

The Constitution of The Church of God

ed at the coming of Jesus.
(34) THAT the meek shall inherit the earth and dwell therein forever.
(35) THAT there shall be a final regathering of the dispersed nation of fleshly Israel.
(36) THAT the dead are unconscious.
(37) THAT the wicked dead are resurrected to final judgment, and not to probation.
(38) THAT the wicked are eternally destroyed.
(39) THAT the third angel's message is a present day message, and will continue to the advent of Jesus.
(40) THAT the seven last plagues are literal, and fall at the termination of this Gospel age.

Sec. 2. NEW DOCTRINE shall not be accepted as the faith of the Church until it is first presented to a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and decided unanimously by the Twelve, after fasting and prayer.

Sec. 3. OLD DOCTRINE shall not be abrogated until it has been discussed in a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the Elders; and the Twelve decide unanimously to abrogate the point of doctrine in question.

Sec. 4. ALTERING, OR AMENDING, doctrine. No article of our faith, as given in this Constitution, or shall be amended by the body Constitutionally hereafter, shall be amended, or altered, until same has been discussed by a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and unanimously decided by the Twelve.

Sec. 5. DOCTRINE TAUGHT. No member who teaches a doctrine contrary to any point of our essentials of faith as taught by the body and published through our literature, either by precept or example, shall be considered a member, in good standing of this body.

Adopted November 4, 1933, at Salem, West Virginia, in unison by members of the Twelve, the Seven, and the Seventy, who were present at the reorganization after an all night and day of fasting and prayer.

ARTICLE 1.—THE BODY.

Sec. 1.—This body of Christian disciples shall be known by the inspired name, as revealed in the Scriptures, The Church of God.

Sec. 2. This body shall retain the apostolic form of the primitive Church, and consist of:

- The Twelve
- The Seven
- The Elders
- The Overseers
- The Helpers
- The Disciples.
- The Seventy

ARTICLE 2.—ORGANIZATION OF THE BODY.

Sec. 1. THE TWELVE shall be chosen from among the elders in the faith, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, by lot, after fasting and prayer. They shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as they continue to keep the faith of Jesus and the commandments of God, as upheld by this Constitution. Successors to be chosen in like manner.

Sec. 2. THE SEVENTY shall be chosen from among the elders, under direction of the Holy Spirit, by lot, after fasting and prayer. They shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as true to the faith of the Church.

Sec. 3. THE SEVEN shall be chosen from among the brethren, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, after fasting and prayer, and ordained by the twelve, and shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as true to the faith of the Church, and their several trusts.

Sec. 4. THE ELDERS shall consist of ministers ordained, or licensed, or overseers of local congregations. They shall be chosen as follows:
Local Elders shall be ordained by one of the Elders, or-

dained, or one of the Seven, Seventy, or Twelve. They shall be members of the flock over which they are made pastors.

Licensed Elders shall be those disciples accepted into the ministry upon a recommendation of an ordained Elder, one of the Seven, Seventy, or Twelve, after thorough investigation, both from inside and from outside the Church, as to his character, his attributes of a Christian, his ability to teach, and his faithfulness in the doctrine of the Church. He must have had at least six months' experience before license can be issued by the Twelve.

Ordained Elders shall be selected from among the licensed Elders, and ordained by the Twelve, after at least one year's active faithful service in the ministry as licensed Elder.

Sec. 5. THE OVERSEERS. One from among the Twelve, the Seventy, or the Seven, shall be chosen by the Twelve unanimously, as the Overseer of the Church at large, and shall be under supervision of the Twelve, and shall retain his office as long as the Twelve deem him qualified and faithful. Assistant Overseers shall be appointed by the Twelve, from among the Seventy, or Ordained Elders, upon necessity, to oversee the work, under the supervision of the Overseer.

Sec. 6 THE HELPERS shall consist of workers chosen from among the brethren and sisters of the disciples, by the Twelve, upon recommendation of two, or more, of the Twelve, the Seven, the Seventy, or the ordained Elders. These shall continue in their various duties where God has called them as long as faithful, and needs require.

Sec. 7. THE DISCIPLES shall consist of all faithful men and women whom the Lord has seen fit to add unto the Church of God, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, as upheld in this Constitution.

ARTICLE 3.—THE DUTIES OF THE VARIOUS MEMBERS.

Sec. 1. THE TWELVE shall have the oversight over the body of believers as a whole, and shall give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word. One from among the Twelve, selected by themselves, shall preside at all

meetings of the Twelve, and at all general assemblies of the body. The Twelve shall have the supervision over all councils, for the discussion and decision of doctrine of the constitution.

Sec. 2. THE SEVENTY shall give themselves to the evangelistic ministry of the Word, according to the command of Jesus. They shall also have a voice in the deliberations of the body, as to doctrine, or relating to the constitution of the body.

Sec. 3. THE SEVEN shall have the general oversight and management of the business of the Church, and shall act as trustees for all property, or properties, pertaining to the general body. The Seven shall also act as agents in monetary matters for the Church at large; but always under the supervision of the Twelve. They shall have a voice in all councils of the Church.

Sec. 4. THE ELDERS shall give themselves to the ministry of the Word, and to prayers, according to their several talents, and occasions provided, for the advancement of the truth. All ordained Elders shall have a voice in the deliberations of councils as to doctrine or the constitution of the body.

Sec. 5. THE OVERSEERS. The Overseer shall have general care over the Church as a whole. The assistant Overseers shall have the care over the Church in states, territories, or various countries, as the need may require. The assistant Overseers are to be under direct supervision of the Overseer, and to report to him, who in turn gives account unto the Twelve.

Sec. 6. THE HELPERS shall give themselves to the advancement of the work and the Truth, as the Lord hath given them talents and opportunity, being obedient unto those who have the oversight over them.

Sec. 7. THE DISCIPLES shall give themselves wholly into the Lord's hands to use as He will, being obedient unto the Word, grounded and settled in the faith, growing in

grace and knowledge through Christ Jesus, using their time, their means, their prayers, as faithful servants who will have to give account unto the Master in due time.

ARTICLE 4.—PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH AT LARGE.

Sec. 1. REAL ESTATE belonging to the Church at large shall belong to the General Body, and shall be held in trust by the Seven as trustees for the Church at large.

Sec. 2. REAL ESTATE belonging to the local congregations shall be the property of the local bodies, and shall be held in trust by seven trustees, or five if more convenient, same to be members of the local congregation for which they are acting.

Sec. 3. PERSONAL PROPERTY, consisting of bonds, stocks, monies, or other valuables, shall be under the supervision of the Seven, who shall select from their number a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall serve under bond, and who shall act in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer, keeping accurate records of the business of the Church, and giving an accurate account of all transactions passing through his hands, he reporting to the Seven, and they in turn reporting to the Twelve.

Sec. 4. BUYING OR SELLING OF PROPERTY, OR PROPERTIES, shall be only upon, and after, due consideration of the entire Seven, they being in unison upon all transactions.

Sec. 5. OTHER BUSINESS, and TRANSACTIONS, binding upon the general body shall be concluded only upon, and after thorough consideration of the Seven, and they being in unison upon all transactions.

ARTICLE 5.—FINANCES.

Sec. 1. FINANCES shall be under direct supervision of the Seven, but by, and through, the Secretary-Treasurer from among their number, which is to be selected and bonded for such work. All allowances and expenditures to be approved of by the Seven before they are binding.

Sec. 2. ALL MONIES received or paid out by any minister or official of the Church, as church funds, must be

duly reported in due time to the Secretary-Treasurer, for the information of the Seven, and the completion of the Church records.

Sec. 3. BONDS, STOCKS, NOTES, shall in no wise be bought, or sold, or given, without the due consideration of the entire Seven, and their approval to be in unison.

ARTICLE 6.—CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Sec. 1. GENERAL church government shall in all cases be apostolic, that is according to the records given in the Scriptures, pertaining to the primitive Church. Christ is the supreme governor over the body, of which He is the head. All members of the Church, in whatever capacity laboring, shall be obedient unto those who have the rule over them, according to the Scriptures. The Twelve having the general supervision over the entire body, and the other members serving as given in the Scriptures also, and as outlined in this Constitution.

Sec. 2. LOCAL church government shall also be according to the Scriptures in all cases, the Church being composed of the various members as a body with its Elders, in harmony with the faith of the Church at large, and obedient to the government thereof.

Sec. 3. CHURCH TRIALS, local, shall be conducted by the members in good standing, with a local Elder as chairman. Decisions to be by majority vote. Should decision not be accepted, it must be referred to the Twelve for their decision.

Sec. 4. CHURCH TRIALS, general, shall be conducted by the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the ordained Elders. Decisions to be by majority vote, and to be final.

ARTICLE 7.—THE CONSTITUTION.

Sec. 1. THESE ARTICLES, embraced in this writing, shall be known as the Constitution of the Church of God, with headquarters at Jerusalem, Palestine, and shall in all cases govern this body of believers.

Sec. 2. ACCEPTANCE of this Constitution shall be by the Twelve, the Seventy, and the Seven, unanimously, and shall then be declared in force.

Sec. 3. ALTERING, AMENDING, OR REVOKING, of this Constitution, or any part thereof, shall be done only upon the assembly of a general council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the ordained Elders and then only by a unanimous vote of the Twelve after due deliberations.

ARTICLE 8.—DOCTRINE.

Sec. 1. DOCTRINE shall in all cases be according to the Holy Bible, and inasmuch as the Scriptures clearly teach the following points of doctrine, the same are listed as essentials of our faith:

- (1) THAT the Bible, the Old and New Testaments, is inspired as no other writing is, and is complete, infallible, and expresses God's complete will to man.
- (2) THAT Jehovah alone is God, the Creator of the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all therein.
- (3) THAT Jesus of Nazareth was the only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer.
- (4) THAT Jesus proved his Messiahship by remaining in the tomb exactly three days and three nights, rising in the end of the Sabbath.
- (5) THAT the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, which abides in the believer, and is manifest by power, and the fruits of the Spirit, as in Acts 2nd chapter, and Gal. 5:22-26. Manifestations regulated according to I Cor. 14th chapter.
- (6) THAT Satan is a personality, and as the Devil, is an adversary of God and the children of God.
- (7) THAT man was created perfect originally, but through disobedience fell, bringing imperfection, death, and God's wrath upon mankind.
- (8) THAT the Christian's life must be patterned after the example of the perfect man Christ Jesus.
- (9) THAT the inspired Bible name for God's called out assembly is the "Church of God."
- (10) THAT the apostolic organization and government is the only one taught in the Bible for the Church of God.
- (11) THAT experimental religion, or religion personally experienced by the one regenerated by its power, is the only safe one to trust in.

- (12) THAT repentance must be preached.
- (13) THAT conversion is essential to salvation.
- (14) THAT sanctification is commanded for the people of God.
- (15) THAT immersion is for the remission of sins.
- (16) THAT there is efficacy in the prayer of the righteous.

- (17) THAT prayer and anointing will save the sick.
- (18) THAT laying on of hands is to be practiced.
- (19) THAT the Lord's Supper is to be observed annually, on the beginning of the Passover, the 14th of Nisan, and after the example of Jesus.
- (20) THAT we ought to wash one another's feet.
- (21) THAT we should observe the seventh day of the week, from even to even, as the Sabbath of the Lord.
- (22) THAT the paying of the tithe of all increase is a continued obligation.
- (23) THAT all carnal warfare, and the participation therein, is condemned, as declared in our earliest constitution and belief.
- (24) THAT the law of the clean and unclean is still to be observed in this age.
- (25) THAT the habitual use of intoxicating liquors, alcoholic stimulants, narcotics, tobacco, and any habit-forming drug, is condemned.
- (26) THAT the perfection and continuity of the Law of God, the Ten Commandments, should be taught.
- (27) THAT sin is the transgression of the law.
- (28) THAT justification from sins is through Christ alone.
- (29) THAT the return of Jesus Christ will be literal, visible, personal and is imminent.
- (30) THAT the throne of David will be established at Jerusalem in the person of Jesus Christ.
- (31) THAT the institution of the kingdom of heaven is at the return of Jesus.
- (32) THAT judgment is upon the house of God during the Gospel age.
- (33) THAT the righteous are resurrected and rewarded.