

# GRACE FELLOWSHIP CONSTITUTION

**Original  
August 9, 1988**

**Updated  
October 1999**

**Updated  
May 3, 2009**

**Updated  
April 26, 2015**

**Updated  
April 24, 2016**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### CONSTITUTION

	<b>Page</b>
I. Name and Incorporation	2
II. Purpose and Vision	2
III. Covenant	2
IV. Statement of Faith	2
V. Affiliation	3
VI. Membership	3
VII. Church Staff	4
VIII. Church Leaders	5
IX. Church Ministries	7
X. Church Organizations	7
XI. Meetings and Elections	8
XII. Acquisition, Disposition & Encumbrance of Real Property	9
XIII. Amendments	10

## **ARTICLE I: Name and Incorporation**

### **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Grace Fellowship.

### **INCORPORATION**

Grace Fellowship was incorporated under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317 of Minnesota Statutes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 1988.

## **ARTICLE II: Purpose and Vision**

The purpose of Grace Fellowship is to honor God by inspiring people to find and follow Jesus.

Our vision is to be a culturally relevant, biblically rooted church, that takes risks to make new followers of Jesus, develop them into radical, devoted and loving servants, who care for those in need, both here and around the world, while starting reproducing new churches.

## **ARTICLE III: Grace Fellowship Covenant**

Having said “yes” to God by committing our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and following Him in the act of Baptism, we covenant together by God’s grace to:

- Worship God together on a weekly basis;
- Get to know God through personal time in prayer and Bible study;
- Give sacrificially to our shared mission with tithing as a norm;
- Use their gifts in service;
- Participate in small groups for fellowship, discipleship, and outreach.

## **ARTICLE IV: Statement of Faith**

We believe that the Bible is the verbally and totally inspired Word of God, inerrant in its original manuscripts. The Bible is our supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21)

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, 26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1,3; 4:24; Acts 5:3,4; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 4:5,6; II Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13)

We believe that man was created in the image of God, 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 become guilty sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26, 27; 3:1-24; Romans 3:25; 5:12-18; I John 1:8)

We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that He rose victorious from the grave on the third day, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. (Isaiah 53; Matthew 20:18; John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 5:1; I Corinthians 15:3, II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; I John 2:2; Matthew 28:6; Romans 10:9 and I Corinthians 15:14)

We believe in the personal and visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17)

We believe that all who come by grace through faith to accept the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God. (John 3:3, 5; 1:12, 13; James 1:18; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9)

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost. (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6; 11-15)

We believe that all Christians are indwelt and baptized by the Holy Spirit when they receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We believe that water baptism by immersion is the biblical testimony of the professed believer in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:28-41, 47; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:36-40; 10:47; 18:8; Romans 6:3, 4; I Corinthians 12:13)

We believe that those who partake of the Lord’s Supper should be regenerate believers, walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:42-46; I Corinthians 11:23-29)

We believe that all Christians have direct relations with God through Jesus Christ, are responsible to God alone, and that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any outside authority.

We believe in the universal church, composed of all regenerated believers of any race or nation. We believe in the local church, consisting of a group of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. (Matthew 28:17-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 12:12-31)

We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. (Matthew 19:4-6)

#### **ARTICLE V: Affiliation**

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperation with one another in a denominational organization. This church shall maintain affiliation with the Minnesota Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Membership**

##### **QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS**

Persons confessing faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord of their lives, giving evidence of regeneration, being baptized following conversion, accepting the statement of faith held by this church and being duly received by the members shall constitute the membership.

##### **ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Upon recommendation of the Elders, new members shall be welcomed into this church at any regular service after:

- Confessing faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord of life;
- Being baptized following conversion;
- Having completed orientation classes as designated by the Elder Board;
- Adhering to the doctrine, ministry, and distinctives of the church;
- Receiving the recommendation of the Elder Board or Elder Board designee after a personal interview; and
- Giving public profession of a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

The church shall ratify the previous action of the Elders accepting the new members at the next annual meeting.

Pastoral staff members and their spouses who qualify for membership may be accepted into membership by Elder Board approval

##### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES**

With the privilege of membership come certain duties and responsibilities. As enabled by God to do so, members should:

- Worship God together on a weekly basis;
- Get to know God through personal time in prayer and Bible study;
- Give sacrificially to our shared mission with tithing as a norm;
- Use their gifts in service;
- Participate in small groups for fellowship, discipleship, and outreach.

##### **REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

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

- **Resignation** - Resignations shall be in writing to the Elder Board and referred to the church for disposition at the next quarterly business meeting.
- **Church Change** - Admission to membership in another church.
- **Disciplinary Reasons** - Members will be removed for disciplinary reasons upon recommendation from the Elder Board and a two-thirds vote by secret ballot of the members present at a regular or special business meeting of the congregation.
- **Absence** - Any member of the church, showing no interest in the activities of the church for one year may be removed by action of the Elder Board.

## **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

**Authority** - Christians are admonished not to continue in sin (Romans 6:1). Sin in the believer's life is to be confessed and forsaken in accordance with I John 1:9 and Proverbs 28:13. In the event of persistent unrepentant sin or offenses against the church, action shall be initiated to correct the sinning member(s). Offenses requiring discipline that may eventually result in exclusion from membership, church office, or staff position include:

- Sins of human character that obscure the holiness of God such as moral impurity, perversion, covetousness, and idolatry (I Corinthians 5:11);
- Sins of divisiveness that bring confusion and schism to the work of the church (Romans 17:17);
- Sins that violate the truth of God by promoting false doctrine (II Peter 2:1-3). This shall be done with a concern for redemption and reconciliation rather than punishment and ostracism.

**Method** - Matthew 18:15-20 instructs the church in the method of discipline, and Galatians 6:1-2 indicates that all church discipline should be conducted privately with love. Disciplinary action against a member, who persists in sin, or an offense, will be initiated upon receipt by the Elder Board of a written complaint by at least two witnesses. The Elder Board shall carefully investigate the complaint attempting to effect proper understanding and restoration. If all reasonable efforts by the Elder Board fail to resolve the issue, necessary disciplinary action will be initiated which may result in exclusion from membership.

If the dismissed member repents, application will again be considered for membership. The dismissed member will also be encouraged to make restitution, if possible.

## **ARTICLE VII: Church Staff**

### **SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastor is responsible to provide leadership and oversee the direction, thrust, and ministry of the entire church, including its priorities and spiritual vitality. He shall be the spiritual leader of the church, and shall preach and teach the Word, lead the public church services, administer the ordinances, and lead its members in a practical Christian life.

He shall be a non-voting member of the Elder Board and an ex-officio member of all church organizations, and shall strive to establish and accomplish objectives in conjunction with the various organizations.

He shall direct the church staff, provide counsel, encouragement and Christian discipline, so as to assist in the accomplishment of objectives for each staff member. All staff is responsible to the senior pastor either directly or through another staff member he shall delegate.

#### **Qualifications:**

The qualifications of the Senior Pastor should be as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7. He shall be sympathetic and cooperative with the Baptist General Conference and the Minnesota Baptist Conference and in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church, and will also meet the qualifications specified for "pastoral staff".

#### **Establishment of Senior Pastor Relationships:**

Upon recommendation of a Calling Committee, the congregation shall issue a call, contingent on a 75% affirmative ballot vote at a business meeting following proper notice.

#### **Dissolution of Senior Pastor Relationships:**

Resignation shall be received by the Elder Board. There shall be at least 30 days notice unless the Elder Board shall agree otherwise.

A pastoral relationship may be dissolved as the result of grievances, but only after the Elder Board has made every effort to resolve the grievances.

- A request for the pastor's resignation may be made by recommendation of the majority of the Elder Board or by a petition signed by at least twenty-five percent of the eligible voting membership.
- The pastoral relationship may be dissolved by ballot vote by a majority of eligible voting members present at a duly called business meeting. Notice and purpose of the meeting shall be given to members in writing and by bulletin at least two Sundays prior to the business meeting.
- Should a recommendation by the Elder Board or a membership petition for resignation be overruled by the membership of the church, all Elders signing the petition or voting for recommending resignation shall automatically relinquish their office.

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

The pastoral staff shall include other pastors as determined by the Board of Elders.

The calling, severance, resignation or removal of pastoral staff members shall be made by the Elder Board in consultation with the Senior Pastor and as provided for by the budget.

The titles and duties of the pastoral staff members shall be determined at the time of the call by the Elder Board in consultation with the Senior Pastor, and they shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor or his designate to carry out specific areas of ministry.

A Pastoral Staff position may be dissolved by action of the Board of Elders and Senior Pastor. The terms of dissolution shall be established by the Board of Elders.

Resignations of pastoral staff members shall be received by the Senior Pastor or his designate. There shall be at least 30 days notice unless the Elder Board shall agree otherwise.

The Pastoral Staff shall strive "to equip the saints and the work of ministry."

Each Pastoral Staff member may be designated an ex-officio member or leader of one or more church organizations by the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Board of Elders.

### **Qualifications for Pastoral Staff**

1. Must agree to meet membership requirements
2. Must subscribe to and affirm the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church
3. Must be a proportionate giver with tithing as a norm
4. Must strive to meet the Biblical Standards for church leaders (1 Timothy 3)
5. Must be of legal age
6. Must possess experience, education and abilities as deemed appropriate by the Board of Elders

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

Support Staff includes Program Staff, Business Staff, Secretarial Staff, Custodial Staff, Pastoral Interns, Pastoral Staff Assistants and Paraprofessionals, Musicians and temporary help.

All Support Staff shall be hired by the Senior Pastor, or his designate, on terms established by the Board of Elders.

The titles and duties of the Support Staff shall be determined at the time of hiring by the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Elder Board, and they shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor or his designate to carry out specific areas of ministry.

A Support Staff person may be dismissed by action of the Board of Elders and Senior Pastor. The terms of dismissal shall be established by the Board of Elders.

Resignations of Support Staff members shall be received by the Senior Pastor or his designate. There shall be at least two weeks notice unless the Elder Board shall agree otherwise.

### **Qualifications for Support Staff**

1. Must agree to meet membership requirements
2. Must subscribe to and affirm the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church
3. Must possess experience, education and abilities as deemed appropriate by the Board of Elders

## **ARTICLE VIII: Church Leaders**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. The church, membership will elect an Elder Board and will call a Senior Pastor. The Elder Board and Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the general oversight of the affairs of the church in accordance with the Constitution.

## **ELDER BOARD**

**Membership** - The Elder Board shall consist of 6 elected laymen, one being the church chairman who will be an ex-officio member of all organizations of the church.

## Responsibilities

- **General Oversight** - The Elder Board and Senior Pastor shall have the general oversight of all matters pertaining to the church, including the preparation of a budget to be presented and approved by the church at the annual meeting. General Oversight shall also include:
  1. Annually appraising the ministry and salary of the Senior Pastor.
  2. Annually appraising the ministry and salary of other staff members in conjunction with the review done by the Senior Pastor.
  3. Approving any single expenditure not included in the General Budget up to an amount of 1% of the annual budget but not to cumulatively exceed 3% of the total annual budget.
- **Contractual Authority** - Subject to the final approval of the church membership, the Elder Board shall have the responsibility to mortgage, convey or encumber the real property on behalf of the church. With the presentation of each transaction of real property to the church for approval, the Elder Board will also designate which board members (a minimum of two) shall be responsible for the signing and execution of documents related to the transaction.

## Qualifications

An Elder Board member shall be:

- An active member in good standing;
- One who subscribes to the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this church;
- One who conforms to the standards of I Timothy 3:2-7;
- A proportionate giver with tithing as a norm;
- Of legal age; and
- One who attends worship services regularly.

**Election** - Elder Board members shall serve a term of two years and be eligible for re-election to a second and third two-year term after which they shall be ineligible to serve as an Elder Board member for one year. Six months or more of serving during an elective church year constitutes one year for purposes of this restriction.

**Vacancies** - Vacancies occurring during the church year may be filled for the unexpired term at any business meeting. Nominees to fill these vacancies shall be presented by the Nominating Committee.

**Meetings** - The Elder Board shall determine the time and plan of their regular meetings. Special meetings may be called at the request of the church chairman or senior pastor with the notification and approval of the other.

\* Quorum: A majority of the elected Elder Board members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

## OTHER LEADERS

**Church Chairman** - The church chairman shall:

- be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church;
- be a church member;
- preside over all business meetings of the church;
- serve as the chairman of the Elder Board;
- be an ex-officio member of all church organizations;
- be a person of proven spiritual leadership able to maintain a spirit of Christian love at all business meetings;
- meet the qualifications of an Elder Board member;
- be familiar with the Constitution of the church and with Robert's Rules of Order; and
- serve a two-year term, and may be re-elected to a second and third two-year term.

**Church Clerk** - The church clerk shall:

- be nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church;
- be a church member;
- keep minutes of all congregational and Elder Board meetings;
- carry on such correspondence as is necessary;
- keep a register of the membership of the church;
- make a report of the membership activity at quarterly business meetings;
- take charge of all records (except financial records); and
- serve a one-year term and be eligible for reappointment.

**Financial Secretary** - The Financial Secretary shall:

- be nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church;
- keep a record of all contributions to the work of the church;
- send financial statements of gifts made during the calendar year to each contributor of record;
- meet with the Elder Board as necessary;
- serve a two year term, elected alternate years with the Treasurer, and be eligible for reappointment.

**Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall:

- be nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church;
- keep an accurate account of all ; bank deposits and disbursements
- make quarterly and annual reports to the church at its regular business meetings;
- meet with the Elder Board as necessary
- serve a two year term, elected alternate years with the Financial Secretary, and be eligible for reappointment.

## ARTICLE IX: Church Ministries

### STRUCTURE

The ministries of the church shall include Fellowship, Discipleship, Outreach, Property, and Finance. Each ministry will be overseen by an Elder Board member:

Purpose and responsibility statement for ministry areas.

- **Fellowship:** Responsibilities shall include ministries designed to encourage fellowship and incorporate people into the fellowship of the church. Examples of fellowship ministries include: care groups, women's and men's groups, sports teams, refreshments, all-church activities, potlucks, receptions, communion and baptism preparation, and ushers.
- **Discipleship:** Responsibilities shall include ministries designed to disciple and educate. Examples of discipleship ministries include: children and youth learning centers, adult congregations, vacation Bible school, children's club programs, and camps.
- **Outreach:** Responsibilities shall include ministries designed to bring people to Christ and into fellowship with His church. Examples of outreach ministries include: advertising, direct mail, personal evangelism, event evangelism, missions education, and support of missionaries.
- **Property:** Responsibilities shall include the oversight and usage of church property.
- **Finance:** Responsibilities shall include the collection, care and disbursement of budgeted and non-budgeted giving in accordance with a budget and procedures established by the Elder Board.

## ARTICLE X: Church Organizations

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members elected from the membership of the church at large. Joining these members shall be an Elder Board member appointed by the Elder Board, and the Senior Pastor or pastoral staff member appointed by the Senior Pastor, both of whom will be regular voting members.

- **Selection:** Recommendations for the three members at large will be made by the current Nominating Committee to the Elder Board and pastoral staff for review and approval. Those recommended and approved will then be contacted by the current Nominating Committee to apprise them of the responsibilities of the Committee and to determine their willingness to serve. Members of the Nominating Committee shall display a Spirit-filled life, demonstrate a servant's heart, possess leadership ability and knowledge of the congregation, and recognize the need to be above reproach.
- **Election:** The Nominating Committee shall post the names of the nominees consenting and qualified to serve two weeks prior to the annual elections.

- **Length of Service:** The term of service shall be one year and no member of the Nominating Committee from the church at large shall serve more than one consecutive term.
- **Vacancies:** If the number of Committee members elected from the church at large falls below three, the current Committee will replace the needed Committee members by recommending to the pastoral staff and Elder Board appropriate candidates for approval and will present to the church as soon as possible candidates for election.
- **Responsibilities:** The Committee shall serve the following church year to:
  - consider and review the credentials of possible candidates to the positions of the Elder Board, the Church Chairman, church clerk, financial secretary, treasurer, and Audit Committee;
  - clear candidates with the existing pastoral staff and Elder Board;
  - nominate candidates for the election, with efforts made to provide multiple candidates for each Elder Board position;
  - post a slate of candidates two weeks prior to the annual election;
  - handle distribution and tabulation of ballots;
  - announce results;
  - fill any vacancies as they occur during the year; receive and prayerfully consider any suggestions from members of the congregation for nomination to church office.

## **CALLING COMMITTEE**

The Calling Committee shall be activated for the calling of the Senior Pastor. This Committee shall:

- consist of at least five active church members and one Elder Board member;
- broadly represent the membership and program of the church; and
- be appointed by the Elder Board and approved by the church.

The work of the Calling Committee shall be to find a candidate for the position of Senior Pastor and bring its recommendation to the Elder Board for approval. This Committee in consultation with the Elder Board shall formulate the terms of the call. The Elder Board, together with the Calling Committee shall recommend the acceptable candidate to the church for approval. A three-fourths affirmative vote of the eligible voting membership present at a business meeting called for the purpose of calling a Senior Pastor is required. Voting shall be done in all cases by a ballot.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least two (2) church members nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church to serve for a period of two years with each member elected in alternate years. The Audit Committee shall review the financial records of the church and shall submit a written report of findings at the first quarterly business meeting of the church and at such other times as the Elder Board may direct.

## **ARTICLE XI: Meetings and Elections**

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Sunday Worship** - The church shall meet Sundays for worship and may schedule other meetings as deemed necessary.

**The Lord's Supper** - The Lord's Supper is open to all believers in Christ and shall be observed regularly as authorized by the Elder Board.

**Baptism** - The ordinance of baptism shall be observed as necessary.

### **BUSINESS MEETINGS**

**Annual Meeting** - The annual business meeting shall be held during the first month following the close of the fiscal year, on March 31, the specific date to be determined by the Elder Board. Church members shall be supplied with a copy of the annual report on the Sunday preceding the meeting. The annual budget will be approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

**Special Meetings** - Special business meetings may be held at any time by request of the Elder Board or by written request signed by a quorum of the membership and submitted to the Chairman of the Elder Board. In addition to the standard meeting notice, special business meetings must be announced from the pulpit at the Sunday morning service prior to the meeting.

**Action by Ballot in Lieu of Meeting** – Action by ballot of the membership may be taken by request of the Elder Board in lieu of a business meeting. Such transaction of business may include constitutional changes, legal matters concerning property, calling of the lead pastor, and other ordinary business with the exception of dismissing the lead pastor. The Elder Board shall place the ballot box in a conspicuous place after each worship service on the weekend of the vote. Members of the Elder Board or their designees shall supervise the distribution of ballots by verifying each voter's name against a current membership list, and shall give a ballot to every member who is present and qualified to vote. Absentee ballots will be available upon request to the Elder Board. Notice of Action by Ballot shall be the same as Notice of Meetings.

**Eligibility to Vote in Meetings** - All matters pertaining to calling or dismissing a pastor, legal matters concerning property, constitutional changes and church discipline shall be voted on only by members in good standing who are of legal age (18). On all other matters, members who have reached their sixteenth birthday shall be eligible to vote.

**Quorum** - The members present at any business meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of regular business that may properly come before the meeting; a simple majority in the affirmative shall be necessary to carry any motion except at otherwise designated by the constitution. Exceptions shall include calling or dismissing a pastor, legal matters concerning property, constitutional changes, calling a special business meeting and church discipline. For these exceptions, twenty percent of the church membership shall constitute a quorum.

**Notice of Meetings** - Notice for all regular and special business meetings shall be made to members by email, regular mail, or by bulletin at least one week prior to the meeting. Exceptions to this shall occur in the acquisition or disposition of real property, or encumbrance of same, where notice will be given to members by email or regular mail at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. For "Notice of Meetings" to amend this Constitution see Article XIII.

**Rules of Order** - Business shall be conducted according to the rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) unless they conflict with the adopted Constitution of this church.

**Elder Board** - The Elder Board shall meet regularly.

## **ELECTIONS**

**Time** - The annual election shall be held during the last month of the fiscal year.

**Nominations** - The Nominating Committee shall be responsible to provide nominations as outlined in Article X.

**Voting Procedures** - Voting in the annual election shall be by written ballot. The ballot shall clearly indicate the term of office for which each nomination has been made. The Nominating Committee shall place the ballot box in a conspicuous place after each worship service on the Sunday of the election. Members of the Nominating Committee shall supervise the distribution of ballots by verifying each voter's name against a current membership list, and shall give a ballot to every member who is present and qualified to vote. Absentee ballots will be available in the church foyer the Sunday prior to the election or from the church secretary during the week before the election. Absentee ballots will be sealed in an envelope by the voter and held by the Nominating Committee or the church secretary until election day.

**Persons Elected** - The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for an office shall be elected to that office. In the case of a tie, another vote shall be taken.

## **ARTICLE XII: Acquisition, Disposition & Encumbrance of Real Property**

In constructing a building or acquiring or selling real estate, or encumbering real estate the church congregation shall act with proper notice of such business meeting.

In the event of a division of this church, the property of this church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the Ruling Board of Converge North Central (formerly the Minnesota Baptist Conference) or its successor and their decision shall be final.

Should a condition arise at any time when for any reason the church work cannot continue, the church property and debt shall be transferred to Converge North Central or its successor. Should any controversy arise as to whether church work cannot continue, the question shall be submitted to the Ruling Board of Converge North Central (formerly the Minnesota Baptist Conference) or its successor and their decision shall be final.

**ARTICLE XIII: Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution can be made at any business meeting with a 2/3 vote in the affirmative, of a quorum of eligible voting members present, providing that notice is made to members by email or regular mail at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting, giving the current policy and the proposed amendment. Proposed amendments may be introduced by formal written motion in a previous business meeting, or to the Elder Board for introduction to the church.