



KENNEBEC VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

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ARTICLE 1: NAME

The NAME of the corporation is to be the KENNEBEC VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, and its principal office is to be located at WATERVILLE, in the county of KENNEBEC, in the State of MAINE.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVE

The general purpose and plan of operation shall be to extend and maintain a local, independent, New Testament Baptist Church; to maintain and promote Biblical worship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the preaching and teaching of the Articles of Faith as set forth in its By-laws; to maintain and promote the spiritual, educational, and charitable interests of the Church. (John 4:23-24; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15)

ARTICLE 3: CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most 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 give it a sacred pre-eminence over all other institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate religiously 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 the deeds of the flesh, sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like, to abstain from all appearances of evil, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

(Gal. 5:19-21 and I Thess. 5:22)

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we shall, 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: MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

We believe that 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.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

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 members of the church, all persons employed by the church in any capacity, and all who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Genesis 2:24; Matt 19:5; Mark 10:6-8; 1Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31

ARTICLE 5: ARTICLES OF FAITH

A Bible Baptist is one who believes in a supernatural Bible, which tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth, Who spoke supernatural words, Who performed supernatural miracles, Who lived a supernatural life, Who died a supernatural death, Who rose in supernatural splendor, Who intercedes as a supernatural priest and Who will one day return in supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on the earth.

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without and admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of the sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.

2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psalms. 119:160; Psalms. 119:105; Psalms. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psalms. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psalms. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Psalms. 147:5; Psalms. 83:18; Psalms. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7, John 10:30; John 17:5; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

III. Of the Holy Spirit

That the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth: that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:15; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27.

IV. Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness - destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Peter 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7, I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16, 20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41. 4

V. Of 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 own 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."

Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.

VI. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

VII. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost, in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psalms 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

VIII. Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing out sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

IX. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph 5:9.

X. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and an obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth by his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

XI. Of Justification

We believe that the 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 it 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 unto us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom 5:1; Tit. 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

XII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psalms 51:1-4; Psalms 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.

XIII. Of the Church

We believe that a Baptist Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the Divine and Eternal grace; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: First, to make individual disciples;

Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3, 4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation and the Lord's supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16; Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

XV. Of the Perseverance of the Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Psal. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10: 28-29; Rom. 8:35-39.

XVI. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse,

and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 1:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; Rom. 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34, 41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

XVII. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13, 14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11.

XVIII. Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "The third day according to the Scriptures;" that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God;" "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" - bodily, personally and visible; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first," that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-7; Acts 1:9, 11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10; John 14:3; I Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:27; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28; I Cor. 15:42-44, 51-53; I Thess. 4:17; Phil. 3:20, 21; Luke 1:32; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8; Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

XIX. Of Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Matt. 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe

all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Mark 16:15, “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

John 20:21, “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”

Rom. 10:13-15, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of who they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!”

XX Of the Grace of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith.

II Cor. 8:7, “Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.”

We are commanded to bring out gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

I Cor 16:2, “Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe - “Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils” - Heb. 7:2, 4 - and this was four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, “These ye ought to have done” - Matt. 23:23.

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Lev. 27:30, “The tithe...is the Lord’s.”

Mal. 3:10, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34, 35, 37, “And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles’ feet...Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it AT THE APOSTLES’ feet.”

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ADMISSION

A. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, giving positive evidence of a changed life, being baptized, and declaring himself in accord with the principles, practices, and doctrine of this church's by-laws and Articles of Faith, may become a candidate for church membership.

B. Every candidate for admission to this church by baptism, statement of faith, restoration, or letter, shall relate his Christian experience to any two church officers who are either pastor(s) and/or deacon(s).

C. These two officers, having satisfied themselves that the candidate is eligible for membership, shall recommend to the church that the candidate be received. A majority vote of the members present shall be required. (II Cor. 6:14)

D. Membership Agreement; To carry out the spiritual mission of Kennebec Valley Baptist Church (KVBC), to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to KVBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons who associate with KVBC as members endorse Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and conduct themselves in accordance with them; and will so state by signing a Membership Agreement. (See Appendix 1)

Section 2. TERMINATION

A. Death

B. Letter of recommendation to a church of like faith and practice upon written request of that church.

C. Dismissal upon written request of the member.

D. Delinquency. If a member does not attend nor communicate with the church regularly, a conscientious effort shall be made by the church to renew the interest of that member. If this effort fails, his name shall be listed as inactive by the deacon board. An inactive member showing a renewed interest in the church may be reinstated to active status by the deacon board.

E. Discipline. After the church has made a conscientious effort to fulfill the commands of scripture to reclaim any member in error, either in doctrine or practice, and those efforts fail, that member shall be dismissed from membership by the recommendation of the majority of the pastors and deacons and by vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business. (I Cor. 5:1-13; II Thess. 3:6-15; Titus 3:10-11; Matt. 18:15-17)

Section 3. RESTORATION

Any person whose membership has been terminated by disciplinary action of the church (Article 6, section 2E) may, upon public confession of his sin, be restored to membership by the recommendation of the pastor(s) or a deacon and a majority vote of the church membership present. (II Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:21-22)

Section 4. USE OF FACILITIES

Kennebec Valley Baptist Church's (KVBC) facilities are provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The KVBC desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.

However, facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with the Bible and the church's faith or moral teachings. All activities conducted in our facilities, sponsored by, and on the grounds of KVBC will be in agreement with and consistent with the By-Laws of KVBC. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

ARTICLE 7: GOVERNMENT

This church shall be an independent body of baptized believers who adhere to its by-laws and Articles of Faith.

Section 1. The HOLY SCRIPTURES shall be accepted as final authority on matters relating to its faith and practice (Psa. 119; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-21).

Section 2. The GOVERNMENT of this church shall be vested in its assembled membership. It shall be governed by Christ the Head, through the Holy Spirit the Administrator-in-residence, through the God-ordained local senior pastor and carried out through its duly elected officers.
(Acts 4:32-37; Acts 6:1-6; Heb. 13:7, 17; I Pet. 5:1-5).

It shall never be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, and/or denominational or association representatives shall ever sit in judgment over its affairs.

Section 3. INNER ORGANIZATIONS. Every organization within this church will be an integral part of the church and subject to the church. The pastor(s) may preside over all such organizations.

Section 4. FELLOWSHIP. This church may fellowship and cooperate with churches and organizations of like faith and practice in carrying out its objective, but no rules, regulations, or commitments shall be made to such bodies which call for more than voluntary action on the part of this church.

ARTICLE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

THEIR TERMS AND DUTIES The officers of this church shall consist of pastor(s), deacons, trustees, treasurer and secretary.

Section 1. PASTOR(S)

A. **ELECTED.** Upon recommendation of a church-commissioned committee, the pastor(s) shall be elected by vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business. (I Tim. 3:1-7)

B. **TERM.** A pastor(s) shall serve until his decease, his written voluntary resignation, or his termination by vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business.

C. **DUTIES.** The pastoral duties are considered to fall under the following headings:

1. **Teaching.** The most important aspect of the ministry is to teach and preach the Word of God. This is the New Testament way to build up the saints. This includes presiding over services of worship, conducting or assisting in guiding Bible study, and acting as spiritual guide to all membership and outreach groups within the church. The pastor(s) shall endeavor to increase his knowledge of God's Word by prayer, further study, and such other educational experiences as may be required.

2. **Shepherding the flock** shall include: ministering to the sick in body, soul, or spirit; counseling those who express a need, doubt, or question; and administering the ordinances.

3. **Evangelizing:** The pastor(s) shall be leading men to Christ, as well as teaching laymen to become effective witnesses.

4. **Overseeing:** He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He shall have the liberty to present to the church any matter he deems necessary as outlined in Article 10, general business. He shall approve all guest speakers. (Acts 20:28; I Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7, 17; I Pet. 5:1-5)

5. **Presiding President:** The senior pastor shall hold the office of President of the corporation.

Section 2. DEACONS

A. ELECTED. All active members shall receive an official nomination document to be completed and returned by a specified date. The nominations shall be reviewed by the pastor(s) and current deacons serving. All nominees Biblically qualified shall be contacted by the pastor(s) to determine their desire to hold the office. From those who desire to hold this office, the Deacon Board shall select the number necessary to fill vacancies based on those receiving the greatest number of nominations by the church members. These nominees shall then be presented to the church for approval by a vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business. These names shall be presented to the church two weeks prior to the annual business meeting. The number of deacons to serve shall be determined by the pastor(s) and the current deacons.

(I Tim. 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6)

B. TERM. A deacon shall serve a term of three years or until his written voluntary resignation or his termination by vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business. At the end of his term in office he shall step down for a minimum of one year before being eligible for nomination to the office of deacon.

C. DUTIES. The Biblical meaning of the office is "one who serves as an attendant." The office does not give authority over the pastor(s) or the church, but deacons are to work in cooperation with and under the guidance of the pastor(s), relieving him of duties that would infringe upon the priorities of his office. It is their duty to carry out what the church determines and not to determine what the church does except by recommendation - this includes administering the ordinances. A vice-chairman shall be selected from their number, and he shall be responsible to call and moderate all meetings. Minutes of all such meetings shall be filed with the church secretary.

Section 3. TRUSTEES

A. SELECTION. They shall be selected from among the deacons and by the deacons. The vice-chairman shall be a trustee.

B. TERM. The office of trustee shall serve for a period of one year.

C. DUTIES. They shall act on behalf of the corporation in legal matters as required by law. They shall seek and comply with the counsel of the deacon board in all matters.

Section 4. TREASURER

A. SELECTION. The treasurer shall meet the qualifications for deacon and shall be appointed yearly by the pastor(s) and deacons.

B. DUTIES. He shall work in cooperation with the pastor(s) and deacons. He shall receive, count, and bank all funds of the corporation, and shall file with the office a record of all offerings and amounts thereof, signed by at least three witnesses. He shall

keep correct records, in the corporation's regular books of accounts, of all business transactions. He shall be subject to the general supervision of the pastor(s) and deacons. He shall be responsible for the disbursements all funds of the corporation. He shall submit to the church office copies of the monthly financial report, whereby making them available to members. All checks or savings withdrawals shall bear two of the three signatures approved by the church. In his absence, his assistant shall perform only those duties of the office that are basically necessary for its smooth operation.

Section 5. CORPORATE SECRETARY

A. SELECTION. He shall be a deacon and appointed yearly by the pastor(s) and deacons and shall work under their general guidance.

B. DUTIES. He shall be responsible to ensure that all minutes of all meetings are taken, filed, and recorded. He shall ensure that adequate notice of said meetings be given when required or requested. He shall ensure all church rolls are kept current.

ARTICLE 9: FINANCE

Section 1. TITHES, Scripturally known as storehouse tithing and OFFERINGS brought into the general treasury of the church shall be the general method of its financing. (Mal. 3:8-11; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 8:1-5, 9, 12-15; 9:6-15)

Section 2. MISSIONARY giving shall be through the FAITH PROMISE plan, but this shall not exclude monies being allotted from the general treasury or from special offerings. (I Cor. 9:7-14; Luke 6:38)

Section 3. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS of the corporation are dedicated to its religious and educational purposes, and no member of the corporation shall derive any right thereto, on dissolution or otherwise, except it be for services rendered or expenses incurred. Payment of expenses incurred may be authorized by the deacon board for all budgeted items. Non-budgeted items \$2,000 or under shall be authorized for payment by the deacon board. Any non-budgeted items over \$2,000 shall require a church vote as outlined in Article 10, general business, except in any emergency situation. In an emergency, the deacon board shall take whatever action necessary and then announce the situation and action taken at the next scheduled Sunday morning service.

Section 4. ASSETS with market value in excess of \$1,000 shall not be sold, mortgaged, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of unless authorized by a church vote as outlined in Article 10, general business. Any assets with market value under \$1,000 shall be disposed of at the discretion of the deacon board.

ARTICLE 10: GENERAL BUSINESS

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. MEETING GUIDELINES

A. Location. All meetings of the church shall be held on a Sunday within the State of Maine at its principal office in Waterville, Maine, or elsewhere in the state of Maine as may be designated in the call for the meeting.

B. Notification. An announcement shall be made on the Sunday preceding the date of the meeting, except for special meetings as outlined in Section 3

C. No secret or unauthorized meetings are valid, and anyone participating in such meetings shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the church as specified in Article 6, Section 2.C. Attendance. Only active members and their children will be allowed to attend any business meeting of this church. An interpreter for the deaf will be present at all meetings. If necessary, a non-member will be allowed to interpret.

D. Quorum. Twenty-five percent of the active, voting membership in the church shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of this church, except any meeting of the deacons. To confirm the quorum at all meetings, an oral roll call shall be taken by the church secretary. In his absence, a designated deacon shall fulfill this duty. A quorum for a meeting of the deacons shall be two-thirds.

E. Vote of the Church. Only active members eighteen years of age or older shall be eligible to vote or participate in any business transaction of this church.

To carry, any motion presented shall require an eighty percent majority vote. The election or termination of deacons or pastor(s) shall be executed by secret ballot, if so requested by any member.

F. Moderator. The vice-chairman or, in his absence, a designated deacon shall moderate meetings.

Section 3. TYPES OF MEETINGS

A. Annual Meeting. The meeting shall be held on a stipulated Sunday between the dates of June 30 and September 1.

The following items are those that need to be attended to but are not intended to be an exclusive list:

- (1) reading of minutes
- (2) treasurer's report
- (3) authorization of budget

- (4) committee/board reports
- (5) election of officers

Annual retiring officers shall relinquish their positions and all newly-elected officers shall assume their responsibilities immediately following the annual meeting.

B. Petition Meetings. A petition shall state clearly the purpose, date, time of the meeting, and the names of the petitioners. The petition shall be signed by a minimum of one third (1/3) of the active voting membership and presented to the church secretary for verification and proper notification.

C. Special meetings. May be called by the majority of the pastors and deacons, provided that it is announced in at least two regular services prior to said meeting, and an attempt by the corporate secretary is made to contact all active members.

ARTICLE 11: Non-Member Volunteer Agreement

To carry out the spiritual mission of Kennebec Valley Baptist Church (KVBC), and to provide a biblical role model to the surrounding community, it is imperative that all persons who volunteer or are otherwise associated with KVBC in a volunteer/helper capacity (non-member) endorse Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and conduct themselves in accordance with them while fulfilling their volunteer responsibilities at KVBC; and will so state by signing a Non-Member Volunteer Agreement.
(See Appendix 2)

ARTICLE 12: BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be altered, amended, repealed, or new by-laws added or adopted by vote of the church as outlined in Article 10, general business. All changes to the by-laws shall be presented to the church by a church-commissioned committee. The notice of the meeting shall be given weekly to the church at least three Sundays prior to the meeting, and the proposed written alterations, amendments, and/or additions shall be available three weeks prior to the meeting.

A change to an Article of Faith shall require a 50% quorum and a 100% vote of the members in attendance at the meeting.

As Amended March 26, 2017.

Appendix 1

Membership Agreement

To carry out the spiritual mission of Kennebec Valley Baptist Church (KVBC), to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to KVBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons who associate with KVBC as members endorse Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and conduct themselves in accordance with them; and will so state by signing a Membership Agreement.

I acknowledge and affirm that I have read and understand the Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and to hereby agree to be governed by all the provisions therein.

Signature

Date

Print Name

As Amended March 26, 2017.

Appendix 2

Non-Member Volunteer Agreement

To carry out the spiritual mission of Kennebec Valley Baptist Church (KVBC), and to provide a biblical role model to the surrounding community, it is imperative that all persons who volunteer or are otherwise associated with KVBC in a volunteer/helper capacity (non-member) endorse Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and conduct themselves in accordance with them while fulfilling their volunteer responsibilities at KVBC; and will so state by signing a Non-Member Volunteer Agreement.

I acknowledge and affirm that I have read and understand the Kennebec Valley Baptist Church Bylaws and to hereby agree to be governed by all the provisions therein while performing my volunteer duties at KVBC.

Signature

Date

Print Name

As Amended March 26, 2017.