

# CONSTITUTION OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH INC., OF GAS CITY

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## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this Church shall be: New Hope Baptist Church Incorporated, of Gas City

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

To worship and serve God and to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as set forth in Matthew 28:19-20.

**SECTION 1:** The purpose of this Church is to see the salvation of souls, edification of Christians, and the worldwide proclamation of God’s saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of the “faith once delivered” and cooperation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God’s Holy Word, the Bible, until He comes.

**SECTION 2:** The Church will seek to reach these objectives by the preaching and teaching of God’s Word, by prayer and obedience to God’s command regarding observance of the two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

## **ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE**

The doctrine of this Church shall be that expressed by its Articles of Faith. (This Article of the Constitution cannot be amended except by a 2/3 vote during a Special Meeting, per Article IX section 3, called for that purpose.)

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1: ADMISSION OF MEMBERS**

**CLAUSE A:** (Eligibility) Any person, who professes faith in Christ as their personal Savior, gives evidence of a change of heart by living a consistent Christian life and adopts the Purpose, Practices and Doctrines of this Church shall be eligible for membership.

**CLAUSE B:** (Requirements) Persons, who have accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, have been baptized by immersion and have attended the Church for a period of six months, may apply for membership in the Church. New converts must be saved six months before making application. Application may be made to the Pastor or to the Board of Deacons.

**CLAUSE C:** The rules of separation from the world of this Church are that the applicant/member should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Lord and Savior; to strive to be Holy as He is Holy (1Peter 1:15-16) and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations as commanded by God.

**CLAUSE D:** (Transfer of Membership) No person shall be received into membership of this Church by letter of transfer, but each one on confession of faith. The Church will ask for a letter of dismissal from the other Church. A letter of dismissal will be forwarded for members who desire to unite with another Church of like faith and practice.

**CLAUSE E:** Each applicant shall be examined by the Board of Deacons and/or the Pastor. He/she shall give his/her personal testimony as to his acceptance of Christ the Savior. He/she shall agree with the Doctrine of the Church. He/she shall agree with the rules of separation from the world adopted by the Church.

**CLAUSE F:** The applicant shall be introduced to the Church in a business Meeting as a prospective candidate for membership. If any member knows any reason why the said applicant should not be a member, they will notify the Pastor or the Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

**CLAUSE G:** The Board of Deacons and the Pastor will give a report concerning the examination at the next Business Meeting of the Church. They will recommend either the acceptance or rejection of the applicant for membership. If recommended, voting will occur per voting procedures stated in Article 9, Section 3. The applicant, if accepted, will be publicly received into the Church on the following Sunday, or when convenient to the applicant.

**CLAUSE H:** The Church membership shall be at liberty to adopt any other rules or regulations it deems necessary for the purity of the Church concerning those to be admitted to membership or to the present membership of the Church.

## **SECTION 2: DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS**

Members shall be removed from the Church membership role for the following reasons:

**CLAUSE A:** Death of the member (No Church action required).

**CLAUSE B:** Written request by a member (No Church action required).

**CLAUSE C:** Inactivity

Any member of the Church who, for 6 consecutive months, fails to attend, or show an active interest in the Church without due cause, will no longer be able to vote or participate in any membership role. They shall be contacted by the Pastor or Deacons to encourage participation in church activities. If this is unsuccessful, they will be notified in writing that after a period of 1 year, their name will be removed from the Church membership list. Any member can be reinstated to activity if they resume regular

attendance and give personal testimony of the commitment and intent regarding their membership. (Hebrews 10:25)

**CLAUSE D:** Dismissal by the Church membership under recommendation of the Deacons for the following condition:

**Discipline** – A member may be removed from membership as a result of the disciplinary actions described in SECTION 3: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS.

It is the responsibility of the Church Clerk to maintain the membership role. The Board of Deacons will notify the clerk of any additions or deletions to the membership role.

### **SECTION 3: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

**CLAUSE A:** The Pastor, with the Board of Deacons, shall constitute the Discipline Committee of the Church.

**CLAUSE B:** In case of personal differences between members of the Church, the Discipline Committee shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences in the manner laid down by the Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17.

**CLAUSE C:** Where charges are made against a member, the accused and accuser shall be notified personally, or by letter, of the nature of the charges and shall be summoned to appear before the Discipline Committee to answer to the charges.

If the accused does not appear in response to the summons, unless a satisfactory reason is given for such non-appearance, the Discipline Committee shall recommend to the Church the expulsion of said member.

If the accused appears, there shall be a full and fair hearing of the case and the Discipline Committee is empowered to acquit the accused, if a majority of those present vote that the accused is innocent of the charge.

If, on the other hand, the 2/3 majority vote that the accused is guilty of the charges preferred, the Discipline committee shall recommend to the Church expulsion of the accused from the membership of the Church. The Church must either approve the recommendation, or hear the case for itself.

If the accuser does not appear at the hearing the charges shall be dropped.

**CLAUSE D:** Anyone against whom charges have been made, and in whose case the Discipline Committee has recommended expulsion, may appeal to the Church for a hearing of the case before the Church.

The Church shall then decide whether to hear the case or act upon the recommendation of the Discipline Committee.

**CLAUSE E:** The Discipline Committee is directed to move promptly in safe-guarding the purity and peace of the church when anyone is obstructing the work in any way. This means the Discipline Committee will act as the accuser and the hearing will be conducted according to the provisions in Clause C of this section.

## **ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT**

**SECTION 1:** The government of this Church, being purely democratic and fully autonomous, is vested in the membership.

**SECTION 2:** The deciding factor in any vote taken in a Church Business Meeting shall be a 2/3 majority vote of the Church. (For monthly meetings 10% of the active membership shall constitute a quorum. For Special Meetings 25% of the active membership shall constitute a quorum.)

**SECTION 3:** Nominations for officers shall be made by the Nominating Committee.

**SECTION 4:** Those nominated for office must be members in good standing of the Church.

**SECTION 5:** Any vacancy in offices of the Church may be filled by the Church at their regular Business Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VI – ORDINANCES**

**SECTION 1:** Persons who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, and who have been given satisfactory evidence of salvation, shall be baptized by a brother authorized by the Church. Immersion shall be a requisite to membership in this Church. The Pastoral staff and Deacons will consider accommodations on a case by case basis for prospective members who are physically disabled and/or emotionally challenged.

**SECTION 2:** The Lord's Supper: The Lord's supper shall be served to the Church by the Pastor and the Deacons, or the latter in the absence of the former, and at the discretion of the Church.

## **ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1: OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH**

**CLAUSE A:** The general officers of this Church shall be: Pastor, Associate Pastor(s) as needed, Deacons, Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Sunday School Superintendent (as needed).

**CLAUSE B:** Terms shall begin on the first day of January, and retiring officers shall remain in office until the new officers begin their terms.

**CLAUSE C:** Any officer's service may be terminated for cause at any time by vote of the Church membership at a special meeting called for that purpose, after a fair and impartial trial conducted under the supervision of the board of Deacons. Any officer who refuses to abide by the rules of separation from the world, as stated in Article IV, Section 1, Clause C, will be removed from office.

## **SECTION 2: THE PASTOR**

**CLAUSE A:** A Pastor may be called by a vote of the church membership at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, after recommendation by the Board of Deacons. A Pastor shall serve until his pastorate is terminated by death, by resignation or by request of the Church membership. A Pastor shall give a minimum of a thirty day notice before termination of his service. The Church may request his resignation to be effective in sixty days. Only in the event the Church votes that the Pastor's service be terminated abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for 30 days.

**CLAUSE B:** The question of severing pastoral relations may be considered at any regular or special business meeting by presentation from the Board of Deacons, after a receipt of written request, signed by at least twenty-five adult members in good standing. Public notice of the Special Meeting for such action must be given on two successive Sundays before the meeting.

**CLAUSE C:** The Pastor shall be in full accord with the Doctrines, Practices and the Constitution of this Church. His qualifications are those set forth in the New Testament in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

**CLAUSE D:** The Senior Pastor shall have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services and ministrations of the ordinances of the Church. He shall be a member of the Board of Deacons, and an ex-officio member of, any committee of the Church.

**CLAUSE E:** If at any time the Pastor's personal belief, preaching or teaching shall not be in full accord with the doctrinal standard and statement of this Church, his services as Pastor shall be terminated. If at any time the Pastor refuses to obey the rules of separation from the world, his services as Pastor shall be terminated.

**CLAUSE F:** The board of Deacons, Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall have authority to negotiate a compensation package with a Pastor to determine salary and benefits.

## **SECTION 3: THE DEACONS**

**CLAUSE A:** The Church will elect Deacons each year, the term of office being three years. Deacons are elected by the Church membership, and therefore can only be removed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Church membership at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. The qualifications for Deacon shall be as prescribed and set forth in the New Testament in I Timothy 3:8-13. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in this constitution for their particular office.

**CLAUSE B:** The duties of Deacons shall be, but not limited to:

1. Help the Pastor in administration of baptism and in the spiritual supervision of the Church.
2. Help the Pastor serve the Lord's Supper.
3. Examine all candidates for Church membership.

**CLAUSE B: (Continued)**

4. Have charge of all matters of Church discipline.
5. Visit the sick and sorrowing of the membership.
6. Secure a suitable substitute to preach when the Pastor is unable to fill the pulpit.

**CLAUSE C:** As the Church membership increases the number of Deacons may be increased according to the needs of the Church.

**CLAUSE D:** The Board of Deacons shall review the Pastor's salary and benefits and recommend to the membership for approval of any suggested changes.

**CLAUSE E:** A Deacon may serve only one term and then must sit out a year before being considered for election for the same office again. If no one is found to serve as one of these officers, then the Church may permit a person with three previous years of service to be nominated for the office for an additional term.

**SECTION 4: TRUSTEES**

**CLAUSE A:** The Church membership shall elect Trustees from its active membership. Their terms shall be for three years. The number of Trustees may be adjusted according to the needs of the Church.

**CLAUSE B:** The Trustees, being subject to the Church, are elected to hold in trust the physical assets and property interests of the Church. They will represent the Church in all legal and business matters pertaining to all physical assets and property interests. When the Church so orders, they may convey or receive title to property in the name of the Church.

**CLAUSE C:** The Trustees shall supervise the care and repair of all buildings and property of any kind belonging to the Church.

**CLAUSE D:** A Trustee may serve only one term and then must sit out a year before being considered for election for the same office again. If no one is found to serve as one of these officers, then the Church may permit a person with three previous years of service to be nominated for the office an additional term.

**SECTION 5: THE CLERK**

The Church membership shall elect at each Annual Meeting a Church clerk. The clerk shall keep a fair record of the proceedings of every Church business meeting. The pastoral staff, along with the clerk, shall work together on the Church membership register, to keep it correct and current. (The original membership register shall be kept at the Church offices.) In addition, the clerk will send acknowledgements and a welcome letter to all new members elected to Church membership. The clerk will perform all other such other duties as may be prescribed by the Church.

## **SECTION 6: THE TREASURER**

The Church Treasurer shall be elected annually as the custodian of all monies of the Church and shall disburse these monies by checks as authorized by the Church. He or she shall keep, at all times, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements and shall render a monthly and annually written report of this account to the Church. The Treasurer's report shall be externally audited annually.

## **SECTION 7: THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

The church Financial Secretary shall be elected annually and shall be responsible for seeing that the offerings are properly received, counted and deposited in the Church's bank account. He or she shall properly credit each contributor and their offerings. He or she shall be responsible for providing an annual record of contributions to the donors.

## **SECTION 8: ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

**CLAUSE A:** An Associate Pastor may be called by a vote of the church membership at a special meeting called for that purpose, after recommendation by the Board of Deacons. An Associate shall serve until his pastorate is terminated by death, by resignation or by request of the Church membership. The Associate Pastor shall give a minimum of a thirty day notice before termination of his service. The Church may request his resignation to be effective in sixty days. Only in the event the Church votes that the Pastor's service be terminated abruptly, the salary involved shall continue for 30 days.

**CLAUSE B:** The question of severing pastoral relations may be considered at any regular or special business meeting by presentation from the Board of Deacons, after a receipt of written request, signed by at least twenty-five adult members in good standing. Public notice of the Special Meeting for such action must be given on two successive Sundays before the meeting.

**CLAUSE C:** The Associate Pastor shall be in full accord with the Doctrines, Practices and the Constitution of this Church. His qualifications are those set forth in the New Testament in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

**CLAUSE D:** The Associate Pastor shall have oversight of the area of ministry for which he is called. He shall serve at the direction of the Senior Pastor. He shall be a member of any committee assigned to him by the Senior Pastor.

**CLAUSE E:** If at any time the Associate Pastor's personal belief, preaching or teaching shall not be in full accord with the doctrinal standard and statement of this Church, his services as Associate Pastor shall be terminated. If at anytime the Associate Pastor refuses to obey the rules of separation from the world, his services as Associate Pastor shall be terminated.

**CLAUSE F:** The board of Deacons, Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall have authority to negotiate a compensation package with the Associate Pastor to determine salary and benefits.

## **ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES**

Standing committees of the Church are:

### **SECTION 1: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**CLAUSE A:** Members of the finance committee consist of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, one appointed Deacon, one appointed Trustee and the Senior Pastor.

**CLAUSE B:** The committee will be responsible to meet at least semi-annually to establish, monitor and review all budget aspects of the Church.

### **SECTION 2: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**CLAUSE A:** Members of the Christian Education Committee consists of two annually elected members of the Church, two appointed Sunday School teachers, one appointed Deacon and a Pastor.

**CLAUSE B:** It shall be the duties of this committee to organize and administer the entire educational program of the Church. It shall be responsible for studying the educational needs of the Church and for making recommendations concerning the schedule, educational use of current technology, and the elimination or addition of classes or organizations. It shall be responsible for discovering, enlisting, training and presenting to the Church membership educational workers and for maintaining constant help and counsel for them.

### **SECTION 3: NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**CLAUSE A:** The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the Senior Pastor, one Deacon elected by the Board of Deacons, one Trustee elected by the Board of Trustees and one member of the board of Christian Education, elected by the Board. The Deacon shall serve as Chairman. This committee shall serve for one year.

### **Section 4: MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**CLAUSE A:** The Missions Committee will be charged with the oversight of supported missionaries. The committee will maintain communication with the missionaries, make recommendations to the church regarding missions and will endeavor to educate the church body regarding the activities of supported missionaries.

**CLAUSE B:** The committee shall be composed of the Senior Pastor, one Deacon elected by the Board of Deacons and four elected representatives from the church at large. This committee shall serve for one year.

## **Section 6: OTHER COMMITTEES**

**CLAUSE A:** At its Annual Meeting, or when desired, the Church may elect to form such committees as it deems necessary to the fulfilling of the purpose of this Church.

## **ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1: THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**CLAUSE A:** The Annual business Meeting of this Church shall be held on Wednesday following the third Saturday in January following the end of the fiscal year. The fiscal year of this Church shall be the calendar year. 10% of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for this meeting.

### **SECTION 2: BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**CLAUSE A:** The Monthly business Meeting of this Church shall be held on the Wednesday following the third Saturday in the month. 10% of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for this meeting.

### **SECTION 3: SPECIAL MEETINGS**

**CLAUSE A:** A Special Meeting of the congregation may be called for the transaction of business. This meeting shall be announced from the pulpit for at least two successive Sundays before the meeting.

**CLAUSE B:** The Church shall be under obligation to call a special business meeting upon the request of the Board of Deacons with the Pastor or upon written request of twenty-five of the members with power to vote.

**CLAUSE C:** 25% of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for this meeting.

### **SECTION 4: ELECTIONS AND VOTING**

**CLAUSE A:** The privilege of voting in business meetings of the Church is restricted to those active members who have fully attained the age of eighteen (18) years. In all business matters a 2/3 majority vote will be decisive, save as expressly stated in this constitution. In the conduct of business meetings any parliamentary question not covered by this constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of "Roberts Rules of Order".

### **SECTION 5: MODERATOR**

**CLAUSE A:** All meetings shall be chaired by a moderator chosen by the deacons.

## **ARTICLE X – AFFILIATION**

New Hope Baptist Church is an autonomous self-governing Baptist Church. It shall not become a member of any denomination or fellowship which is not in accord with the doctrinal statement of this Church as stated in Article III of this constitution. This Church shall determine its affiliation with any fellowship or group and control its property by 2/3 majority vote at a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

## **ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION**

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation nor shall any private individual be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purpose. The organization or organizations must be Baptist in belief.

## **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1:** This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Church members present at a Special Meeting called for that purpose provided that:

1. A copy of the proposed amendments has been distributed at the previous business meeting.
2. A copy of the proposed amendments has been posted in a public place the previous two Sundays.

**SECTION 2:** All previous versions of the Constitution are hereby declared void upon the adoption of this document.

Approved and adopted by vote of the Church August 31, 2016

# ARTICLES OF FAITH OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH INC., OF GAS CITY

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## **Article 1: The Holy Scriptures**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed.

2 Timothy 3:16,17 – 2 Peter 1:20,21 – John 16:12,13

## **Article 2: The Godhead**

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

Matthew 28:19 – 2 Corinthians 13:14 – Ephesians 2:18 – Acts 5:3,4

## **Article 3: The Person and Work of Christ**

A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

Luke 1:35 – John 1:14 – John 1:1,2

B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 2:7 – Hebrews 2:14 – Romans 3:25 – 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18

C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

Acts 1:9,10 – Hebrews 9:24 – Romans 8:34 – 1 John 2:1,2

## **Article 4: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the Day of Redemption.

John 16:8-11 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 – Ephesians 1:13,14 – Ephesians 4:30

B. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth: and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.

John 16:13 – 1 John 2:20,27 – Ephesians 5:18

### **Article 5: The Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His likeness: that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms: that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind".

Genesis 1:1; 1:26,27 – Colossians 1:16, 17 – John 1:3 – Romans 1:20

### **Article 6: The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Romans 5:12 – Romans 3:22,23 – Ephesians 2:1-3

### **Article 7: Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

Ephesians 2:8-10 – John 1:12 – Ephesians 1:7 – 1 Peter 1:18,19

### **Article 8: Justification**

We believe that that great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification: that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; His righteousness is imputed to us.

Romans 8:1 – Romans 5:9 – Titus 3:5-7 – Galatians 3:11

### **Article 9: Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification has a two-fold meaning: (1) that of setting apart of things, days, or persons specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father, (2) the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God, experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature, which will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence.

1 Corinthians 1:30 – Hebrews 10:10-14 – John 17:17 – 1 Thessalonians 5:23

## **Article 10: Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

A. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

John 6:37-40 – John 10:27-30 – Romans 8:38, 39

B. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Romans 13:13,14 – Galatians 5:13 – Titus 2:11-14

## **Article 11: The Church**

A. We believe that the Church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age.

Ephesians 1:22,23 ; 5:25-27, -- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local Churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

Acts 14:27; 20:17 – 1 Timothy 3:1-3

## **Article 12: Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

A. We believe that the Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water; into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. That in scriptural order it (baptism) precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

John 3:23 – Romans 6:4,5 – Matthew 3:16 – Matthew 28:19

B. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and wine (not fermented) remind us of God in Christ Jesus. "Who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all"; that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination.

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 – Romans 8:32

## **Article 13: The Gifts to the Church**

A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established.

1 Corinthians 12:4-12 – Ephesians 4:7-12

B. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayers of faith in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted, but we reject the teaching that bodily healing is in the Atonement.

Matthew 8:17 – 2 Corinthians 5:21 – John 15:7 – 1 John 5:14, 15

### **Article 14: The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Job 1:6,7 – Matthew 25:41 – Revelation 20:10

### **Article 15: The Second Coming of Christ**

We believe in that “Blessed Hope”, the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 – Revelation 3:10; 20:1-6

### **Article 16: The Eternal State**

A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

Matthew 25:46 – John 5:28, 29; 11:25,26 – Revelation 20:5,6

B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 – Philippians 1:23; 3:21 – 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

C. We believe that all believers between the Rapture and the eternal State must stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This judgment is not to determine their salvation, but their reward according to their work. They shall be rewarded according to the things done in the body, whether it be good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 – 2 Corinthians 5:10 – Romans 14:7-12

D. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious memory until the second resurrection when the soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment.

Matthew 25:41,46 – 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 – Revelation 20:11-15

## Article 17: Human Sexuality

A. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of 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.

Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8,9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:16-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

B. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Genesis 2:18-25; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:25; Hebrews 13:4

C. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, or are members of New Hope Baptist Church should abide by and agree to this Article on Human Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

Approved and adopted by vote of the Church August 31, 2016