



## **ARTICLE 1 - THE BODY**

Sec. 1. This body of Christian disciples shall be known by the inspired name, as revealed in the Scriptures, **The Church of God.**

Sec. 2. This body shall retain the Apostolic form of the primitive Church, and consist of:

<b>The Twelve</b>	<b>The Elders</b>
<b>The Seventy</b>	<b>The Helpers</b>
<b>The Seven</b>	<b>The Disciples</b>
	<b>The Deacons</b>

## **ARTICLE 2 - ORGANIZATION OF THE BODY**

**The following offices are to be held as stated and as long as the individuals are able to perform their duties.**

Sec. 1. THE TWELVE shall be chosen from among the Elders in the faith, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, by lot, after fasting and prayer. They shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as they continue to keep the faith of Jesus and the Commandments of God, as upheld by this Constitution. Successors to be chosen in like manner.

**For the following positions, the lot may be used to fill a vacancy:**

\*9 Apostles present voted unanimously for the following. Those absent were Brothers Pas, Paul, Yehoshuva.

Sec. 2. THE SEVENTY shall be chosen from among the Elders, under the direction of the Holy Spirit with prayer. They shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as true to the faith of the Church.

Sec. 3. THE SEVEN shall be chosen from among the brethren, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, with prayer, and ordained by the Twelve, and shall continue in their respective offices during life, or as long as true to the faith of the Church, and their several trusts.

Sec. 4. THE ELDERS are men who are ordained or licensed ministers.

**Licensed Elders** shall be those disciples accepted into the ministry upon the recommendation of an ordained Elder, one of the Seventy, or Twelve, after thorough investigation, both from inside and from outside the Church, as to his character, his attributes of a Christian, his ability to teach, and his faithfulness in the doctrine of the Church. He must have had at least six months of experience before license can be issued by the Twelve.

**Ordained Elders** are credentialed ministers and shall be selected from among the licensed Elders, and ordained by the Twelve, after at least two years of active and faithful service in the ministry as a licensed Elder.

Sec. 5. THE DEACONS who are local leaders, approved by the ministry,

are men chosen from among the brethren. These shall continue in their various duties where God has called them as long as faithful, and needs require.

Sec. 6. THE HELPERS AND THE DISCIPLES shall consist of all faithful men and women whom the Lord has seen fit to add unto the Church of God, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, as upheld in this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE 3 - THE DUTIES OF THE MEMBERS**

Sec. 1. THE TWELVE shall have the oversight over the body of believers as a whole, and shall give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word. One from among the Twelve, selected by themselves, shall preside at all meetings of the Twelve, and at all general assemblies of the body. The Twelve shall have the supervision over all councils, for the discussion and decision of doctrine of the Constitution.

Sec. 2. THE SEVENTY shall give themselves to the evangelistic ministry of the Word, according to the command of Jesus. They shall also have a voice in the deliberations of the body, as to doctrine, or relating to the Constitution of the body.

Sec. 3. THE SEVEN shall have the general oversight and management of the business of the Church, and shall act

as trustees for all property, or properties, pertaining to the general body. The Seven shall also act as agents in monetary matters for the Church at large; but always under the supervision of the Twelve. They shall have a voice in all councils of the Church.

Sec. 4. THE ELDERS shall give themselves to the ministry of the Word, and to prayers, according to their several talents, and occasions provided, for the advancement of the truth. All ordained Elders shall have a voice in the deliberations of councils as to doctrine or the Constitution of the body.

Sec. 5. THE DEACONS shall give themselves to the advancement of the work and the Truth, as the Lord hath given them talents and opportunity, being obedient unto those who have the oversight over them.

Sec. 6. THE HELPERS AND THE DISCIPLES shall give themselves wholly into the Lord's hands to use as He will, being obedient unto the Word, grounded and settled in the faith, growing in grace and knowledge through Christ Jesus, using their time, their means, their prayers, as faithful servants who will have to give account unto the Master in due time.

### **ARTICLE 4 - PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH AT LARGE**

The approval of the Twelve is required on all transactions.

Sec. 1. REAL ESTATE belonging to the Church at large shall belong to the general body, and shall be held in trust by the Seven as trustees for the Church at large.

Sec. 2. REAL ESTATE belonging to the local congregations shall be the property of the local bodies, and shall be held in trust by seven trustees, or five if more convenient, same to be members of the local congregation for which they are acting.

Sec. 3. OTHER PROPERTIES OF THE CHURCH, consisting of bonds, stocks, monies, or other valuables, shall be under the supervision of the Seven, who shall select from their number a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall keep accurate records of the business of the Church, and give an accurate account of all transactions passing through his hands, he reporting to the Seven, and they in turn reporting to the Twelve.

Sec. 4. BUYING OR SELLING OF PROPERTY, OR PROPERTIES, shall be only upon, and after, due consideration of the entire Seven, they being in unison upon all transactions.

Sec. 5. OTHER BUSINESS, and TRANSACTIONS, binding upon the general body shall be concluded only upon, and after thorough consideration

of the Seven, and they being in unison upon all transactions.

## ARTICLE 5 - FINANCES

The approval of the Twelve is required on all transactions.

Sec. 1. FINANCES shall be under direct supervision of the Seven, but by, and through, the Secretary-Treasurer from among their number, who is to be selected for such work. All allowances and expenditures to be approved of by the Seven before they are binding.

Sec. 2. ALL MONIES received or paid out by any minister or official of the Church, as church funds, must be duly reported in due time to the Secretary-Treasurer, for the information of the Seven, and the completion of the Church records.

Sec. 3. BONDS, STOCKS, NOTES, shall in no wise be bought or sold, or given, without the due consideration of the entire Seven, and their approval to be in unison.

## ARTICLE 6 - CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Sec. 1. GENERAL church government shall in all cases be apostolic, that is according to the records given in the Scriptures, pertaining to the primitive

Church. Christ is the supreme governor over the body, of which He is the head. All members of the Church, in whatever capacity laboring, shall be obedient unto those who have the rule over them, according to the Scriptures. The Twelve having the general supervision over the entire body, and the other members serving as given in the Scriptures also, and as outlined in this Constitution.

Sec. 2. LOCAL CHURCH government shall also be according to the Scriptures in all cases, the Church being composed of the various members as a body with its Elders, in harmony with the faith of the Church at large, and obedient to the government thereof.

Sec. 3. CHURCH TRIALS, local, shall be conducted by the members in good standing, with a local Elder as chairman. Decisions will be made by majority vote. Should a decision not be accepted, it must be referred to the Twelve for their decision.

Sec. 4. CHURCH TRIALS, general, shall be conducted by the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the ordained Elders. Decisions will be made by a majority vote, and will be final.

## ARTICLE 7 - THE CONSTITUTION

Sec. 1. THESE ARTICLES, embraced in this writing, shall be known as the Constitution of the Church of God,

with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia, and shall in all cases govern this body of believers.

Sec. 2. ACCEPTANCE of this Constitution shall be by the Twelve, the Seventy, and the Seven, unanimously, and shall then be declared in force.

Sec. 3. ALTERING, AMENDING, OR REVOKING of this Constitution, or any part thereof, shall be done only upon the assembly of a general council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the ordained Elders and then only by a unanimous vote of the Twelve after due deliberations.

## ARTICLE 8 - DOCTRINE

Sec. 1. DOCTRINE shall in all cases be according to the Holy Bible, and inasmuch as the Scriptures clearly teach the following points of doctrine, the same are listed as essentials of our faith:

1. The Bible, Old and New Testaments, is inspired as no other writing is, and is complete, infallible and expresses God's complete will to man.

2. The Eternal One in Heaven is the Creator of the heaven, the earth, the sea and all that is therein. He is our heavenly Father.

3. Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the power of God, born of the Virgin Mary, and is our Lord, Christ, and Redeemer. Jesus is the beginning of the creation of God (Revelation 3:14). He was with God at the creation of all things.

4. Jesus proved His Messiahship by remaining in the tomb exactly "three days and three nights," (Matthew 12:38-40). He was crucified on Wednesday and was resurrected in the end of the weekly Sabbath.

5. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter which abides in the believer and is manifest by power, and the fruit it produces, as in Acts 2:1-18 and Galatians 5:22-26. Manifestations are regulated according to I Corinthians 12. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is necessary in order for the body to be resurrected and the living changed at the first phase of Christ's Second Coming.

6. Satan is a personality, and before he became the Devil he was an anointed angel, called Lucifer. His pride was lifted up, and he was cast out of heaven. As the Devil, he is the adversary of God and of all the Children of God. The Devil will be bound for a thousand years, and then he will be released to deceive the nations after which he will

be destroyed in the lake of fire.

7. Man was created perfect originally, but through disobedience fell, bringing imperfection, death and God's wrath upon mankind.

8. Salvation comes to the baptized believer by grace (Titus 2:11). It is the gift of God. We are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 15:11). We are justified by His grace (Romans 3:24). This grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:21). By His grace we are saved (Ephesians 2:5) through faith. It is not something earned, but it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

9. The Christian life must be patterned after the perfect man, Christ Jesus. Each member strives to give himself as a living sacrifice, and each one lives his life in opposition to worldliness, so that the body of Christ, the Church, may be clean, unspotted and separate from the world.

10. The inspired Bible name for the Body of Christ, God's called out assembly, is "The Church of God".

11. The Organization and Government of the Church be as "God did set" it - first Apostles (12); second Prophets

(70) (Matthew 10:2-5; Luke 10:1; Ephesians 2:20). Later the Seven were appointed by the Twelve (Acts 6:1-7).

12. When believers accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal saviour, the following process must occur:

i) Repentance of sins committed is necessary. We all have sinned, and every individual must repent. Sin is the transgression of God's commandments.

ii) This conversion is essential to salvation and receiving eternal life.

iii) The believer must then be baptized. See Doctrinal Point number 13.

iv) Sanctification (setting apart for a holy purpose) will become a part of the believer's life.

v) Justification from sins through the Lord Jesus Christ will then occur.

After we have been justified, we become sanctified by the truth of God's Word.

13. Baptism is by immersion, for the remission of sins, typical of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is performed in the name Lord Jesus Christ. After the immersion, hands should be laid on the candidate by the minister (or ministers) for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

14. There is efficacy (power to produce) in the prayer of the righteous. The

laying on of hands, with the prayer of faith, and the anointing with oil shall save the sick.

15. The Lord's Supper is to be observed annually, as instituted by Jesus Christ. He became the Passover and was slain on the 14th day of the first month, Abib. He fulfilled the Old Testament Passover on that same day (Exodus 12:2, 18; 13:4). The Lord's Supper is to be a perpetual statute until fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

16. We ought to wash one another's feet. The footwashing is to be a part of the Lord's Supper Service. It is to be done before the emblems of the Lord are presented. This is the order in which Jesus put it at His Last Supper.

17. We should observe the seventh day of the week (Saturday), from even to even, as the Sabbath of the Lord our God. Evening is at sunset when the day ends and another day begins. No other day has been sanctified as the day of rest. The Sabbath Day begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday.

18. The paying of the tithe (a tenth of all increase) is a continued obligation.

19. We stand opposed to carnal warfare.

20. The Bible teaches the eating of clean meats as found in Leviticus 11:1-47, but the eating of unclean meats continues to be an abomination to God.

21. Since we are children of God and temples of the Holy Spirit, we stand opposed to drunkenness, intoxication, and addiction to any narcotic or nicotine.

Anything we can eat or drink should be sanctified by the Word of God and with prayer, and that it be partaken of in moderation.

22. The lot system is the biblical method for choosing officers of the Twelve. It may also be used by the general body down to the local congregation when necessary. God is in the disposition of the lot when His guidance is asked for with prayer.

23. The Ten Commandments, should be taught and kept. This is the perfect "law of liberty," it is "holy, just and good," and a "royal law."

24. Jesus Christ completed the atonement on the cross. The two goats of the Old Testament Day of Atonement made an atonement together, one representing the crucified Jesus and the other the resurrected Jesus.

25. The law of commandments contained in ordinances was nailed to the cross. Jesus fulfilled these ceremonial laws that were added because of transgression. These added laws were written in a book and placed in the side of the ark (Deuteronomy 31:24-26); whereas, the everlasting Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God on tables of stone and placed in the ark (Exodus 24:12; 31:18; Hebrews 9:4 Deuteronomy 10:1-5).

26. The dead are unconscious in their graves and immortality is conditional.

27. The First Angel's Message of Revelation 14:6-7, the hour of God's judgment, and the everlasting gospel was preached to the world during the early days of the Church of God and is still a continued message today.

28. The Second Angel's Message of Revelation 14:8 is "Babylon is fallen", and is being preached by the Church of God warning the people of the apostate doctrines of Babylon.

29. The Third Angel's Message of Revelation 14:9-12 is a present day message, and will continue to the second advent of the Lord Jesus. This message

is a warning against worshipping the beast, his image, or receiving his mark in the forehead or hand. The Seven Last Plagues, "the wrath of God" are literal and fall at the termination of the Gospel Age. We should not obey pagan doctrines, or traditions of apostate Babylon, which are contrary to the Scriptures. All who oppose the Bible doctrines, the Commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, shall receive these plagues. Therefore, this is a warning to all mankind to escape the indignation of God.

30. The beast of Revelation 13:1-10 and the 17th chapter is the Pagan Roman Empire. The mouth given to the beast of Revelation 13:5-6, and the woman rider of the 17th chapter is the Papacy. The golden cup in her hand is full of abominations and filthiness of her sins and represents the false doctrines and traditions of Pagan Rome, which were made into so-called Christian doctrines but are not according to the Scriptures.

31. The return of Jesus will be literal, visible, personal and is imminent.

This Second Coming will be in two parts:  
The Reaping Phase  
Christ comes first for the Saints and His

Church. He comes only as far as the clouds and air. The Saints are caught up to meet Him.

Jesus is the "King of Saints" (Revelation 15:3).

#### The Warring Phase

The second part of His return is the warring phase. Jesus, sitting on a white horse and wearing many crowns, comes with His Saints as "King of kings" and "Lord of lords" to smite the armies of the nations who are gathered against Him.

32. The New Jerusalem - The City of God - is the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:9-10). The Saints are the invited guests to the marriage of the Lamb and their righteousness adorns the City of God, the Sea of Glass (Revelation 19:8; 21:2). Jesus and the Saints will dwell in this golden city (clear as crystal, Revelation 21:11-12).

The Sea of Glass to which the Saints are caught up is the New Jerusalem, which comes down with the Lord Jesus Christ at the Reaping Phase of the Second Coming of Christ. It is the reward of the Saints and home of the Saved.

The Saints will be in the city and will be

safe from the plagues.

33. The Millennium, known as the Thousand Year Reign of Christ on the earth, is the time when the “meek shall inherit the earth. “The Saints shall dwell in safety and peace and shall rule the nations and people that are left after the battle of Armageddon.

34. At the end of Christ’s thousand year reign, Satan shall be loosed “for a little season.” Satan tries, for the last time, to destroy the works of God. He encompasses the City of God. Fire comes “down out of heaven” and destroys those that come against the City of God. Satan is put into the “Lake of fire.” The last act of Christ is to destroy “death and hell” (“hell” means the place of the dead or grave). This is the termination of the “second death.”

After the Millennium, the Kingdom is turned over to the Father in heaven (I Corinthians 15:21-28).

35. The dispersed nation of Israel is now being regathered, and this process will continue. The whole house of Israel (all twelve tribes) are included in the regathering.

36. The 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14 are of the literal twelve tribes of

Israel. They were the “firstfruits” unto God and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) being the called out ones (the faithful) of Israel by Jesus Christ and the Apostles.

37. The Church of God stands opposed to divorce and remarriage for any cause except as recorded in Matthew 19:9.

38. There are two general resurrections. One is for the righteous and the other is for the wicked. The righteous will be raised to eternal life while the wicked are raised to final judgment and annihilation.

This section on doctrines is printed in a separate booklet with Bible texts and remarks concerning the different articles of faith.

Sec. 2. NEW DOCTRINE shall not be accepted as the faith of the church until it is first presented to a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and decided unanimously by the Twelve, after fasting and prayer.

Sec. 3. OLD DOCTRINE shall not be abrogated until it has been discussed in a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and the Elders; and the Twelve decide unanimously to abrogate the point of doctrine in question.

Sec. 4. ALTERING, OR AMENDING, doctrine. No article of our faith, as

given in this Constitution, or shall be accepted by the body constitutionally hereafter, shall be amended, or altered, until same has been discussed by a council of the Twelve, the Seventy, the Seven, and unanimously decided by the Twelve.

Sec. 5. DOCTRINE TAUGHT: No member who teaches a doctrine contrary to any point of our essentials of faith as taught by the body and published through our literature, either by precept or example, shall be considered a member in good standing of this body.

Adopted November 4, 1933, at Salem, West Virginia, in unison by members of the Twelve, the Seven, and the Seventy, who were present at the reorganization after an all night and day of fasting and prayer.

**Revised December 3, 2009.**

Article 7, Sec. 1. was changed in the proper manner in July 1950.

Article 8, Sec. 1. was revised in the proper manner in January 1974.

***The Church of God  
Publishing House***

***PO Box 328***

***Salem, West Virginia 26426-0328***

***Phone: 304-782-1411***

***Fax: 304-782-2248***