

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

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Constitution and By-Laws

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Preamble

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 14:40, admonishes us to do all things in the Church decently and in order, therefore, we hereby do adopt this Constitution to determine the discipline and the rules according to which the affairs of this congregation shall be conducted and its temporalities administered.

Article 1—Name

The name of this Church shall be the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.

Article 2—Doctrinal Platform

The doctrinal platform of this Church shall be The Holy Bible, as it is the inerrant, infallible Word of God.

Article 3—Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our 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, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to give it a place in our affections, prayers and services above every organization of human origin; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, towards its expenses, for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In case of difference of opinion in the church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit, and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be kind and just to those in our employ, and faithful in the service we promise others; endeavoring in the purity of heart and good will towards all men to exemplify and commend our holy faith.

We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good word and work; to guard each other's reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others; to participate in each other's joys, and with tender sympathy bear one another's burdens and sorrows; to cultivate Christian courtesy; to be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay; and through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

When we remove from this place, we engage as soon as possible to unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

Article 4—Purpose

The purpose of this congregation is to give visible form to that faith and fellowship to which God has called his people. We acknowledge ourselves to be a local manifestation of the universal church through which Jesus Christ continues to minister to the world by his Holy Spirit. We shall seek to fulfill this calling through corporate worship services, through a program of Christian nurture by which our members may be built up in their faith and love, through proclamation of the Gospel by word and deed, and through ministering to human need in the name of Christ.

Article 5—Objectives

1. To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.
2. To be a worshiping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing his person, and responding in obedience to his leadership.
3. To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.
4. To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.
5. To be a church which ministers unselfishly to persons in the community and the world of Jesus' name.
6. To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the lordship of Christ.

Article 6—Mission Statement

Our mission statement is, to “To Be Conformed To The Image Of Christ And To Help Others Be Conformed To The Same Image.”

Article 7—What We Believe: Nineteen Articles of Faith

1. Of 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 supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

2. Of The True God

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and 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.

3. Of 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.

4. Of 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 most tender sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

5. Of 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 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.

6. Of 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.

7. Of 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.

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

9. Of 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.

10. Of 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.

11. Of Perseverance Of 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.

12. Of 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 ascribes 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.

13. Of 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.

14. Of Baptism And The Lord 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.

15. Of 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 remain for the people of God.

16. Of 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.

17. Of 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 impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

18. Of 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.

19. Of Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Therefore, the Pastor and ordained ministers of this congregation reserve the right to refuse to perform any same-sex marriages and we prohibit any of our members from entering into any same-sex marriages. In addition, this church prohibits the use of its facilities or assets to condone and allow any activity that is condemned by the church's doctrines. As well, this church will adopt and maintain a written hiring policy that prohibits the church from hiring homosexuals, whether practicing or not, and from hiring individuals who do not believe or have the conviction that homosexuality is a grave sin before God. This also applies to leadership ministry and leadership team positions within the church. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 7:2; 1Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23).

Article 8—Church Membership

Section 1: Active Members

An active member is any member who regularly attends:

- New Membership Training and Christian Growth Class
- Studying The Word
- Worship services
- The observance of the Lord's Supper;
- and are regular financial contributors.

The Pastor and Deacons shall determine the mechanism of members moving from the inactive to the active membership roll.

Section 2: Inactive Members

A member that fails to observe Section 1 of Article 8 for a consecutive three months shall be urged by the Pastor and Deacons, or Deacons, to return to duty. If he/she fails to do so, following the fourth consecutive month, his/her name shall be transferred automatically from active (voting) membership roll to the inactive (non-voting) membership roll. A member may remain in the inactive (non-voting) status for a period of sixty (60) days. After a period of sixty (60) days, an attempt will be made to contact the inactive member to return duty by:

1. Home visitation
2. Phone
3. Letter

If the member fails to return to duty, his/her name shall be removed from the church roll. Illness and age are exceptions only in the event that Pastor and Deacons are notified, and passes their approval. Any exception made due to illness or age, he/she will be placed in the inactive (non-voting) status, unless notification is made of any changes.

Section 3: Admission of Members

Persons may be received into membership by any of the following methods:

By Baptism

Any persons professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart and having accepted the aim and ideals of the Church as expressed in the Church Covenant, may be received into the fellowship of this church, after baptism by immersion.

By Letter

Any person or persons from other churches holding like faith may be received as members with us by letter, providing they are in good standing with former church.

By Experience

Any believer of worthy character who has formerly been a member of a Christian church, but who for a sufficient reason cannot present a letter from that church, but who is in substantial accord with the views of faith and principles of this Church may be received upon statement of experience. If they have not been properly baptized, this ordinance shall be required.

By Restoration

A person who is out of fellowship with the church may be restored upon presenting evidences of a desire to be restored.

By Watch care

A person who is a member of another church of like faith but temporarily sojourning in this vicinity for a brief period of time may be received into the membership of this church for a duration of time. Students may unite under watch care while they are enrolled in a local institution of learning. A watch care member may participate in the ministries of the church excluding the executive positions (Pastor, Deacon, Trustee, Finance, and Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant). Watch care members have no voting rights.

Section 4: Dismissal of Members

By Letter

Any member in good standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other church of like faith may receive it upon his/her request and upon the recommendation of the Pastor. The church to which membership is requested shall be named in the request and the letter shall be sent to the pastor or secretary of that church. Such letter shall be valid only for six months after its date, unless reviewed, and this restriction shall be stated in the letter.

By Exclusion

Should any member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by consistent breach of covenant vows, the church may terminate membership, but only after due notice and hearing before the Pastor and Deacons, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment.

Section 5: Voting Members

Only active members shall have the right to vote (see Section 1 of Article 8) for Active Membership. Members having voting privileges shall be entitled to vote when present in person at any business meeting of the membership called for the purpose of voting on any issue with respect to which a vote is required. Members must be present to vote, and there will be no secret ballot voting allowed at this Church. The vote of a majority of voting members present at any business meeting of the membership shall be binding upon the Church.

Section 6: Ministry Handbook

All individual ministry profiles, Ministry profiles, and Team profiles, are provided within the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Ministry Handbook. All individuals, ministries, and teams, shall be duly authorized to function under the authority of the church and shall be subjected to the church through the leadership of the Pastor. Leaders of each ministry and team should faithfully perform their duties, being ever mindful of their commitment to God and the Church.

Article 9—The Pastor

Section 1: Responsibility

The pastor shall preach the gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over the membership, and have charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all Ministries and Teams of the Church and all organizations.

The pastor shall be the Moderator and shall preside at all business meetings of the Church.

Section 2: Calling A Pastor

When it is necessary to call a pastor, the church shall select a representative Pulpit Team of seven (7) members with at least one deacon. It shall become the duty of this Team to take necessary steps to secure a pastor. The Team shall investigate the merits of every candidate under consideration in regard to personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability in determining his fitness for said pastorate. When a suitable candidate is found, the Team shall recommend that person to the Church for consideration.

The pastor shall be called by a majority vote of the eligible Voting Members (see Section 1 of Article 8) present at a special meeting of the Members in Conference as directed by the Holy Spirit. A special meeting called for the purpose of electing a Pastor must be announced in the Church Sunday morning worship services on no less than two (2) consecutive Sundays.

The salary compensation package shall be fixed at the time of the call and may be changed by vote of the Church at any regular business meeting. The pastor shall be given an annual paid vacation (equivalent to one week of salary) of not less than three (3) weeks. The pastor will receive his vacation pay at the beginning of each quarter.

Section 3: Pastoral Tenure

- The pastor's tenure is indefinite.
- Resignation: Notice of resignation shall be written communication between the pastor and the church with at least ninety (90) days notice to either party.
- Incapacitation: After at least one year of incapacitation of the pastor and after prayerful consideration, the Deacon Ministry shall recommend to the church dismissal of the incapacitated pastor.
- Dismissal: Should the pastor become an offense to the church, by reasons of immoral or conduct unbecoming a minister, disregard for his covenant vows, or for any justifiable cause (upon valid proof of said cause), he will be dismissed by the church. Dismissal of the pastor shall be voted on at special called meeting of active members of the church body.

Section 4: Severance Pay

In the event of either of the following:

- Resignation: The pastor shall perform his duties as pastor with normal pay or the church may consent to pay the pastor his salary for ninety (90) days upon resignation.
- Incapacitation: Upon dismissal of a pastor for the reason of inability to perform his pastoral duties, the church shall give the pastor a sum of ten percent of his annual salary as a severance pay.
- Dismissal: In the event of an involuntary dismissal of the pastor at the behest of the congregation, the congregation shall pay a severance salary effective immediately of six (6) months regularly pastor's pay.

Section 5: Military Deployment

In the event that the pastor is deployed, the church will follow the federal guidelines.

Section 6: Pastoral Death

If the Pastor should die while in the service of the Church, the Church shall give his widow his full salary for ninety (90) days.

Section 7: Pastor Celebration Love Offering

See Pastor's Celebration Love Offering Policy

Section 8: Sabbatical

1. Eligibility

- The Pastor must have completed a minimum of (5) years of continuous service.
- The Pastor may not be granted more than one sabbatical leave within a given year.

2. Purpose

- The purpose of the Sabbatical offered is to provide opportunity for
 - rest and recovery,
 - personal introspection,
 - spiritual development,
 - spiritual discernment for visionary focus and,
 - professional improvement of the Pastor.

3. Agreement

- Once eligible, the Pastor will proceed with Sabbatical during the month of September (Recovery Month), not to exceed one month.
- The Pastor shall receive regular compensation during the time of Sabbatical.
- Prior to taking Sabbatical, the Pastor shall meet with the following:
 - Deacon Ministry
 - Trustee Ministry
 - Finance Ministry
 - Leadership Ministry
 - Associate Ministers
- The Pastor shall provide instructions and assignments to the above listed for consistency with the overall program of ministry.
- During the Sabbatical, any general concerns shall be directed to the Deacon Ministry of Trinity M. B. Church. In the event of the death of a church member, the Deacon Ministry will contact the Pastor and proper arrangements will be made. All couples wishing to be married during the month of September (Recovery Month) need to consider the possibility that the Pastor may be away geographically to the point that he cannot perform wedding ceremonies.

Article—10 Ministries and Teams

Section 1: Deacons

The Pastor and Deacons will deem appropriate the number of Deacons to constitute the deaconship of this church. The Pastor has the authority to remove a Deacon from office for the following reasons:

- (1) Failure to attend New Member and Christian Growth Class (2 Timothy

- 2:15), Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25), and/or the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34), or to regularly contribute financially (1 Corinthians 16:2); or
- (2) Being guilty of spreading malicious gossip (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-11), and/or causing division amongst Church parishioners (Romans 16:17), or insubordination to the Pastor (Hebrews 13:17).

The Deacons shall in every way assist the Pastor, visit the members, visit those who are sick and shut-in, those in distress, and sit in council with the Pastor in spiritual matters.

Any official meeting held without the presence of the Pastor shall be of no effect.

Each person who is considered for deacon ministry will go through a period of at least (6) months of training and observation by the Pastor and present Deacon Ministry members. After a (6) month period of training and observation, the candidate will receive a Deacon Ministry Training Certificate of Completion before participating in an official service of ordination. Any individual who is considered for Deacon Ministry who has had previous ordination within a church of like faith, and can produce viable documentation stating the church, time, and place of ordination, will not need to participate in an additional ordination service. It will only be necessary to complete the (6) month period of Deacon Ministry training and receive a Deacon Ministry Training Certificate of Completion. Announcement (2 weeks prior to) and presentation of Certificate of Completion will be done before the congregation. The Pastor and present Deacon Ministry members will reserve the right to refuse any individual who does not complete the (6) months of Deacon Ministry Training and observation period.

Section 2: Finance Ministry

The Finance Ministry shall consist of no less than five (5) members. The Finance Ministry shall submit yearly to each member his/her financial contributions to the church, along with the general contributions to the church. At the annual meeting of the church, the Finance Ministry shall give its annual report and shall present the budget for the coming year.

The Finance Ministry shall also disperse funds from the general church treasury. This ministry shall keep an accurate record of all monies allocated through the church budget. They shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements with proper vouchers.

Section 3: Trustees

There shall be a minimum of seven (7). All the actions of the Trustees should be done with the cooperation of the Pastor, Deacons, and the consent of the church. They shall be responsible to the church in matters as are set forth by the church, e.g. the overseeing and upkeep of the buildings, properties, grounds, personnel and legalities of the church. In no case shall the Trustees be authorized to make any expenditure without the authorization of the church.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall keep accurate records of all church business, which shall be approved at each covenant meeting, shall preserve in a safe place all church documents, and shall keep a correct register of the membership with the date and manner of their admission and dismissal. He/she shall keep in a separate list names of those on the inactive roll as specified in Article 8, Section 1.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall record the proceedings of all church conferences and Leadership Ministry meetings.

Section 5: Subsidiary Ministries and Teams

For all subsidiary ministries and teams, refer to the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Ministry Handbook.

Article—11 Disciplines

Section 1: Disagreements

Any member having cause of complaint against another must seek to remove it as directed in Matthew 18:15-17. If this is not sufficient, the complaint shall be brought to the attention and counsel of the Deacons who shall report their findings to the Pastor. In the event that there is no reconciliation, a recommendation will be submitted to the church.

Section 2: Resolution

Upon the recommendation of the Pastor and Deacons and vote of the church, a member guilty of conduct unbecoming to his/her profession and membership may be excluded, provided that reasonable notice of such contemplated action shall be given to such member (if he/she can be found) and opportunity given for defense of satisfactory explanation. No member shall be excluded from this church without the privilege of a hearing (if he/she can be found).

Article—12 Meetings

Section 1: Worship

The church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship. The Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday in each month or as permitted according to Scripture.

Section 2: Christian Education

At least once in each week the Church shall meet for prayer and study.

Section 3: Church Conference

The members of the Church shall meet annually on the 4th Monday in October to receive an account of the business transactions and financial receipts of the Church, and the transaction of such other business as is proper to come before this meeting.

Section 4: Leadership Ministry Presentation

All Leadership and Team reports are due by October 31st of each year. All Leadership and Team reports will be made public information via paper handouts and the Trinity M.B. Church website by the 2nd Tuesday in November of each year. In addition, Ministry and Team preparation should be started no later than the 1st Sunday in September.

Section 5: Special Meetings

Special Meetings shall be called by the pastor or by the request of the church. A written agenda for such a meeting is not required.

Section 6: Funerals, Weddings, Family Reunions, Baby Showers, and Parent-Child-Baby Dedications

See Funeral, Wedding, Family Reunion, Baby Shower, and Parent-Child-Baby Dedication Policies

Article— 13 Amendments

These articles may be amended at any regular meeting of the church by the majority vote of active members present, after they have been presented in writing to the pastor and deacons providing sufficient time to review any amendments and verify just cause. The Pastor and the Deacons shall give a two weeks notice to the congregation stating that constitutional amendments prior to any vote that will be made. They shall state the article and section that shall receive proposed amendment.

Article— 14 Benediction

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8).

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 1:24-25).