



# CONSTITUTION OF THE CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

## WEVERTOWN, NEW YORK (AS OF NOVEMBER 2010)

### **PREAMBLE:**

Whereas, the Word of God demands that a Christian organization not only conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (**Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8; 1 Timothy 4:1-5**), but also that all things be done decently and in order (**1 Corinthians 14:10**), therefore, the members of the Calvary Bible Church set forth by this present document, signed by ourselves, the constitution and bylaws in accordance with our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this congregation shall be the Calvary Bible Church.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

The corporation is and has been organized for:

1. The purpose of the advancement of the body of Jesus Christ. It shall seek to attain this goal through the public worship of God and the preaching of the Gospel, through consistent Christian living by its members, by evangelism, missionary endeavor, Christian education and fellowship centered in and motivated by the love of God.
2. Charitable, religious and education purpose, including for such purposes the establishment and maintaining of religious worship, the building and maintaining of churches, personages, schools, chapels and such other religious, educational and other charitable institutions as may be appropriate with its charitable, religious and educational purpose, and further maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and in any foreign country. The right of the establishment of a Christian Day School and/or Learning Center, when and if necessary and inseparable from the church, shall be the result of a convictional belief of the members.

### **ARTICLE III – 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 and 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, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship by faithful attendance; to abide by its ordinances, discipline and its doctrines; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute financially, cheerfully and regularly as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expansion of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We engage to maintain daily family and personal Bible reading and prayer, to instruct our children in Christian education, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, and to order our deportment according to the light of God's Word, and to abstain from practices that are harmful to our own Christian life or injurious to other members and dishonoring to the cause of Christ.

We engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other daily in prayer, in speech to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay, and to aid each other in sickness.

We engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

#### **ARTICLE IV – DOCTRINE**

The congregation and pastor acknowledge and accept the following standards and shall subscribe to these in conscience as well as practice.

- 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES** – We believe that the Bible is the verbally, plenary, inspired Word of God, His revelation to man, inerrant in the original writings, and that it is therefore, the supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith and life.  
**(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).**
- 2. THE TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD** – We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**(Matthew 28:19).**
- 3. THE PREEXISTENCE, DEITY, AND INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST** – We believe that Jesus Christ ever existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, that in His incarnation He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.  
**(John 1:1-19; 1 Timothy 3:16).**
- 4. THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN** – We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are totally depraved; and that those who reach moral responsibility become accountable for thought, word and deed, and must be born again to be accepted of God.  
**(Genesis 1-3; Romans 5:12; 3:10,23; John 3:1-21).**
- 5. THE DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST** – We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. We believe that He arose bodily from the dead on the third day in the same body in which He suffered and died. We also believe that our Lord ascended into heaven; that He is now seated on the right hand side of the Father; and is our High Priest and divine Advocate with the Father. We believe that by His finished work on the cross and His unceasing ministry of intercession in glory, Jesus Christ has procured for every believer Eternal Redemption, Eternal Salvation and Everlasting Life.  
**(1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 5:9~ John 3:16; Mark 16:19; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 8:1; 9:12; 5:9; 7:25).**

**6. THE PERSONALITY AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person; that He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He regenerates the sinner by the Word of God; and that he permanently indwells the church and the body of each believer. He seals, enlightens, instructs, and guides every born-again person, and is the efficient power for godly living, Christian service and spiritual worship.  
**(John 16:7-15; 3:57; 14: 16,17; 1 Peter 1:23; Ephesians 4:30).**

We believe the Holy Spirit equips every believer for ministry in the body of Christ by bestowing gifts, however, some of the gifts, such as the sign gifts and revelatory gifts were temporary and are not for this present day.  
**(Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 13:8).**

**7. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH** – We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ was begun at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and came into the church, and that it is composed solely of born-again people who have been called out from among the Jews and Gentiles to become the body and bride of our Lord. Christ glorified in Heaven is its Head; and the Holy Spirit on earth is the active agent of the Godhead who ever seeks within its ranks to bring about conformity and obedience to the Word of God and the will of God. Being one body unites believers to each other and all to Christ, and its chief purpose of existence is to evangelize the world and complete itself through the winning of souls to Christ. The Church is under the direct control of God through His appointed leaders and not under the control of civil authorities when in opposition to the Word of God.  
**(Acts 2; Romans 1:16; Acts 1:8; 15:15; Ephesians 5:23,24; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13; Mark 16:15; Luke 20:25; Acts 5:29).**

**8. ORDINANCES** – We believe the two ordinances that Christians are commanded to observe are water baptism and the Lord’s Supper. While recognizing that water baptism has no saving merit, it is our conviction that after one is saved, water baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer’s union with Christ. It is our conviction that the Scriptural method of water baptism is immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord’s Supper to commemorate His death until He comes. We further believe that water baptism by immersion is to be observed but once and is a sign of identification and a testimony to newness of life; but the Lord’s Supper is to be observed often as a memorial of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**(Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:9-13; 1 Corinthians 11:23-33).**

**9. OUR LORD’S SECOND ADVENT** – We believe in the blessed hope, the personal, premillennial, pretribulational, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is known as the Rapture of the Church. We believe also in the personal, visible and glorious return of Christ to the earth with His saints at the end of the Great Tribulation. This phase of His coming is known as the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Then, Jesus Christ will establish His millennial Kingdom and will reign for one thousand years.  
**(Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 14:3; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-6).**

**10. ISRAEL’S PLACE IN GOD’S PROGRAM** – We believe that “the gifts and calling of God are without repentance,” and therefore His covenant people Israel, now blind and scattered, shall be redeemed and regathered to the land of promise, which is Palestine; and under the personal millennial reign of Christ upon David’s throne in Jerusalem, shall become the head of the nations and the “Gentiles shall come to their light and kings to the brightness of their rising.”  
**(Romans 11:25-29; Psalm 72; Isaiah 60:3).**

**11. THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD** – We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just to eternal life and the unjust into eternal retribution.

**(1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; John 5:28,29; Revelation 20:11-15).**

**12. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE SAVED AND THE LOST** – We believe that salvation is by faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, **(Ephesians 2:8,9; Acts16:31)** apart from works. At the moment of accepting Christ, the believer is saved from the penalty of sin, during his life he is saved from the power of sin, and in his death is saved from the presence of sin. We believe in the eternal security of the believer; that is, once he accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, God will never permit him to be “lost.” **(Romans 8:38,39)**. We believe in heaven and hell. Heaven is the place of eternal conscious joy for all who are redeemed. Hell is the place of eternal conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire for all who die without Jesus Christ as Savior.

**(John 14:16; Psalm 16:11; Philippians 1:21-23; Psalm 9:17; John 8:24; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20: 10-15).**

**13. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN** – We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, the god of this age, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, the accuser of the brethren whose end is in the Lake of Fire.

**(Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28: 12-19; 2 Corinthians 4:3,4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9,10; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).**

**14. SEPARATION AND SANCTIFICATION** – We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach nonconformity to the world for every believer; that born-again people should be separated from the world unto Christ; that it is clearly commanded of God that all believers should live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful practices; and to be holy as He is holy. We believe that positional sanctification occurs at the moment of regeneration; and that practical sanctification is to be progressive throughout the entire life span of a believer on earth. God’s provision for holy living is in the believer’s identification with Christ in His death, resurrection and ascension, the indwelling person and power of the Holy Spirit, and the believer’s yielded ness to Him, and by the powerful Word of God.

**(Colossians 3:1-4; 1:13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 6:14-17; 7:1; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:13,14; 4:12; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 1:15; 2:6; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20; John 17:17; Romans 6:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).**

## **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1** – Any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, who has been baptized by immersion, and who is not knowingly in disagreement with the statement of doctrine of this church shall be eligible for membership.

**SECTION 2** – Candidates for membership shall appear before the deacons for examination. At that time they must be able to give clear testimony to the fact that they have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior in order to be approved. Those candidates who meet with the recommendation of the deacons shall be presented to the membership of the church for approval.

**SECTION 3** – No candidate for membership shall be received on the basis of a letter of transfer of membership from another church. Such letter of transfer shall be recognized as release of membership obligations to the previous church, but the candidate in question must follow the regular procedure to obtain membership.

**SECTION 4** – Letters transferring membership may be granted by the church upon recommendation of the Board of Deacons when such a request is made by a member in good standing on the roll of this church.

**SECTION 5** – In all cases involving immorality, heresy, or delinquency through failure to comply with membership obligation, members shall be dealt with scripturally and may be excluded when recommended by the Board of Deacons and pastor and voted on by the church, (**Matthew 18:15,17**).

**SECTION 6** – Any member who fails to attend the regular services of worship and does not support and communicate with the church for six months will be placed on a probationary list. Members on this list will be visited, if possible, and/or notified by mail by the Board of Deacons. The Board will discuss and decide the appropriate action to be taken. The member will be informed of this action by a visit or by mail. If a member is removed from church membership, that member must meet with the Board of Deacons to be reinstated.

**SECTION 7 – ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** (June 20, 1984) – Any person temporarily residing in the area, such as a student, seasonal resident, etc. who has fulfilled the requirements from membership in ARTICLE V, may become an associate member. Associate membership entitles that person to all the privileges of regular membership (worship, service, counsel, discipline, etc.) with the exception of the right to vote.

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND LEADERS**

### **A. QUALIFICATIONS**

All officers and leaders --Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders --must be members and subscribe to and be in conformity to the Statement of Doctrine and Standard of Conduct of the Calvary Bible Church.

### **B. ELECTION**

1. The church membership shall elect its officers at the Annual Meeting in January. Newly elected officers' terms of office shall begin directly after the meeting. The deacons shall serve as the nominating committee.
2. Delinquent officer: Any officer failing his covenant vows and faithful discharging of the duties pertaining to his office, for any reason is subject to removal and replacement. Charges are to be initiated by the pastor and majority of deacons, if substantiated and upon recommendation of pastor and deacons, then it shall be presented to church membership for decision.
3. Vacancies occurring between the Annual Meeting in elected offices other than the pastor shall be elected at any regular or special business meeting of the church, due notice having been given from the pulpit two (2) successive Sundays previous to the meeting.
4. Vacancy in office: If any member of these boards and committees shall absent himself for three (3) successive board or committee meetings without a reason satisfactory to the board or committee, his office or appointment shall thereby automatically become vacant. The pastor and deacons may fill vacancies occurring in appointed offices between the Annual Meetings.
5. A request for officers should be announced by November 1st. All nominees must be in writing to the Board of Deacons by November 15th. The Board of Deacons will present the final list of candidate nominees to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup> from the list suggested.

## C. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATION

**1. DEACONS:** There shall be at least three deacons. This number may be added to as deemed necessary. The ration should be at least one deacon for thirty members. One-third of the deacons are to be elected at each annual meeting to serve for a period of three years. A deacon may serve no more than two consecutive terms. After a year's absence he may be re-elected, **(1 Timothy 3:1-9)**. The deacons shall elect their own chairman, vice-chairman and conduct regular meetings.

The deacons shall assist the pastor. They shall provide for cheerful reception of visitors. The deacons shall serve as a nominating and pulpit committee.

The deacons shall perform the function of corporate officers in accordance with the New York State laws. The deacons shall keep in trust all property and arrange for needed repairs and improvements. They shall make an annual inspection of the property and be responsible for the upkeep and management of the same. They shall not sell or encumber the real estate or other property of the church unless authorized to do so by a three-fourths vote of the qualified members as specified in Article XI, Section B, at the meeting of the church called for the purpose of considering such a transaction. Such a meeting of the church must be called in accordance with the provisions of the State of New York, which govern the selling, or encumbering of church property.

They shall be responsible for the preparation of the church budget and see that accurate financial records are kept. The Board shall be authorized to make a single expenditure to create an indebtedness of not more than \$1,000.00 on any specific item without the authorization of the church in a business meeting (except in the case of an emergency).

A deacon must have one-year prior membership before they may be elected to the office of deacon.

At such times as deemed necessary, a deacon's term of office may be extended. This may only be done after prayer; recommendation from the pastor and deacon board; and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the qualified active church membership as a special business meeting (see ARTICLE X, C). The pastor and deacons should review this situation before each quarterly business meeting to see if the reason for the extension still exists.

**2. DEACONESSES:** There shall be at least three deaconesses. This number may be added to as deemed necessary. One-third of the deaconesses are to be elected at each annual meeting to serve for a period of three years. A deaconess may serve no more than two consecutive terms. After a year's absence she may be re-elected.

The deaconesses may assist the pastor and deacons in visitation of the sick and others in need of counseling or visitation when deemed desirable by the pastor and/or deacons. They may also advise and assist female members of the congregation in preparation for and after the ordinance of baptism. It may also be their responsibility to assist the deacons in the details incident to the ordinance of communion before and after each service.

**3. TREASURER:** The treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of the church. The treasurer shall pay all bills as authorized by the Board of Deacons and keep proper records of all transactions. The treasurer shall present written reports to be included in the minutes of all business meetings and when requested by the deacons or pastor. The treasurer's records shall be the property of the Church.

4. **FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** The financial secretary shall receive and count all moneys and deposit the receipts in the proper bank accounts. S/he then turns over to the treasurer a statement of such deposits. S/he will keep a record of the contributions of individuals, which are given, through the church. At the end of the year each contributor should receive an accurate statement of their giving.
5. **SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all congregational business meetings. The Secretary shall keep the membership roll in order.
6. **SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** The deacons shall nominate the superintendent, but the church shall elect him at the Annual Business Meeting. He shall have oversight of the Sunday School and shall be chairman of the Sunday School Council , which shall be composed of the class teachers and staff. With the Sunday School Council and the pastor, he shall plan and promote the various activities of a well-rounded program of Christian Education. He shall report at all regular meetings of the church.
7. **MODERATOR:** The Board of Deacons shall appoint a moderator.
8. **CHURCH BOARD:** The Church Board shall consist of the pastor, Deacons, who also perform the duties of Trustees, and the Moderator. These men shall oversee all matters of the church to fulfill the purposes of the church as stated in Article II, (1Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9).

## **ARTICLE VII – PASTOR**

### **A. DUTIES**

1. The pastor shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer; the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; the overseeing the flock, and in general, guidance of the spiritual welfare of the church as set forth in the Scriptures.
2. He shall be the preacher, teacher, shepherd, and the coordinator of administration of the Church. He shall be ex-officio member of all boards and committees.
3. The pastor shall appoint all delegates and committee whose appointment is not otherwise provided for in the Constitution. The pastor shall be overseer of any paid workers who will be directly responsible to him in the performance of their work, when not otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

### **B. CALL**

1. A candidate shall be called to be pastor after receiving three-fourths (3/4) majority of the votes cast by the members of the church in good standing. A member should be present to vote.
2. The vote is to be a secret, confidential ballot.
3. Notice must be given two (2) Sundays prior to the church business meeting when voting commences.

## **C. TERMINATION**

1. The pastor shall be free to resign as he feels led by the Holy Spirit, but out of Christian courtesy, he should give at least fourteen (14) days written notice to the church, prior notice having been given to the Board of Deacons.
2. Whenever dismissal proceedings may be in order against a pastor on the grounds of immorality, heresy in doctrine, spiritual declension, apostasy, or failure to properly attend to his duties as pastor of the church, he shall be given the opportunity to appear before the deacons in his own defense. Should two-thirds of the deacons vote in favor of dismissal, the pastor shall be relieved of pastoral duties until the congregation votes on the issue. If a majority of the congregation favors the dismissal, the pastor shall be removed from office immediately.

## **D. CHURCH'S OBLIGATION**

In the event of removal from office, the church shall continue its financial obligation to the pastor for a period of thirty days.

## **ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES**

The deacons shall establish such committees as are necessary to carry out the ministry of the church. They shall establish and present to the church a committee guide that outlines the committees, their responsibilities, and committee qualifications.

## **ARTICLE IX – FINANCES**

### **A. FINANCING**

The policy of the church and all societies will be to raise its money from the general operation and implementation of church budgets by faith giving. Fees may be charged for special conferences or events.

### **B. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1 and close on December 31 of each year.

### **C. AUDITING**

All financial records of the church shall be audited as needed.

## **ARTICLE X – MEETINGS**

### **A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The annual business meeting of the church shall be the second Sunday of January of each year. At this meeting the annual reports of all area of the church shall be made in writing. The following shall be the order of business at the annual business meeting of the church:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of the minutes
3. Reports
4. Unfinished business
5. New business
6. Election of Officers (Reading of **1Timothy 3**)
  - a. Deacons and Deaconesses
  - d. Church Secretary
  - b. Treasurer
  - e. Sunday School Superintendent
  - c. Financial Secretary
  - f. Other
7. Adjournment



## **B. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

In addition to the annual business meeting in January, business meetings shall be held by the second Sunday of May and September.

## **C. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Special meetings may be called by the pastor, the deacons, or any five (5) qualified voting members who have petitioned the Board of Deacons. All special meetings shall require a verbal and written notice, including the agenda, from the pulpit on the two (2) Sundays preceding such meetings with no additional business to be transacted.

## **D. REGULAR SERVICES**

The church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship. The church shall meet at least once during the week in the evening for prayer and attendance to the Word of God. The Lord's Supper (Communion) shall be served once each month, and additional communion services in any calendar month may be voted by a majority vote of the pastor and Board of Deacons.

## **E. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

In the conduct of business at all meetings, rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases not provided for in this Constitution to which they apply. In exceptions, a majority vote shall establish the rule.

## **ARTICLE XI – QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES**

### **A. QUORUM**

In all business meetings thirty percent (30%) of the active members of voting age shall constitute a quorum, except in special matters of business, such as calling a pastor, sale or purchase of property, or assumption of financial responsibility by the church, when fifty percent (50%) of the active members of voting age shall be required for a quorum. No business can be transacted at any meeting at which a quorum is not present.

### **B. VOTING PROCEDURES**

1. Majority vote shall rule in all cases except where otherwise specified in this Constitution.
2. A three-quarter (3/4) majority of those voting shall be required on the following matters of important business:
  - a. Incurring major debt or expenditure.
  - b. Any matter affecting the lease, sale, purchase, mortgage or major alteration of the property,
  - c. Amendments to the Constitution By-laws, d. In the calling of a pastor.
3. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Board of Deacons for any of the matters mentioned in Article XI, Section B, and Paragraph 2.

### **C. VOTING AGE**

The minimum voting age is 18 years of age.

## **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the qualified active church membership present at any called meeting for such purpose. All amendments shall be submitted in writing and shall have been read at two regular Sunday morning services prior to the business meeting in which the amendment shall be submitted for final action.

### **ARTICLE XIII – DISSOLUTION**

No part of the net earnings or other assets of this church shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director or officer of this church or any affiliated body shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets of this church. Upon dissolution, any assets of said church must be distributed or given to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable or educational purposes.

### **ARTICLE XIV – MISSIONS SUPPORT**

The policy of this church with regard to missionary organizations or missionaries seeking support will be to consider those who are in complete agreement with the doctrinal position of this church as state in ARTICLE IV. Final approval of support will be given by vote of the membership as found in ARTICLE XI.

### **ARTICLE XV – SEXUALITY**

Calvary Bible Church affirms biblical views of human sexuality. Calvary Bible Church believes the Bible is God’s authoritative Word with all matters for the church, therefore, we teach and promote abstinence from any and all sexual activity, or expression, outside the boundaries and the bonds of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. The Scripture declares that a sexual relationship or marriage between two individuals of the same sex as determined by birth conflicts with God’s design and plan for man. **(Gen 2:23,24; Mat 19:4,5; Rom 7:1-4; 1:26,27; Lev 18:12-18, 23)**. Therefore, anyone who practices this sexual immorality violates God’s Word. No Marriage License or government approval of the “Homosexual Orientation” can validate that “orientation” or “lifestyle”, for God’s prohibition cannot be satisfied or amended by human authorities. In a Biblical view, God defines one’s gender at conception prior to birth. One is either a male or a female. Sexuality, however, while a gift of God, is often perverted to sinful ends by both men and women. Sexual expression is a moral choice. According to the Bible, God defines all forms of sexual immorality as sin, and God condemns any and all alternatives to monogamous, heterosexual marriage. **(Gen 2:23,24; 1Cor. 5:9-13; 1Th. 4:31)**

While others adopt permanent labels, we try to avoid labeling individuals based upon some spiritual struggle in their lives. In other words, we think of a person struggling with narcotics, not just a “drug addict.” Or we think of a person struggling with temptations to steal, not just a “thief.” We do this because we do not recognize any of these labeling designations as indicative of some kind of “unalterable state or condition.” **(1Cor. 6:9-11)**. On the contrary, the Scripture reveals that when someone is saved they are transformed. They are no longer identified by their old sinful lifestyles. We are all “sinners”, but praise God this condition is not unalterable if we have accepted Christ as our Savior, then we are “sinners saved by grace.” Yet sometimes the sin is more evident than the grace in our lives. People’s expression of human sexuality is influenced by this sin and grace struggle in the form of sexual temptations. The temptation in itself is not a sin; dwelling on that temptation, yielding to that temptation, becomes sin. People struggle with sexual integrity. Sometimes they yield to immoral behavior, whether heterosexual or homosexual. This act of sin does not make people unforgivable nor does it mean that by the grace of God they cannot change. A struggle with sexual temptation, even an act of sexual immorality, does not turn a person into a labeled category. It simply means there is sin in that person’s life and Christ is the answer to that sin. However if an individual practices sexual immorality, they are violating God’s will and are liable to church discipline. The object of church discipline is repentance and reconciliation. If there is repentance, the process of restoration will be under the supervision and discretion of Pastoral leadership. However, if someone does not repent and submit to a process of restoration and accountability, they shall be excluded from fellowship and service. **(1Cor. 5)**

Anyone desiring to be a member, employee, or volunteer of Calvary Bible Church must believe and live in harmony with this policy.

## **AMENDMENTS**

>>June 20, 1984<< **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 7 – ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Any person temporarily residing in the area, such as a student, seasonal resident, etc. who has fulfilled the requirements from membership in ARTICLE V, may become an associate member.

Associate membership entitles that person to all the privileges of regular membership (worship, service, counsel, discipline, etc.) with the exception of the right to vote.

>>May 18, 1986<< **ARTICLE X – MEETINGS**

#### **A. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Change the reading from "shall be the second Wednesday," to "shall be the second Sunday."

#### **B. QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Change the reading from "shall be held on the second Wednesday," to "shall be held by the second Sunday."

>>January 8, 1989<< **ARTICLE XIV – MISSIONS SUPPORT**

The policy of this church with regard to missionary organizations or missionaries seeking support will be to consider those who are in complete agreement with the doctrinal position of this church as state in ARTICLE IV. Final approval of support will be given by vote of the membership as found in ARTICLE XI.

>>August 13, 1989<< **ARTICLE IV – DOCTRINE #4, THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN – Add the reference, **Genesis 1-3.****

### **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND LEADERS**

#### **C. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATION**

**#3. TREASURER** Change references from "he" to "s/he" and from "his" to "his/her."

#### **ARTICLE VII – PASTOR**

**A. DUTIES, #1** Change wording from "the oversight of" to "overseeing."

#### **ARTICLE – FINANCES**

**C. AUDITING** Change from "must be audited annually" to "shall be audited as needed."

>>February 17,1991<< **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS & LEADERS**

#### **C. RESPONSIBILITIES AND ORGANIZATION**

##### **#1. DEACONS**

Add: A deacon must have one year prior membership before they may be elected to the office of deacon. At such times as deemed necessary, a deacon's term of office may be extended. This may only be done after prayer; recommendation from the pastor and deacon board; and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the qualified active church membership as a special business meeting (see ARTICLE X, C). The pastor and deacons should review this situation before each quarterly business meeting to see if the reason for the extension still exists.

## **ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS**

### **ARTICLE XV – SEXUALITY**

Date passed: 2/16/2003

Calvary Bible Church affirms biblical views of human sexuality. Calvary Bible Church believes the Bible is God's authoritative Word with all matters for the church, therefore, we teach and promote abstinence from any and all sexual activity, or expression, outside the boundaries and the bonds of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

The Scripture declares that a sexual relationship or marriage between two individuals of the same sex as determined by birth conflicts with God's design and plan for man. (**Gen 2:23,24; Mat 19:4,5; Rom 7:1-4; 1:26,27; Lev 18:12-18, 23**). Therefore, anyone who practices this sexual immorality violates God's Word. No Marriage License or government approval of the "Homosexual Orientation" can validate that "orientation" or "Lifestyle", for God's Prohibition can not be satisfied or amended by human authorities.

In a biblical view, God defines one's gender at conception prior to birth. One is either a male or a female. Sexuality, however, while a gift of God, is often perverted to sinful ends by both men and women. Sexual expression is a moral choice. According to the Bible, God defines all forms of sexual immorality as sin, and God condemns any and all alternatives to monogamous, heterosexual marriage. (**Gen 2:23,24; 1Cor. 5:9-13; 1Th. 4:31**)

While others adopt permanent labels, we try to avoid labeling individuals based upon some spiritual struggle in their lives. In other words, we think of a person struggling with narcotics, not just a "drug addict." Or we think of a person struggling with temptations to steal, not just a "thief." We do this because we do not recognize any of these labeling designations as indicative of some kind of "unalterable state or condition." (**1Cor. 6:9-11**). On the contrary, the Scripture reveals that when someone is saved they are transformed. They are no longer identified by their old sinful lifestyles.

We are all "sinners", but praise God this condition is not unalterable if we have accepted Christ as our Savior, then we are "sinners saved by grace." Yet sometimes the sin is more evident than the grace in our lives. People's expression of human sexuality is influenced by this sin and grace struggle in the form of sexual temptations. The temptation in itself is not a sin; dwelling on that temptation, yielding to that temptation, becomes sin. People struggle with sexual integrity. Sometimes they yield to immoral behavior, whether heterosexual or homosexual. This act of sin does not make people unforgivable nor does it mean that by the grace of God they cannot change. A struggle with sexual temptation, even an act of sexual immorality, does not turn a person into a labeled category. It simply means there is sin in that person's life and Christ is the answer to that sin.

However if an individual practices sexual immorality, they are violating God's will and are liable to church discipline. The object of church discipline is repentance and reconciliation. If there is repentance, the process of restoration will be under the supervision and discretion of Pastoral leadership.

However, if someone does not repent and submit to an accountable process of restoration they shall be excluded from fellowship and service. (**1Cor. 5**)

Anyone desiring to be a member, employee, or volunteer of Calvary Bible Church must believe and live in harmony with this policy.

Amendment to **ARTICLE VI**, C, 4:

Date passed: 2004

Change office of **ASSISTANT TREASURER** to **FINANCIAL SECRETARY** with the following article:

"Financial

Secretary: The financial secretary shall receive and count all moneys and deposit the receipts in the proper bank accounts. S/he then turns over to the treasurer a statement of such deposits. S/he will keep a record of the contributions of individuals which are given through the church. At the end of the year each contributor should receive an accurate statement of their giving."

#### **D. REGULAR SERVICES**

Amendment to this Article to drop the words "morning and evening"

The church shall meet regularly on each Lord's Day for public worship, morning and evening. The church shall meet at least once during the week in the evening for prayer and attendance to the Word of God.

The Lord's Supper (Communion) shall be served once each month, and additional communion services in any calendar month may be voted by a majority vote of the pastor and Board of Deacons.