

CONSTITUTION

&

BY-LAWS

DICKINSON BAPTIST CHURCH

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PREAMBLE

We, the members of Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church of Harrell, Arkansas, hereby adopt the following constitution, which is based upon New Testament principles.

This constitution is not a device of human wisdom and government, nor a substitute for, or augmentation to the Word of God. It is simply a systematic review of the truth found in God's Word concerning His Church. Its purpose is to ever keep before this assembly of the doctrines, organizations, methods and the procedures of fellowship and discipline, as clearly taught in the New Testament. With such a guide we shall, by God's grace, endeavor to practice New Testament Christianity in all its phases.

ARTICLE 1

(Intent)

- OUR NAME -** Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church
- OUR PURPOSE -** To present the Gospel to the lost and encourage growth in the lives of all God's people according to His will.
- OUR HOPE -** The soon return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 2

(Declaration of Faith)

This congregation accepts the Bible as its sole authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe in the total inspiration of both the Old and New Testaments. We will teach and preach the truths as found in God's Holy Word. We will, as God's people, take a stand against anything or anyone who perverts or distorts the harmony and wisdom of the scriptures.

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, 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, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of, and use of, destructive drugs or intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to shun pornography; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy 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.

We moreover 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 4

(Doctrinal Statement)

1. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were inspired of God, that the original writings were inerrant and that they are of supreme and final authority. (II Peter 1:21, II Tim. 3:16-17)
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:1, John 10:30, Matt. 28:9, Acts 5:3-4)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary, He is eternal, He is God and has no beginning and is true God and true man. (Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:18-35, Col. 2:9, John 1:14, Gal. 4:4-5, I Tim. 3:16)
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are now sinners by birth and by choice, positively inclined to evil, and are therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin and hell without defense or excuse. (Gen. 1:26-27, Gen. 2:17, Romans 15:12-21, Psalms 51:5, I Cor. 2:14, Romans 1:20)
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, as a representative and substitution on our behalf, and all who believe in Him are justified by His shed blood. (I Cor. 15:1-4, II Cor. 5:21, I Peter 2:24, Romans 5:9, I Peter 1:18-19)
6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord, His bodily ascension into Heaven and His bodily presence there for us as High Priest and Advocate. (I Cor. 15:1-4, I Cor. 15:20-25, Acts 1:9-11, Hebrews 7:25,

I John 2:1-2)

7. We believe in the personal, bodily, pretribulation, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (II Thess. 2, John 14:1-3, Matt. 24:44, I Thess. 4:14-18, I Cor. 15:51-58)

8. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Word through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and are thereby children of God and are eternally saved. (John 3:3, Gal. 3:24-26, I John 5:13, Romans 8:35-39, John 10:27-29, Hebrews 6:3-6, I Peter 1:23, Romans 10:17)

9. We believe that Satan is a real, literal being, the agent of the fall of man and that he is the prince of the power of this world, and that he shall be judged and eternally punished by God. (Rev. 10:1-10, Eph. 2:1-4, Job 1:9-12, Gen. 2:13-14)

10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, the eternal conscious punishment of the lost and the eternal joy of the saved. (Rev. 10:10, I Thess. 4:16-18, I Cor. 15:51-54)

ARTICLE 5

(Reception of Members)

1. The first requirement for Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church

membership is that the individual must first have received Jesus Christ as Savior. The scriptures teach that he must be “born from above, born of the Spirit”, made a “partaker of the Divine Nature”, and willing to give public testimony or statement to this effect. (John 3:3-8, Titus 3:5, II Peter 1:4, Romans 10:9-11)

2. The only other requirement to Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church membership is to be baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, by the authority of Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church. (Acts 2:41, Romans 6:4)

3. Any individual who has met the requirements as found in #1 and #2 above has the right to full fellowship in this local New Testament Church unless he is excluded because of willingly disobeying God, serving the devil and refuses to repent. (Acts 2:47, II Cor. 12:19-21)

4. Excluded members must be joyously restored to fellowship upon confession of their sin and after giving evidence of repentance and humility.

5. No non-member may serve in any leadership capacity at Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church; they that do serve must be in good standing and full fellowship.

6. Those who have been baptized into membership in a Baptist Church of like faith and doctrine but are unable to receive a membership transfer due to loss of records, etc. may apply for membership on statement of faith. Each case will be examined individually by the Pastor or those designated by the Pastor.

ARTICLE 6

(Missions)

This Church will faithfully support missions of like faith and doctrine around the world. Our goal is to build doctrinally sound Churches for people everywhere. (Mark 16:15)

ARTICLE 7

(Pastor and Visiting Preachers)

1. Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church will call its Pastor to an indefinite term and he will not be voted on at the beginning of each Church year.
2. The Church will provide its Pastor each year with two full weeks of vacation pay.
3. At times when the Pastor is not able to preach, for whatever the reason may be, a visiting preacher of like faith, agreed upon by the Church body, may fill the pulpit and the Church will pay him \$75.00.

ARTICLE 8

(Discipline of Members)

1. Our Lord states the Church's duty to exercise discipline, excluding from its fellowship any member who persists in sin and disobedience.
2. The disciplining, when required by the scriptures, of members of the Church is necessary for the spiritual health and strength of the body. It is indispensable to building truly Christian, spiritual, victorious congregations. To surrender this privilege means weakness, fear, defeat; sin in the world will slip in and take over. Love and Joy will fade. The Holy Spirit will be grieved and quenched.
3. The discipline which the Church can impose is the exclusion of members from the Lord's Table, from the fellowship of believers, and removal from

the offices held in the Church. The maximum discipline which the Church can impose is the exclusion of members from membership in the local Church.

4. A member who falls in sin should be dealt with according to the principle and procedure given in the scriptures. Prayer is always an important part in disciplining. (Matthew 18:18-20)

5. Examples of causes for Biblical Discipline:

- a. When one brother sins against another, “Let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”
- b. For fornication, covetousness, idolatry, a railer (one who reviles subjects to abuse, one who is insolent, a scoffer), a drunkard, an extortioner. “Not to keep company...with such an one not to eat” (v. 11). “Therefore, put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (v. 13). (I Cor. 5:11-13)
- c. For fornication, “that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you” (v. 2). “To deliver such a one unto Satan” (v. 5). (I Cor. 5:1-7)
- d. Heretic, “reject”. (Titus 3:10).
- e. One who blasphemes, “deliver unto Satan” (I Tim. 1:20, Col 3:8).
- f. God regards whisperers and back-biters in the same class with unregenerate sinners, unclean (II Cor. 12:20) and haters of God (Romans 1:30).
- g. He who is rebellious, “that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly” (v. 6) “have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” (v. 14). (II Thess. 3:6, 14-15).
- h. Forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. (Heb. 10:25).

ARTICLE 9

(Dismissal of Members)

1. On request, a letter of membership transfer to another Baptist Church may be granted to any member in fellowship.

2. Any member not living according to the spirit and letter of the Church

Covenant, the New Testament principles of Christian conduct and found guilty of the sins mentioned in Article 8, may be excluded from fellowship by majority vote of members of this local Church in attendance at the prayer/business meeting called for this purpose. The member being dismissed would be notified of such meeting. Such member may be returned to fellowship only when he repents and gives evidence of repentance and humility, with testimony before the Church.

3. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to see that all rules regarding discipline are observed by members of the congregation. He may consult godly members for advice and prayer in these matters.

4. Any member dismissed from fellowship will have none of the rights and privileges of the members in fellowship. Let it be remembered that the purpose of Bible Discipline is to keep the fellowship of believers pure and to bring sinners to repentance.

5. Any members willingly not attending for six consecutive months will automatically be placed on inactive membership status. While on inactive membership status, all membership rights are forfeited. To be reinstated to active status, the member must present themselves before the Church, repent of their neglecting the assembling of themselves together, and ask to be reinstated as an active member. After four consecutive weeks of attendance, they will be reinstated upon receiving a majority vote by the Church body.

6. Any member of Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church who leaves this Church and unites with another Church of another denomination will be removed from this Church's membership role.

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ARTICLE 10

(Finances)

The entire program of this Church shall be supported by the tithes, freewill offerings, and faith promise giving of those who are led by the Holy Spirit to contribute to its support. Finances of Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church will be used as the Holy Spirit leads to effectively provide a spiritual ministry to this community and to mission fields around the world. In the event that this Church dissolves, assets remaining after liabilities have been settled will be distributed upon the decision of the membership at that time.

ARTICLE 11

(Business Meeting)

The business will be handled through prayer, humility of spirit and in one accord (Acts 2:46), not self-willed, but God's will be done (Eph. 5:17). The Church body shall have monthly business meetings and as the need arises. The Pastor shall act as moderator of all meetings, if present. In his absence the Assistant Moderator shall act as Moderator. At all business meetings the active membership present shall transact the business at hand. The minutes from last month's meeting and the current financial statement will be discussed and approved with any amendments if necessary at each monthly business meeting.

ARTICLE 12

(Church Officers)

Church officers and committee members will be elected during the first business meeting of the new Church year in August, with the exception of the Pastor. Their duties will begin the first Sunday of September.

ARTICLE 13

(Benevolence)

1. The Church must never forget to be a helping hand to those in need. Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church will have a Benevolence Committee, approved by the Church body, to oversee distribution of funds and necessary aid.
2. Any active member who is hospitalized overnight will receive flowers or a plant one time per calendar year on behalf of the Church. This will be handle by the elected Flower Committee.
3. Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church wishes to congratulate all graduating students within our congregation. All graduating High School seniors who actively attends services at least 75% of the time will receive \$100 cash. All graduating Kindergarten and Sixth grade students will receive a \$100 savings bond.
4. In the event of a death of an immediate family member (spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling) of an active member of this Church, a meat tray will be sent to the home where the family will be gathering. This will be handled by the elected Food Committee members.
5. Any active member who gives birth or adopts a child will receive \$100 from the Church.
6. On special occasions Dickinson Missionary Baptist Church will sponsor a shower for active members. Such showers would be Wedding shower, Baby shower, and House Warming shower. During these events the Church

will provide necessary refreshments.

ARTICLE 14

(By-laws)

This Constitution and By-laws should be reviewed annually at the first business meeting of the new Church year by the active membership present, of whom are in good standing, and changes to the By-laws may be made if necessary.

ARTICLE 15

(Amendments)

The Constitution may be amended by the Church at any time during the Church year provided one month's notice is given as to the nature of the change and the Article and Section to be affected and such changes receive a majority vote of present active members. In regard, care must be taken to insure that such changes do not violate New Testament teachings.