

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Moorhead, Minnesota

CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME, PURPOSE, AND GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Name

The name of this Christian Body shall be VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH *IN MOORHEAD*. (italicized portion added 10/93)

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this congregation is, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to worship Almighty God and His Son, Jesus Christ, to teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of sinners and for the edification of Christians and to assist in worthy, benevolent and missionary works. This congregation is dedicated to the restoration of the New Testament Christianity following the pattern outline in the New Testament.

Section 3. Government

This congregation shall be governed solely by the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the authority of no other ecclesiastical body taking the Bible as its rule of faith and practice.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Present Membership and by Conversion (New Christians)

The membership of this church shall consist of those who are now identified as members of the congregation and those who shall, through the efforts of this congregation, openly confess and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, are willing to follow Him as He has commanded in the Bible and in obedience to Jesus' command be baptized by immersion for the remission of their sins.

Section 2. Transfer of Membership

Persons may transfer their membership to this congregation provided they have obeyed their Lord in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism by immersion; or not having completed their obedience to the Lord in all the fundamental steps, they may upon fulfilling whatever requirements may be lacking, be received into membership in this congregation. Such transfer may be

initiated either by their appearing before the assembled congregation to indicate their desire or by submitting their request in writing to the minister or an officer of the congregation, which written request shall be read to the assembled congregation.

Section 3. Duties of Members

Members are expected to be faithful in all spiritual duties essential to the Christian life; to regularly attend services of the congregation and especially to be faithful in attendance at the Lord's Table; to give regularly for the support of the church and for her missions; to share in her organized work; to abstain from the very appearing of evil in their daily walk; and to "walk worthy of the vocation whereunto they are called."

Section 4. Suspension of Membership

Suspension of membership shall result from conduct unbecoming a Christian. Suspension shall be a measure of last resort and shall be recommended only after the elders and minister have counseled the erring member and he has still demonstrated a complete unwillingness to abandon his erring ways. Action shall be initiated by the elders who will make recommendations to the congregation, but suspension shall require a two-thirds vote by members present at the meeting called for the specific purpose of considering the suspension.

ARTICLE III. VOTING

Section 1. Voting Privileges

All members as defined in Article II shall be considered voting members of the congregation entitled to all rights and privileges, voice, and vote in the affairs of the congregation subject to Section 2, of this Article under Restrictions on Voting.

Section 2. Restrictions on Voting

Voting privileges shall be denied any member who has not attended any of the regular services of the congregation during the preceding eight weeks or has not communicated with the minister or the elders of the congregation in such a way as to reveal interest or sincerity; and after due effort has been made during this period to encourage them to respond, then shall their names be dropped from the voting membership role of this congregation.

Members under eighteen (18) years of age shall not be entitled to any vote.

ARTICLE IV. ELDERS AND DEACONS

Section 1. ELDERS: How Elected

Nominees for the office of elder shall have the qualifications set forth in the New Testament in order to be eligible. A nominee for the eldership must first serve the congregation for at least one year as a deacon. He will be elected an elder upon receiving at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast. In the event he does not receive the 2/3 vote, he may, at his own discretion, served as a deacon providing he has received at least a majority of the votes cast.

Elders are elected first for a period of one year after which they may be re-elected to successive three-year terms.

A minimum of two (2) elders shall be required to have a functioning eldership.

Section 2. Duties of Elders

The elders, in cooperation with functional committees shall promote the growth and welfare of the congregation, give spiritual guidance to the members with respect to regular attendance at the Lord's Supper, visit the sick, and morally delinquent and spiritually indifferent counsel with the minister, give thoughtful consideration to policies of the congregation that will enable it to fulfill its complete mission, encourage by example and word the missionary, evangelistic, educational, and stewardship responsibilities of the congregation, see that the Lord's Table is properly supervised and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Section 3. Deacons: How Elected

Nominees for the office of deacon shall have the qualifications set forth in the New Testament in order to be eligible. A nominee for deacon must have been a member of the congregation for at least six months prior to the annual meeting. To be elected or re-elected he must receive at least a majority of the votes cast.

Deacons are elected first for a period of one year, after which they may be re-elected to successive three-year terms.

Section 4. Duties of Deacons

The deacons, in cooperation with functional committees shall

cooperate with the elders in promoting the growth and welfare of the church; assist in the financial canvasses, visitation projects, and preparation of candidates for baptism; give counsel and service in the business affairs and program activities of the church; cooperate in administering to the needy; and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

ARTICLE V. OTHER OFFICERS

Section 1. Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Congregation

The chairman and vice-chairman of the congregation shall be elected at the annual meeting from the membership of the congregation for a term of one year.

Section 2. Duties of the Chairman

The chairman shall fulfill the usual duties of such an officer, call and preside at regular or special meetings of the congregation, and serve as chairman of the General Church Board.

Section 3. Duties of the Vice-Chairman

The vice-chairman shall fulfill the duties of the chairman in his absence.

Section 4. Trustees

The trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of three (3) years. At all annual meetings, upon expiration of a term of office, one trustee shall be elected to serve for a term of three (3) years.

Section 5. Duties of Trustees

The management of the estate and properties of the corporation shall be vested in the trustees who must be members of the congregation. The trustees shall hold in trust the property of the congregation; shall have no power to buy, sell, lease, or mortgage any congregational property without the specific vote of the congregation in meeting assembled, authorizing such action. The trustees are to keep posted as to the need for repairs and additions to the congregation's property and shall advise the General Church Board of such needs.

Section 6. Recording Secretary

The recording secretary shall keep minutes of all regular or special

business meetings of the congregation, serve as secretary of the General Church Board, keep a complete record of the church membership and such vital statistics as births, deaths, baptisms, and weddings, and perform such other duties as may be assigned.

Section 7. Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall receive and deposit all church income, shall make a record of all envelope giving, keep an individual accounting record of each contributor, send out statements as directed by the board, serve as a member of the stewardship committee, and present a regular written report at each regular meeting of the board.

Section 8. Treasurer

The treasurer shall disburse all funds of the congregation according to the authority designated to him by the board; serve as a member of the stewardship committee; make regular written reports at each regular meeting of the board; and keep records of all accounts. It shall be his duty to call the attention to any disbursement that is not in line with known church income or with the budget as adopted by the congregation.

Section 9. Selection of Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.

The recording secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer of the congregation shall be elected at the annual meeting from the membership of the congregation for a term of one year. A simple majority of votes cast will elect.

Section 10. Nominating Committee

A nominating committee shall be appointed each year to present a slate of officers for election at the annual meeting and shall be composed of a board member and two (2) members from the congregation. The nominating committee shall be recommended by the board chairman and approved by the church board. The minister is an ex-officio member of the nominating committee.

Section 11. Process of Nomination

The nominating committee prior to the annual meeting shall have prepared a ballot of qualified candidates whose consent has been obtained, to be submitted to the congregation for election of officers. Any member of the congregation desiring to have a person nominated should submit his name to a member of the

nominating committee after obtaining consent of the nominee, at least two (2) weeks prior to the election. The nominating committee's tentative ballot shall be posted at least four (4) weeks prior to the election date.

ARTICLE VI. GENERAL CHURCH BOARD

Section 1. Membership on General Church Board

The general church board shall consist of elders, deacons, and minister who, together with other elected officers of the church shall handle the affairs of the congregation.

Section 2. Duties of the General Church Board

It shall be the duty of the general church board to consider and to recommend to the congregation general policies, to transact business, to administer the program of the church through the designated functional committees.

Section 3. Authority of the General Church Board

The general church board shall perform its duties according to the authority granted in this constitution or delegated to it by the congregation., A written report shall be made to the congregation annually.

Section 4. Filling Unexpired Terms

Temporary vacancies may be filled by appointment of the chairman of the board with approval of the board. Such appointments shall be valid until the next election.

ARTICLE VII. ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held between April 20 and May 20 each year to conduct congregational business incident to the following church year which shall begin July 1 next and end on the following June 30. The chairman of the congregation and the recording secretary of the congregation will serve as chairman and clerk of all congregational meetings.

In the absence of the chairman of the congregation the vice-chairman shall serve. In the absence of both, the congregation may appoint a temporary chairman. In the absence of the recording secretary the congregation may appoint a temporary secretary

Section 2. Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice of the annual business meeting of the congregation shall be made by an announcement at regular Sunday morning worship service on each Sunday morning for at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3. Regular Business Meetings.

The General Church Board shall meet regularly to conduct the business affairs of the congregation, meeting at least quarterly. The chairman of the General Church Board shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the board or of the congregation. In his absence the vice-chairman shall serve. In the absence of both, the General Church Board shall appoint a temporary chairman

Section 4. Special Business Meetings of the Congregation

Special business meetings of the congregation may be called by a majority vote of the General Church Board or by petition signed by not less than ten (10) members of the congregation and presented to the chairman of the General Church Board who must issue the call within fifteen (15) days after filing the petition with him. Said call is to be made in compliance with the request in the petition should the petition contain such a request.

Section 5. Notice of special Business Meetings of the Congregation

Notice of special business meetings of the congregation shall be made at the regular Sunday morning worship service on two successive Sundays prior to the date of the special meeting. This notice must state the time, place, and purpose of this special business meeting.

Section 6. Special Business Meetings of the General Church Board

Special business meetings of the General Church Board may be called by the chairman whenever necessary. All members of the General Church Board must be notified of any special business meetings and the time and place of such business meeting must be compatible with schedules of a majority of members.

ARTICLE VIII. MINISTER

Section 1. Calling the Minister

In the calling of a minister to serve the congregation the elders shall serve as a pulpit committee to seek a minister and shall report their findings to the General Church Board after which the matter shall be presented to the congregation for vote. The call may be extended upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of voting membership of the congregation and shall be for a period of one year, after which, if satisfactory to both parties, it shall become indefinite in length, terminating upon a sixty-day written notice by either the minister or the congregation, acting through its General Church Board.

Section 2. Duties of Minister

The duties of the minister of this congregation shall be to preach and teach the Word of God, to promote the spiritual welfare of the members of the church by prayer, visitation, counsel, and other means which the needs may require; to seek to add to the membership of the church by evangelistic effort, to baptize and receive new members, to conduct the worship, lead in the administration of the ordinances, officiate at funerals and marriages, and coordinate the operations of the congregation. He is ex-officio member of all committees and organizations in the congregation (except the pulpit committee) and he may, when deemed advisable, represent the congregation in inter-congregational or Brotherhood affairs. The minister has the right of vote as a member of the congregation.

Section 3. Annual Review of Ministerial Progress

The minister shall be invited to meet with the pulpit committee at least once each year to discuss his ministry, including his effectiveness, salary, and any matter that would improve his ministry or his relationship with the congregation.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active voting members provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been read or posted in a conspicuous place at each regular Sunday morning service for four (4) consecutive Sundays immediately preceding the date on which the vote is taken; except that Article 1 may be amended only by unanimous approval of all active voting members.

ARTICLE X. QUORUM

The eligible voting membership present at any duly called congregational meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business affairs of the congregation. Members of the general church board present at any duly called meeting of the general church board shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XI. RULES OF ORDER

All meetings of the congregation and General Church Board shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, as revised.

THIS CONSTITUTION EFFECTIVE 4/29/2007 AND SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS.