 16-25, Acts 1:8.

5. Man – We believe that man was originally created by a definite act of God in His own image and is dependent upon, and accountable to his Creator. Through disobedience, the first man sinned and fell from his original state of moral perfection. As a consequence, he brought upon himself and upon the whole human race the penalty for sin, which is spiritual and physical death. Since Adam, every person is born with an inherently sinful nature and becomes a sinner in thought, word, and deed. Every person, therefore, stands under the just condemnation of God and is unable to save himself or to present deeds worthy of merit before God. Gen. 1:26-27, 2:7, Rom. 2:6-16, 5:12-21, 6:23, Matt. 5:20-48, John 3:36.
6. Salvation – We believe that a person is saved by God’s grace alone, made possible through the shed blood of Christ, whereby He died a substitutional death for mankind, and through the resurrection of Christ. Salvation becomes effective when a person, by an act of faith, acknowledges Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. The benefits of this salvation include the forgiveness of sins and a new standing before God, the impartation of new life, and all the privileges that accompany a new family relationship with God. The assurance of salvation as a present possession is the privilege of every believer in Christ. Eph. 2:8-9, I Cor. 15:3, Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9, Acts 3:19, Rom. 3:29, John 3:16, 1:12, 10:28, Phil. 1:6. 1 John 5:13, John 5:24.
7. The Christian Life – We believe that God expects every believer to live a life of obedience, in which every area of his life is brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the fruit of the Spirit becomes increasingly evident in his life. The goal of the Christian life is to be conformed to the image of Christ. This life is characterized supremely by self-giving love for God and for others. The life and character of Christ, which grows through the Holy Spirit, is noticeably distinct from the life of the world. A believer who resists the gracious working of the Holy Spirit, and fails to grow in obedience, is chastened in infinite love by his heavenly Father so he may learn obedience. John 14:21, II Cor. 10:4-5, Gal. 5:22-23, II Cor. 3:18, Matt. 22:37-40, I John 2:15- 17, Heb. 12:5-14.

8. The Church – We believe that the church of Jesus Christ is the universal company of God's redeemed people, His Body, of which He is the head, His Bride, whom He loves infinitely, and His temple, in which He dwells. This universal Body of Christ is visibly expressed in local assemblies whose purpose it is to glorify God through worship, fellowship, instruction in God's Word, observing the ordinances and training in services to the world. The supreme task in the mission of the church is to make disciples for Christ in all nations through the proclamation and teaching of the gospel. The Church is also to demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ, through word and deed in an alienated world. I Pet. 2:9-10, Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27, 2:19-22, I Thess. 2:14, Eph. 3:6-10, Acts 2:42, Eph. 4: 11-13, Heb. 10:25, Matt. 28:18-20, 26:26-29, I John 4:17.
9. The Future Life – We believe in the imminent, premillennial return of Christ to take His people to be with Him and to judge and rule the earth in righteousness. We believe in the resurrection of the body for both believers and unbelievers. We believe that the believer goes to be with Christ in conscious blessedness immediately after death, having escaped the condemnation of his sins through the death of Christ. He will, however, stand before God to receive rewards for works approved by God or to suffer loss for works disapproved. The believer will live eternally in the immediate presence of God while the unbeliever must face the eternal and holy Judge who will sentence him for his sins. He will experience the punishment of eternal separation in hell from the presence of God. John 14:3, I Thess 4: 16-17, Rev. 11:15, I Cor. 15:20-23, Phil. 1:23, Rom, 8:1, II Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:11-21:5, Rom 2:11.
10. Satan – We believe in the personality and depraved character of Satan, who is the great enemy of God and man. We believe that serving him works out his evil plans in the ungodly world system, limited only by the sovereign rule of God. We believe that he was judged by Christ at the cross and will ultimately meet his doom in the lake of fire where he will remain eternally. Matt. 4:3-11, Gen. 3:1, John 8:44, Rev. 12:9-10, II Cor. 4:4, I John 5:19, Job 1:6-12, I John 3:8, Rev. 20:10.

ARTICLE IV. Membership qualifications

The following may be received as members into the Church:

1. Such as are baptized upon confession of their faith in Christ as Savior and ask to be received as members.

2. Persons desiring to unite with this Church shall be interviewed by the church board as to their Christian experience and the basis of their Salvation. Likewise those with letters of recommendation from other evangelical churches shall present them in person to the church board. Applicants whose examination is satisfactory will be notified when to appear to be publicly received as members.
3. Prospective members are to follow the procedure of first contacting either a church board member or the pastor of the church. The prospect will then be interviewed by the pastor and given a copy of the constitution to study. As soon as possible thereafter, the prospect will be interviewed by the church board and given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the church, the constitution, or any other matter that is not clear. A new member, after church board approval, will be accepted as a member and formally welcomed into the congregation at a regular meeting.
4. Persons who are members of secret societies or lodges cannot be admitted into membership until they sever their connections with such organizations. Members of this congregation who join such secret orders and are not willing to sever their relationship with them after they have been affectionately admonished to do this, and were given ample time to consider this, lose their membership.
5. The age of members shall be left to the discretion of the pastor and the board. Voting shall be the privilege of any member who has reached the age of 18 years.

ARTICLE V. Duties and Privileges of Church Members:

1. To lead a life in accordance with the Gospel of Christ. A prayerful daily study of the Bible is necessary to make such a life possible. Psalms 119:10
2. To build up the body of Christ in a spirit of unity and love. Eph. 4:12-13
3. To contribute to the financial needs of the church. II Cor. 9:7.
4. To accept the constitution and to comply with its statutes.
5. To abide by the decision of a 2/3 majority of members present at business meetings.
6. To regularly attend worship services of the congregation. Heb. 10:25.

7. To be active in this local body of Christ exercising spiritual gifts in the word of the ministry. Rom. 12:4-8.
8. Men will perform their responsibility of leadership by attending business meetings of the church and participating in the church government and election of church officers. (I Tim. 3:1-7., Titus 1:5-9)
9. After annual church board review, any member who willfully refrains from attending the services of the church without valid reason shall, after consultation, automatically be removed from membership. The church board will notify the individual immediately that his name has been removed.
10. An inactive membership is available to those who cannot attend church services but wish to remain a member such as the home bound and college students living away from home. Inactive members may not participate in the church government but their name will remain on the membership roll.
11. Meeting designations and Voting Privileges
 - a. Informational Meeting
 - i. May be requested to assist the board concerning the direction of the Church.
 - ii. All regular attendees are encouraged to attend
 - iii. If a vote is required/requested, All regular attendees can vote
 1. Regular attendees, members and non-members.
 2. Voting age depends on meeting content to be determined by the board.
 - iv. Vote is non-binding
 - v. Votes of this type are for informational purposes to assist the board concerning the direction of the Church.
 - b.
2. Congregational Meeting / Business / Special Business Meeting
 - a. Quarterly Business Meetings
 - b. Annual Business Meetings
 - c. Special Business Meetings
 - d. Congregational meeting to elect or dismiss a Pastor
 - e. All regular attendees are encouraged to attend
 - f. Active Members over the age of 18 are allowed to vote **in** accordance with Article 5 section 10 and Article VII sections 1 and

ARTICLE VI. Administration:

1. The authority of the congregation is vested in its members as they follow the Word of God. The Church Board shall, at the annual meeting, arrange and order all necessary business. The annual meeting shall be held in January, the exact date to be set by the Church Board.
2. Special meetings for deliberation and decisions may be called by the church board or upon the request of the congregation. Such meetings shall be announced at two different dates if possible, stating the purpose thereof.
3. The administration of the church is chiefly placed into the hands of the church board consisting of pastors called by the congregation and the trustees, secretary and treasurer.
4. In order to make changes in the church constitution, the proposed change must be approved by the church board or previous business meeting and be announced two (2) Sundays in advance of the annual business meeting and must pass by a two-thirds (2/3 -s) vote.

ARTICLE VII. Pastors Office:

1. Since the work of the Pastor is of such far-reaching importance, the congregation shall only call such men to this position who are in full harmony with the declaration of the faith and the constitution of this church. Such men must have the scriptural qualifications for this office as mentioned in I Tim. 3:1-7, II Tim. 2:1-4, and Titus 1:5-9. A pastor is to be called by a vote of all members present at a congregational meeting called for that purpose by the church board after they have made a careful and prayerful search.
2. Anyone with complaints against the pastor should first go to the pastor. If such efforts do not bring satisfaction the matter should be brought before the church board.
3. The pastor may be relieved of his pastoral responsibilities immediately for immoral conduct or teaching contrary to the doctrinal statement by a four-fifths majority vote of the trustees, secretary, and treasurer of the church board. Such action shall remain in effect until the matter can be presented to the congregation.
4. A vote for dismissal of a pastor for the above or other reasons will require a 2/3 majority vote of eligible members present at a congregational meeting properly called for this purpose. A congregational meeting for this purpose may be called only by a 2/3 vote of a duly called business meeting. A dismissal will be effective immediately.

5. After the pastors' services have been terminated by official action of the congregation. His salary shall continue for thirty to sixty days unless otherwise decided by the church board.
6. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach the Word of God in purity and power; to assist as much as possible in the Sunday School and other organizations of the church; to visit members, comfort the sick, to watch over and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation.
7. The pastor and his wife become members upon accepting the call of the Church or at the time of installation as the case may be.

ARTICLE VIII. Church Board Members:

Nomination of candidates for positions on the church board shall be made by the church board acting as a nominating committee. Members may suggest names to the board for consideration.

The church board shall submit the names of biblically qualified men, according to I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, who are willing to serve for each office to be filled. The names of approved nominees must be posted at least two weeks prior to the annual business meeting at which time elections will take place. Members may nominate additional candidates by petition of no less than one fourth of the active church members. In the event of a church board vacancy a temporary replacement shall be appointed by the church board until a permanent replacement can be made at the next annual business meeting.

1. Trustees – For the administration of the needs of the church, three trustees shall be elected in such an order so as to permit two to remain in office at all times. The term of office is three years. The retiring member is the chairman of the church board. The duties of the church board shall be to look after the material and spiritual needs of the congregation. They shall supervise all necessary repairs, changes, improvements, or new building projects for the church property; however, should any undertaking exceed the amount of \$3000.00, they shall present such undertaking to the knowledge and vote of the members at a business meeting. No officers may serve as a member of the church board for more than two consecutive terms, but may be re-elected at any time after one year out of office.
2. Treasure – The treasurer shall be elected for a period of two years. The treasurer shall receive and have charge of all money paid into the church treasury and disburse it according to the direction of the congregation. He shall give a full report of all receipts and expenditures at the annual business meeting. The records of the treasurer shall be open to the members of the

congregation at any church meeting. The treasurer pays only fixed bills without consent of the church board.

3. Secretary – The secretary shall be elected for a period of two years. He shall keep a record of the proceedings in all business meetings, file all reports, file all church correspondence, be the official correspondent for the church business and act as secretary of the church Board. All records of meetings, and reports shall be open to the members of the congregation at any business meeting. He shall also maintain a complete record of membership and baptisms.

The treasurer and secretary shall be elected in alternating years.

ARTICLE IX. Church Discipline:

To preserve order and foster Godly life, the congregation shall practice church discipline without respect of persons in accordance with the teachings of Christ and the Apostles, the purpose of which shall not be to inflict punishment but to restore the fallen. The congregation and her church board are duty bound to admonish and warn such in a spirit of love, forbearance, and brotherliness. If such efforts go unheeded the exclusion of such a member may follow. Since each individual case presents its own problems, it is expected that each receives its own attention and care. Members deliberately violating this constitution and consistently practicing sin as described in Galatians 5:19-21 shall have their membership removed by a 2/3 majority vote at a duly constituted business meeting. After confessing and forsaking sin they can be reinstated following the procedures for new members.

ARTICLE X. Marriage:

Marriage is an ordinance of God and should not be entered into lightly. True marriage is a union for life between one man and one woman, and should not be broken by divorce. Matt. 19:9. Neither shall the minister of this church, nor the facilities be used to perform a marriage ceremony involving a divorced person with a living mate or a same sex couple.

Because of the sanctity of marriage it is urged that members of the church resort to a Christian, instead of a civil ceremony when being married. Because of the evil effects of intermarriage with unbelievers, we sincerely warn against this with I Cor. 7:17 and II Cor. 6:14.

ARTICLE XI. Baptism:

Baptism is to be administered upon the personal desire and public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior for Salvation by the baptismal candidate. The

necessary Biblical instruction shall, as a rule, precede the rite of baptism. The mode of baptism shall be immersion.

ARTICLE XII. Right of Ownership:

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, trustee or officer of the corporation, nor shall any private individual be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets. Upon dissolution, any of the corporation assets must be distributed to Grace University, Inter-Act Missions, Child Evangelism Fellowship of Minnesota, AVANT Ministries and Oak Hills Christian College or other qualified Christian organizations according to the wishes of the congregation.

Revision Dates:

December, 1995 – Article V.1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 Article VIII

December 15, 1996 - Article V.7

December, 2002 – Article VI.1

January, 2006 – several changes reflecting practice

January, 2011 – add meeting designations Article V section 11 Added document footer. Miscellaneous grammar/spelling corrections.

January, 2013 – change spending authority of Board to \$3,000.00 Article VIII section 1

January, 2016 – Modified Article X – Wording to clarify definition of marriage

January, 2023 - modified Article V -Section 11 clarifying meeting and voting rights.