

The Constitution and Bylaws of Valley Bible Chalet, Inc.

Preamble

We, the members of the Valley Bible Chalet, in order to more perfectly glorify God in faith and practice, in unity, in edification of the church, in fulfilling the great commission, in fellowship, in love for one another, in the ordinances, in protection, and in the exaltation of Jesus Christ the Creator and author of life, do ordain these Articles of the Constitution of Valley Bible Chalet.

Article I Affiliations and Purpose

Valley Bible Chalet is organized and incorporated for the purpose of propagating the Gospel of Christ, instructing believers in the Bible, and providing Christian fellowship on an independent, non-denominational basis as a part of the universal body of Christ, His church.

Article II Statement of Faith

A. One Triune God

1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, who are co-equal and identical in nature, power, and attributes. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7)
2. We believe that the distinctive ministries of each person of the triune God is revealed in His work of redemption:
 - a. God the Father provided salvation as revealed by the Son. (John 3:16; Romans 6:23)
 - b. God the Son purchased salvation by His incarnation, redemption, and resurrection. (Isaiah 7:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 1:4; Hebrews 10:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22)
 - c. God the Holy Spirit produces salvation. (John 3:5; Titus 3:5)

B. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to be the verbal, plenary (complete), and inspired Word of God, the final and infallible authority for faith and practice. (Psalms 119:89, 105; John 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

C. The Sinfulness of Man

We believe that man in his natural state is alienated from God by his inherent sinful nature and by his own willful rebellion against God. Man is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition, the consequence of which is eternal death. (Genesis 6:5, John 3:18, 36; Romans 1:20-21, 3:10, 23; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4)

D. Salvation

We believe that salvation is by the grace of God brought to man as a gift to be received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; John 3:16, 1:12, 5:24; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:23)

E. Assurance

We believe that the positive assurance of salvation through Christ is the heritage of every child of God, and that we are kept by God's power, preserved unto the day we are taken to heaven. (Job 19:25; John 6:37, 10:28; 1 John 4:13, 5:13; Hebrews 7:15; Romans 8:14, 28-36; Ephesians 4:30; Philippians 1:6)

F. A Holy Life

We believe that one who has received Christ as Lord and Savior will manifest a transformed life and attitude, and that he will do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Romans 12:2)

G. The Church

We believe that the true Church is composed of all such believers who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ, of which He is the head. We also believe that local assemblies of Christians should be established for edification, for building up of the body of Christ, and for the observance of the ordinances of Communion and Baptism by immersion. (Matthew 16:18, 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:12; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

H. The Ministry and the Gifts

We believe that in order to perfect the Church for its ministry, God has given various gifts to the individual members of the Church and that the spiritual gifts, when exercised in love, will unite believers, and edify the Body. We believe that all who trust in Christ have at least one spiritual gift and that all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit having been baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. We do not believe that the Scripture teaches that speaking in tongues is a necessary accompaniment of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor that it is a sign of spiritual maturity. For these reasons and because the emphasis on tongues has caused division and disunity among many believers, we do not practice speaking in tongues in our gatherings. (Romans 2:4-8; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:4-13, 29-30, 13:8; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

I. Commission to Evangelize

We believe that those who have never heard or have never believed the Gospel are lost and guilty, and that it is therefore our divine commission to preach and persuade people everywhere, according to His enabling. (John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, 4:1-6; Matthew 18:11, 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48; 1 Peter 3:15)

J. The Return of Christ

We believe in the personal, imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10)

K. The Future/Eternal Life

We believe that all people shall rise bodily from the grave: the saved to eternal life in heaven with Christ, and the unsaved to face everlasting punishment in a literal Hell. (Job 19:26; Matthew 24:27-31, 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Luke 24:39; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42; John 6:39; Revelation 20:11-15)

L. Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the enemy of God, the deceiver and destroyer of people, and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41; Revelation 12:9, 20:10)

N. Marriage and Sexuality

1. We believe that the 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. (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:2-9; 1 Corinthians 7:1-40)
2. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only 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. (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 22:20; Matthew 5:28)
3. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-28, 2:24; 2 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:30; Jude 1:7)
4. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as a local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to the Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:30; Colossians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:20-26)
5. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Proverbs 28:13; Acts 3:19; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 John 1:7-9)

Article III Membership

A. Qualifications of Members

To be eligible for membership a man or woman must demonstrate their repentance of sin toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The man or woman will demonstrate assurance of their willingness to follow and submit themselves to the Word of God as the only rule of faith, doctrine, and practice. They shall agree to the ordinances of Baptism by immersion and The Lord's Supper. They shall profess their agreement with the Constitution and Bylaws of this church in order to be eligible for membership. (John 3:3-7, 1:12; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:4; 2:4-6; Romans 8:12-13; Acts 2:41-47; Colossians 2:3,6)

B. Reception of Members

Christian believers, who fulfill the qualifications for membership and who desire the entitlement to vote or hold an office at this local fellowship, shall request a meeting with the Pastor and/or the Elders for examination and approval. At this meeting, candidates shall give testimony of their faith in Christ. Upon approval, candidates will be encouraged to give a public testimony of faith in Christ during a Sunday service. Following the criteria above, children under 18 years of age, with parental permission, may become a non-voting member. Full voting privileges will be granted to them upon their 18th birthday.

All regular attendees who do not choose to seek membership, but demonstrate their faith in Christ, will be welcome to come under the care of this fellowship without voting privileges.

C. Responsibilities of Members

1. To make known my profession as a born again believer by the Word and Spirit of God. (John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:4)
2. To endeavor to conduct myself everywhere and at all times as a true Christian. (John 1:12; Romans 8:12-13; Acts 2:41-47; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 John 2:4-6)
3. To endeavor to manifest a spirit of brotherly love toward all of God's people, striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; seeking reconciliation when needed. (Matthew 5:23-24)
4. If there is a complaint against a fellow member, or if a fellow member is falling into sin, after much prayer, I will follow the Scriptural procedures of approaching my fellow believer. (Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 John 3:14-18; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1)
5. Seek, by the grace of God, to avoid those habits, behaviors, and attitudes which are inappropriate to the Christian walk, or which would render my testimony ineffective before the world. (Ephesians 5:3-5; Philippians 1:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; Titus 2:32-15)

6. Attend church services and meetings as regularly as possible. (Hebrews 10: 23-25)
7. Pray for the church, its member, its leaders, and its work. (1 Thessalonians 5:25, 1 John 5:16; Ephesians 6:18)
8. Use my talents and spiritual gifts for the good of the church and its ministries as God leads me. (Acts 2:42)
9. Contribute to the needs of the church and ministries as God prospers me. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 4:16, 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Galatians 6:6)
10. It is understood that acceptance of membership also mean acceptance of the discipline of the church, the Pastor, the Elders and its members. (see Section D. below)

D. Discipline of Members

1. Objective

The objective of church discipline is the restoration of the offender (Galatians 6:1). It is to be carried out in a spirit of humility (1 Corinthians 10:12), purity (Matthew 7:3-5), and love (1 Corinthians 13:4a; 1 Timothy 1:5).

2. Responsibility

Disciplinary responsibility is shared by the church collectively and by the believers individually. (Matthew 18:15)

3. Occasion

Disciplinary action shall be taken by the church in all cases if:

- a. Open sin, which is recognized as such by a clear statement of Scripture, is discovered
- b. Propagating or supporting any doctrine contrary to the Word of God and the Statement of Faith of this church is discovered.

4. Procedure

If a member brings reproach upon the name of Christ or anything contrary to the Word of God, the offender shall be disciplined according to the principles established by Scripture. The procedure, based on Matthew 18:15-20:

- a. The offender shall be confronted privately by the individual(s) who has been offended to seek reconciliation (Matthew 18:15). If this is unsuccessful, then...
- b. The offended individual(s) shall confront the offender in the presence of one or two (Matthew 18:16). If the offender does not disavow the offense, demonstrates an unrepentant heart, and a reconciliation is not achieved...

c. The offender shall be asked to meet with the Elders in an attempt to resolve the issues and initiate reconciliation (Matthew 18:16). If the offender chooses to remain in a state of open sin...

d. The Elders shall publicly announce at a congregational meeting the offender's name, the offense, and the steps taken to reconcile him or her back to fellowship, and the disciplinary action to be taken against the offender, until he or she repents and seeks reconciliation with the offended individual(s) (Matthew 18:17)

e. Such disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:
i) Removal from church office,
ii) Cancellation of church membership,
iii) Prohibition from taking part in church ordinances, ministries, and activities. (1 Corinthians 5:1 - 6:5, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; Matthew 18:17; 1 Timothy 5:19-21)

5. Restoration

Disciplined members who demonstrate a repentant spirit and a willingness to reconcile with those whom they have offended will be received again in fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:6-11). While fellowship may be re-established immediately, the restored believer's responsibilities and functions in the church will be resumed only after he or she has gained the confidence of the Elders.

E. Transfer of Membership

A member in good standing, who moves to another church fellowship, upon request, will be given a letter of introduction to another church, provided the new church adheres to the basic tenets of Valley Bible Chalet's Statement of Faith.

Article IV Ordinances

In obedience to the Lord's command, Valley Bible Chalet observes the ordinances instituted by Him, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. Baptism

We believe that baptism is an act of obedience in faith to Christ's command. The act of baptism itself offers no remission of sin. We believe that all Christians should be baptized according to Christ's command, but baptism is not a prerequisite for fellowship or membership in Valley Bible Chalet. We practice baptism by immersion. (Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:26-39, 10:48)

B. The Lord's Supper/Breaking of Bread/Communion

The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly, as often as determined by the Pastor or Elders. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and who are walking in fellowship with the Lord shall be welcome to join in this remembrance. (Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

Article V Government

The government of this church shall be vested in the active and associate membership, and administered through the Valley Bible Chalet Eldership and an appointed Deacon Board in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.

A. The Church Eldership

1. Qualifications of Elders

- a. All elders must be active members of this church.
- b. The qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 shall be required of all elders. It shall be impossible to consider any prospective candidate who cannot answer in the affirmative to the following questions:
 - i) Have you publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior and experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3 and Titus 3:5?
 - ii) Are you in agreement with the Statement of Faith and Constitution of this church?
 - iii) Are you endeavoring to live a surrendered, prayerful, Christian life, especially in regard to loyal obedience to the moral precepts taught in the Word of God for believers James 4:4; Titus 2:11-15)?

2. The Appointment of Elders

- a. Perpetuating the Eldership
 - i) *"If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do."* (1 Timothy 3:1) It is the responsibility of the elders to recognize this aspiration.
 - ii) The elders recognize that the entire congregation is responsible to know those who labor among them. The congregation must sense its responsibility in recognizing elders (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13), and to recommend those they believe would meet the qualifications.
- b. Appointment of Elders
 - i) Elders may be appointed at any time during the year.
 - ii) The procedure for elder appointment shall be:
 - a) Existing elders and congregation will make ongoing and specific prayer for God's wisdom and direction in elder selection.
 - b) Elders will determine candidates, whether from personal observation or congregational recommendation of those who are aspiring to the office, who meet the qualifications of an elder, and who are laboring hard among us in ministry. Elders shall provide for examination and consultation about the character

and qualifications of the prospective elder (1 Timothy 3:10 and 5:22-25).

- c) Elders shall present the names of candidates to the congregation to ask for any possible Biblical objections that would preclude the candidate from serving as an elder.
- d) Elders shall make the appointment(s).
- e) The new elder(s) shall be publicly presented to the congregation for dedication.

3. The Removal of Elders

The procedure for removal of elders shall follow 1 Timothy 5:19-21 and Matthew 18: 15-20, which is understood as follows:

If two or more witnesses shall approach the pastor or any other elder with an accusation that an elder is not living in conformance with the prescribed standards enumerated in ARTICLE V, Section A.1, above, the offended parties shall be required to personally seek reconciliation with the elder in question. If the witnesses are not satisfied that a reconciliation has been effected, another elder shall accompany the witnesses in seeking a reconciliation with the elder in question. If no reconciliation results from this action, the witnesses and the elder in question shall meet with the eldership in an attempt to resolve the issue. If it is determined that the elder in question is not living in conformance with the Biblically prescribed standards enumerated in ARTICLE V, Section A.1, above, then before God and this church, he immediately forfeits his position as elder.

4. Membership Responsibilities/ Term of Office

- a. The eldership shall consist of at least three men, including the pastoral staff. The number of elders from the congregation shall be no less than the number of staff pastors serving as elders.
- b. The elders shall elect a chairman from their membership (who may or may not be the pastor). The chairman shall retain a vote for business purposes.
- c. Elders from the congregation shall serve a three-year term, those terms being staggered so that no more than two elders are up for renewal at any one time.

5. Appointments

- a. The elders shall appoint a recording secretary and other officers, including committee chairpersons, as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned by this constitution, and to meet the ongoing needs of this church. These officers shall work under the direction, control, and authority of the elders.
- b. The elders shall appoint qualified deacons from the congregation.

6. Administrative Duties

- a. The elders shall meet within 30 days of, but not later than one week before the annual meeting for organizational purposes and to finalize an agenda for the annual meeting. It shall meet at least monthly thereafter at times designated at the first meeting following the annual meeting, and at other times when deemed necessary.
- b. Greater than half of the number of elders, and in no case less than three (in person or telephonically), shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of those present will be required to pass any measure, but in no case should there be less than three votes cast on any measure.

7. Functions/Responsibilities/Authority/Role of the Elders

Elders shall be responsible, with the pastoral staff, for the spiritual oversight and for all business matters of the VBC (1 Peter 5:1-4). They shall also perform all duties ascribed to them in this constitution and in provisions subsequently adopted to this document.

B. Deacons

1. Qualifications for Deacons

(The office of deacon shall be interpreted throughout to include the office of deaconess.)

- a. The qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 shall be required of all members of the deacon board.
- b. Deacons shall affirm in word and in deed that they:
 - 1) Have publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior and have experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3 and Titus 3:5
 - 2) Are in agreement with the Statement of Faith and other provisions contained in the Constitution of Valley Bible Chalet
 - 3) Are endeavoring to live a surrendered, prayerful Christian life

2. Term of office and number of Deacons

Deacons shall be appointed from the congregation by the elders. The term of office for deacons shall be two years. Deacons may be reappointed upon mutual consent of the individual and the eldership. The number of deacons shall be determined by the elders in accordance with the needs of the church.

3. Chairman of the Deacons

The deacons shall elect a chairman from their number. The chairman shall ensure that instructions are properly carried from the elders to the deacons and that reports are returned to the elders concerning the

progress, needs, and recommendations of the deacons.

4. Functions/Responsibilities/Authority/Role of Deacons

- a. As the elders shall be primarily responsible for the spiritual oversight of the congregation, so shall the deacons be primarily responsible for the maintenance of the church properties, under the direction and ultimate authority of the elders.
- b. Deacons shall also administer spiritual and physical care to needy people as directed by the elders, in accordance with their spiritual gifts and their primary responsibility as servants in the church.

5. Removal of Deacons

The removal of deacons shall follow the guidelines for the Removal of Elders as outlined in ARTICLE V, Section A.3, of this document.

D. Congregational Meetings

1. Worship Services, Sunday School, Bible studies and Prayer Meetings

- a. The church will meet for worship services, Sunday School, Bible studies and Prayer meetings at times specified by the elders. The Pastor and his staff, if any, shall have the authority and responsibility to plan, or to delegate the planning of the worship services.

2. Annual Meeting

- a. The annual congregational business meeting will be held in January of each year. It may be postponed for up to one month.
- b. The chairperson of the Elder Board shall prepare an agenda that shall include a roll call of the membership; the presentation of reports, by officers, committees, and the Pastor of the church; the elections or appointment of any new Elder or Deacon Board members; the review of the yearly balance sheet, and any other matters deemed necessary.
- c. A quorum of 50% of the eligible voting membership shall be required.
- d. The chairperson of the Elder Board shall preside over all congregational meetings. In the event of the absence of the chairperson, an alternate shall be appointed by the Elder Board to chair such meetings.
- e. All votes concerning individuals shall be by secret ballot. Other votes relating to business items may be by voice or hand.

3. Semi-Annual Meeting

- a. The semi-annual congregational business meeting will be held in August of each year. It may be postponed for up to one month.
- b. The semi-annual congregational business meeting shall follow the same format and requirements as the annual meeting.

4. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership may be held at any time upon call of the Pastor, the elders, or by a written request to the Elder Board of 25% of the voting members of the congregation. The call of such a meeting and its purpose must be announced at the worship service on two consecutive Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. Minutes of these meetings shall be kept by the Secretary of the Elder Board.

Article VI Ministries

All ministries of Valley Bible Chalet need the approval of and are directly accountable to the Elder Board.

A. Selection and Qualifications of Pastor

1. Selection

a. The current Pastor and Elder Board members shall request from candidates for pastor a detailed resume regarding training, pastoral experience, and qualifications. [If more than one resume is being reviewed, the board shall select one candidate by a two-thirds majority vote who will then be invited to speak in at least two Sunday services] (or) Any candidates that are deemed qualified will then be invited to speak in at least two Sunday services.

b. After the candidates have spoken, a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Elder Board shall be required to recommend a candidate to the church.

c. This recommendation shall be announced at a special congregational meeting called for the purpose of voting on the candidate. This meeting shall require a quorum of fifty percent of the voting membership. A three-fourths majority of the voting members present at this meeting shall be required to call a pastor.

2. Qualifications

a. The position of Pastor shall be defined in terms of the spiritual gifts necessary to function in this ministry (Ephesians 4:11). As a spiritual leader he shall also meet the qualifications of an elder (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9). He shall be considered an elder in the spirit of 1 Timothy 5:17-18 as one who "works hard at teaching and preaching".

b. The Pastor shall be a man who gives evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel and of adherence to the scriptural principles governing church leadership. To this end the candidate shall furnish such references as required by the Elder Board.

c. Any man to be considered as a candidate for the pastorate shall have read this Constitution and shall have signified in writing his unreserved agreement with its provisions and respect for the non-denominational position of Valley Bible Chalet.

3. Discipline and removal of a Pastor

Should it become necessary to censure a Pastor, the procedure for the discipline and removal of a Pastor shall follow ARTICLE V, A.3. The procedure for removal of Elder Board members is found in 1 Timothy 5:19-21 and Matthew 18:15-20, and is understood as follows:

- a. A Pastor shall be removed if two or more witnesses approach an Elder Board member with an accusation that the Pastor is not living in conformance with the prescribed standards of behavior and qualifications stated above. If there is no reconciliation and repentance of the Pastor in question, that Pastor shall immediately forfeit his position.
- b. A Pastor may choose to resign his position.

B. Sunday School Ministry

1. This ministry shall be recognized as an extension of the Bible teaching ministry of this church. It shall be administered by a voluntary staff composed of the Sunday School superintendent and the teachers and such officers as they may appoint.
2. The Sunday School superintendent shall be approved by the Elder Board
3. The teaching staff should be active members or regular attendees of the church, must read and agree with the doctrinal statement, and must furnish references and personal history as requested by the Elder Board.
4. The curriculum of the Sunday School will be chosen by the Elder Board and have the approval of a majority of the Elder Board.

C. Missionary Policy

No society or individual whose doctrinal beliefs are not aligned with the Doctrinal Statement, Constitution and Bylaws of Valley Bible Chalet shall receive support. If the missionary candidate is married or gets married while under church support, both husband and wife shall be in agreement with the Constitution, Bylaws, and doctrine. Individual missionaries shall be linked with reputable gospel agencies, societies, or local churches to gain candidacy status with Valley Bible Chalet.

1. Missionary Candidacy

- a. Every candidate seeking financial support from Valley Bible Chalet shall be requested to meet with the Pastor and/or Elder Board members to discuss conversion, call, spiritual life, doctrine, education, health, and family relationships. The interviewing members will determine if the candidate is an appropriate match for our church.
- b. If a candidate is a match, the missionary will be requested to speak during a Sunday worship service.
- c. The Elder Board will vote as to whether or not the church will give support.

2. Missionary Support

- a. The level of support for missionaries and missionary organizations shall be set at the annual and/or semi-annual business meeting. The decision will be based on recommendations and church budget.
- b. Designated gifts to missionaries for their support shall be transmitted to the individuals through their respective mission societies or as is appropriate for the individual missionary.
- c. Special short-term or one-time missions gifts may be approved by the Elder Board.

3. Missionary Termination

a. Termination of the work a missionary was doing at the time of his/her acceptance for support or change in his/her mission board affiliation may also terminate support from the church. If the missionary wishes to retain support from the church, upon such a change, a written request must be submitted to the Elder Board outlining the reason for the change and the type of ministry anticipated for the future. If there is a change in mission boards, a doctrinal statement, or mission statement, a financial accountability statement will be required from the new mission board. The Elder Board shall then review the case and vote on recommendations.

b. Any missionary who terminates the relationship with his/her mission board shall advise Valley Bible Chalet in writing of the reason for such action. In the event that a mission board terminates a missionary because of moral or doctrinal deviation, the church's support shall cease upon notification from the mission board that such action has been taken.

Article VII Finances

A. Financial Support

The financial needs of Valley Bible Chalet and its ministries shall be supported through the free-will offerings of those interested in its ministry.

B. Budget

All monies received by Valley Bible Chalet shall be distributed according to an annual budget approved by the members at the annual business meeting. The following exceptions shall prevail:

1. Emergency Expenses

In emergency situations the Elder and Deacon Boards shall determine and be authorized to expend church funds as needed to ensure the unimpeded operation of Valley Bible Chalet facilities and ministries. A majority vote of the Elder Board shall be required to expend funds under this provision.

2. Special Projects

a. The Elder and Deacon Boards shall review and vote on special project proposals for recommendation to the congregation. Projects estimated to cost five thousand dollars (\$5000) or less do not need congregational member approval.

b. Special projects shall be defined as those ministries or needs of the church that are not a part of the usual operating expenses or not included in the current year's budget. Such projects shall be made known to the members who shall be given the opportunity to donate toward the expense of the project. When a special project is announced it shall be recommended that donations to such projects be over and above one's regular giving.

3. Designated Gifts

Designated gifts shall be defined as financial donations given to Valley Bible Chalet that have been earmarked by the donor for a specific project or individual ministry. Such designated gifts may be subject to Elder Board approval.

C. Deposits and Audits

1. A record shall be kept by the Treasurer of all monies received and they shall be deposited in the bank on a regular basis.
2. An annual financial audit may be made by the Elder and/or Deacon Board or its designated appointees.

Article VIII Properties

A. Title to Property

The title to all property of the Valley Bible Chalet, Inc., both real and personal, shall remain vested in that portion of the active membership that shall remain faithful to this Constitution and its Bylaws.

B. Acquisition and Sale of Property

1. Valley Bible Chalet shall have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purpose of this church's ministry. All property so acquired shall be in the name of Valley Bible Chalet, Inc.
2. Any sale, mortgage, or transfer of real and personal property valued in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) must be approved by the ~~Board of Directors~~ Elder Board and by a two-thirds majority of the voting membership present at the applicable congregational business meeting.

C. Use of Property

1. All properties belong to Valley Bible Chalet, Inc. shall be available to the membership for purposes consistent with the ministry of this church, subject to regulations by the Elder Board.
2. The Pastor or other representatives of the Elder and Deacon Board shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all properties owned by Valley Bible Chalet.

D. Distribution and dissolution

1. No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of the donor, member, director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual.
2. No donor, member, Director, officer of the corporation, or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets.
3. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Elder and Deacon Boards shall, in a combined effort, after paying or making provision for the payment of its liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes and who at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Elder and Deacon Boards shall determine together.

ARTICLE IX Ordination

A. Council of Ordination

1. In the spirit of Acts 13:1-3, the purpose of ordination is to publicly recognize and affirm the call of God on a man's life for special Christian ministry, which is sometimes referred to as "full-time" Christian service. In this sense ordination does not confer spiritual gifts or humanly contrived special status to a man, but merely attests to God's work in his life.

2. When, in the judgment of the Elder Board, a man in this membership, or in special cases, a non-member, evidences through consistent service in the church fellowship the spiritual gifts and character necessary for special ministry, when he exhibits a priority for ministering, and demonstrates a desire to use his gifts in "full-time" ministry, it shall be within the power of the Elder Board to call and conduct a Council of Ordination. This Council shall consist of ordained Christian ministers, and if desired, one delegate from each fundamental church invited to participate.

3. The Council of Ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant's personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, Biblical knowledge, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The applicant shall give evidence of his agreement with the provisions of this Constitution with respect to doctrinal and scriptural qualifications for church leadership.

4. Upon completion of the examination of the candidate, a two-thirds majority vote of the Council of Ordination shall be required to recommend his ordination to the church. When so recommended, a public ordination service shall be arranged by the Council of Ordination in consultation with the Pastor or other representative of the church, and the candidate.

5. The minutes of the Council of Ordination meetings and of the public ordination service shall be incorporated into the record of church meetings, and a Certificate of Ordination shall be provided for the newly ordained minister.

B. Discipline of Ordained Ministers

1. The Elder Board shall have the power to discipline, even to the revoking of the ordination credential, any minister under this Constitution if said minister is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial hearing conducted in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13.

2. The procedure for disciplining a minister shall follow 1 Timothy 5:19-21 and Matthew 18:15-20.

ARTICLE X Indemnification

(copied from incorporation bylaws)

A. The corporation shall defend, indemnify and hold financially harmless any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of or arising from the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of

the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, Director officer employee, agent, partner or Director of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against costs and expenses (including attorney's fees) of said suit, action of proceeding, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if (i) the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and with respect to a criminal action or proceeding, did not know and had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful, or (ii) the person's act or omission giving rise to such action, suit or proceeding is ratified, adopted or confirmed by the corporation or the benefit thereof received by the corporation. The corporation and the pastor and other officers and employees shall be held blameless.

ARTICLE XI Amendments

A. Constitution

"The Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution may be amended by approval of the Elder Board followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members with the exception of ARTICLE II - Statement of Faith (see Section B below), at a called meeting, provided that such amendment is presented in a written announcement as outlined in ARTICLE - Government, Section d, 4, of this document.

B. Amendments

Any proposed amendment to ARTICLE II - Statement of Faith must be approved by the Elder Board and posted for three months, and announced weekly. Amendments of ARTICLE II can be voted on by only active members, or those who have held membership for three years. Passage shall require consent of two-thirds vote of above stipulated members.

1. The adoption of this Constitution by Valley Bible Chalet, Inc. rescinds all previous constitutions, bylaws and amendments.
2. The parliamentary authority governing the procedure of Valley Bible Chalet, Inc. shall be *Robert's Rules of Order*.