



**BREESPORT**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
MISSION FORWARD

# CONSTITUTION

Breesport Baptist Church exists to glorify  
God by making more and better disciples  
of Jesus Christ.

## **I. NAME**

The Church shall be called the First Baptist Church of Breesport.

## **II. THE COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ and will, from this day forward:

- Do our best to advance the cause of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in the church and in the world by making more and better disciples of Christ.
- Live in community with one another in accordance with the "One Another" commands of the Bible. Therefore, we will always endeavor to love one another (John 13:34), serve one another (Galatians 5:13), show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9), admonish one another (Colossians 3:16), encourage one another (2 Thessalonians 5:11), exhort one another (Hebrews 3:12-13), and so on in keeping with all such commands in the Scriptures.
- Agree that in all matters not addressed in this covenant statement or constitution the Word of God is the final authority over all that we believe and do (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

## **III. CHARACTER**

### **Section 1 - Government**

Its government is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches.

### **Section 2 - Doctrine**

It receives the Scripture as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Baptist Churches.

#### **IV. CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Be it resolved that the Breesport Baptist Church of Breesport, New York place on record the following statement of faith as that to which it requires the endorsement each year of the church and Sunday school officers and teachers and officers of all organizations of the church.

##### **ARTICLE I - THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word and revelation of God and therefore our only authority in faith and practice. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-20.

##### **ARTICLE II - THE TRUE GOD**

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, an 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 Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; I Timothy 1:17; Romans 11:33; I Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5,6.

##### **ARTICLE III - THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

1. We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He is very God by Whom and for Whom all things are created. John 1:1; Hebrews 1:3.
2. We believe in His Virgin Birth, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and is therefore God manifested in the flesh. Matthew 1:23; John 1:14.
3. We believe in salvation by divine sacrifice, that the Son of God gave "His life a ransom for many: and bore our sins in His own body on the tree. I Peter 2:24.
4. We believe in His physical resurrection from the dead and His bodily presence at the right hand of God as our High Priest and Advocate. Acts 1:3; John 1:1.

#### **ARTICLE IV - THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and 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, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

We believe that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance) is the evidence of His indwelling rather than the speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations. Therefore, we affirm the belief that the “sign” gifts (miraculous healing through human agency, prophetic utterances, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues) associated with the ministry of the apostles ceased with their passing and are no longer normative for the church (John 14:16-17; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32, 1 Corinthians 13:8, and Hebrews 2:2-4).  
(11/13/2022)

#### **ARTICLE V - CREATION**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that all created life was made directly through the agency of God and that God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind"; that the universe reflects and reveals His glory; and that it is sustained and held together by the power of Jesus Christ. Genesis 1:1,11,24,26-27; 2:7,21-23, Psalm 19:1-4, Colossians 1:17.

#### **ARTICLE VI - THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe 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 mankind was biologically created male or female and that one's gender is determined at conception and is fixed for life; 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 with no innate ability to change his fallen state. Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-20; 5:12,19; 1:20,28,32.

#### **ARTICLE VII - 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, and that His righteousness is imputed unto us. Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1,9; 8:1; 4:1-8; Titus 3:5-7.

## **ARTICLE VIII - 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; Colossians 1:21,23; I John 2:19; Romans 8:28; 35-39; Philippians 1:16.

## **ARTICLE IX - THE CHURCH**

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its scripturally designated officers are pastors and deacons, 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 baptize them; 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 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 2:41,42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11; I Corinthians 12:4,8-11; Acts 14:23; Matthew 28:19,20; Colossians 1:18; I Corinthians 16:2; 6:1-3.

## **ARTICLE X - THE CHURCH ORDINANCES**

1. Baptism. We believe that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion into water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that in scriptural order baptism precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ..
2. The Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and juice remind us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, "Who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all," that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and preceded by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-28.

## **ARTICLE XI - 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. Romans 13:1-7; Acts 23:5, 5:29; Matthew 10:28.

## **ARTICLE XII - THE DEVIL OR SATAN**

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10.

## **ARTICLE XIII - ESCHATOLOGY**

We believe in the pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of Christ for the saints (O.T.) and the Church; we believe this event will be followed by the tribulation period, then the personal, visible return of Christ to earth to set up His millennial reign. I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 19:7-9; 11-16; Revelation 20:1-6.

## **ARTICLE XIV - OUR STAND ON DOCTRINAL ISSUES OF TODAY**

In view of the present unrest concerning doctrinal questions within the sphere of evangelical Christianity, we of the Breesport Baptist Church of Breesport, New York, seek to state clearly our position on issues we deem necessary to face and may add to this section as the need arises.

1. Our official position on the Ecumenical Church. Since this ecumenical movement includes all denominations and religions that are willing to join with them, and many of them are not doctrinally sound (denying the fundamentals which we hold to in our confession of faith), we stand opposed to this movement and will not cooperate or fellowship with such movements.
2. Orthodox Christianity has always had to stand against error. It remains the responsibility of every generation of Christ-followers to safeguard the faith that has been once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) against the shifting errors of its day. Therefore, if anyone attending Breesport Baptist Church is found to be teaching or promoting a doctrine contrary to the aforementioned Articles of Faith contained in this document, they will be subject to review and possible censure by the deacons to include instruction, appeals to repentance and orthodoxy, or discipline up to the removal from office, from positions of influence, and possibly removed from membership (Matthew 18:15-20, Ephesians 4:1-3, and Titus 3:10). (11/13/2022)

## **V. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 - Qualifications**

Its membership consists of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Saviour and Lord, and who

- a. after due examination by the Board of Deacons as to their Christian experience, or if coming from other churches, as to their letters of dismission and recommendation, or satisfactory substitutes thereof;
- b. enter into its covenant;
- c. the pastor and Board of Deacons recommend as deemed worthy of membership.
- d. have been baptized
- e. have been accepted by a vote of the church  
(5/4/2008)

### **Section 2 - Duties**

Members are expected to be faithful in all the spiritual duties essential to Christian life, and also to attend faithfully (5/4/2008) the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and its charities, and to share in its organized work.

### **Section 3 - Rights**

Such members who are in full and regular standing, fulfilling the duties of Article V, Section 2, and who have attained the age of 18, and such only, may act and vote in the transactions of the church.

### **Section 4 - Termination**

The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and usages of Baptist churches as follows:

- a. Members in good and regular standing may, at their request and vote of the church, receive a letter of recommendation to any other Baptist church of like faith and order; otherwise, a letter of dismissal shall be granted. Such letters must be addressed to the pastor or clerk of said church.
- b. Members who do not fulfill their duties as outlined above (Article V, Section 2) for a period of six months, may be placed on the inactive list by vote of the church upon the recommendation of the deacons. Such persons shall lose their vote and their power to hold office. Any name appearing on the inactive list for a period of six months will be dropped from the membership by vote of the church. Exemptions from this policy shall include college students, military personnel, those identified as shut-ins, and others as specifically identified by the Board of Deacons. Individuals who move out of the area will be held in membership for a period of six months while they find and associate with a new local church as described above (5/6/2018).

- c. Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, the church may terminate his membership upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment.

## **Section 5 - Restoration**

- a. Any member who had been placed on the inactive list may be reinstated by vote of the church upon recommendation of the deacons upon evidence of fulfillment of Article V, Section 2.
- b. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any cause and having given satisfactory evidence of repentance may, upon the recommendation of the deacons, be restored to the membership by vote of the church.

## **VI. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1 - Election of Officers and Committees**

The officers shall be elected from the membership of the church. As far as it is possible, no person shall have more than one office at a time.

- a. A Baptist pastor(s), who is in agreement with our Confession of Faith, shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least two Sunday public notice shall have been given. The election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting being necessary to a choice. The pastor may continue his services as long as the relationship is mutually agreeable between himself and the church. This relationship may be dissolved at the option of either party by giving two months notice or otherwise by mutual consent. The men chosen and called by the church to serve as pastor(s) must conduct themselves according to the New Testament requirements for the office of pastor as described in I Timothy 2:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. (5/4/2008)
- b. The church shall be served by a sufficient number of deacons to accomplish ministry objectives and programs. The traditional number of deacons is 7. Since the membership needs are dynamic and relative to the number of members and number of staff, the number of deacons may need to be variable as well. As an example, it may be suggested that there be one deacon for each 10-12 family membership units. Should God add to our membership, the number of deacons may be increased at an annual meeting upon a unanimous recommendation of the existing deacons and the pastor. Deacons shall be elected, on a rotation, to a three year term; an exception being in the case of an unexpired, but unfilled term due to moving away, resignation, or in the case of expanding the board. The rotation should result in the election of one third of the board annually. When expanding the board, it is the responsibility of the executive committee, as the nominating body, to adjust the terms of the new deacons to keep the rotation of the board at approximately one third per year. In no



case will an elected term exceed three years. It may be reduced to two or one to keep the rotation consistent. A reduction of the number of deacons may take place at the unanimous recommendation of the deacons and pastor. This shall be accomplished by attrition. As a term expires and that office is no longer needed, as determined unanimously by the pastor and deacons, a recommendation shall be given at an annual meeting and the number of deacons will be reduced accordingly by not filling an expired office. The persons elected to serve as deacons must conduct themselves according to the New Testament requirements for the office of deacon as described in I Timothy 3:8-13. (3/22/98) A deacon may serve for two successive terms (total of six years); whereupon he must exit the board for a period of not less than one year, unless there are no other qualified or willing nominees. (5/4/2008)

- c. A clerk shall be chosen at each annual meeting to serve one year. He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- d. A church treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- e. An assistant treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- f. A financial secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- g. The church shall elect a sufficient number of trustees to accomplish the care of this place of worship, including all the facilities associated with it. The traditional number of trustees is six. Since the facility needs are dynamic and relative to the overall size and possible additions, the number of trustees may need to be variable as well. Therefore, should God add to this ministry by way of facility, the number of trustees may be increased at an annual meeting upon a unanimous recommendation of the existing board of deacons and the pastor(s). Trustees shall be elected, on a rotation, to a three year term; an exception being in the case of an unexpired, but unfilled term due to moving away, resignation, or in the case of expanding the board. The rotation should result in the election of one-third of the board annually. When expanding the board, it is the responsibility of the executive committee, as the nominating body, to adjust the terms of the new trustees to keep the rotation of the board at approximately one-third per year. In no case will an elected term exceed three years. It may be reduced to two or one to keep the rotation consistent. A reduction of the number of trustees may take place at the unanimous recommendation of the board of deacons and pastor(s). This shall be accomplished by attrition, in that as one term expires and that office is no longer needed, a recommendation shall be given at an annual meeting and the number of trustees will be reduced accordingly by not filling an expired office. A trustee may serve for two successive terms (total of six years) whereupon he must exit the board for a period of not less than one year, unless there are no other qualified or willing nominees. (5/4/2008)
- h. A Sunday school superintendent shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of

one year. He may succeed himself at subsequent elections,

- i. An assistant Sunday school superintendent shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year, if the position is deemed necessary by the pastor(s) and deacons. (5/4/2008). He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- j. A chairman of youth committee shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year, if the position is deemed necessary by the pastor(s) and deacons. (5/4/2008). He may succeed himself at subsequent elections.
- k. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of: Pastor, who shall be chairman, Associate Pastor(s), (5/4/2008) Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, (5/4/2008) Sunday School Superintendent, and Chairman of Youth Committee.

## **Section 2 - Duties of Officers**

- a. The pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation. He shall preach the Word of God according to our Confession of Faith and shall be required to subscribe thereunto before entering the office, and yearly thereafter at the annual meeting of the church. He shall have care of the stated services of the church and shall administer the ordinances. He shall preside at all meetings of the church except as limited in Article VII, Section 2b (2) relating to business meetings.
- b. Associate Pastor(s) – The associate pastor(s) shall be a support to the senior pastor and have charge of the stated ministries of the church as outlined in his job description. He shall preach the Word of God according to our Confessions of Faith and shall be required to subscribe thereunto before entering the office, and yearly thereafter at the annual meeting of the church. He may also administer the ordinances. (5/4/2008)
- c. Duties of Deacons
  - (1) Shall aid in the preparation and administration of the Lord's Supper
  - (2) Shall examine and recommend candidates for admission to the church
  - (3) Provide for the supply of the pulpit when pastor is absent
  - (4) Make up the Pulpit Committee
  - (5) Elect own chairman (5/4/2008) and secretary from their members
  - (6) Make report at annual meeting
  - (7) Assist in caring for baptism of candidates
  - (8) Disburse Deacons' Fund
  - (9) Be watchful for the spiritual and discipline matters of the church
  - (10) Administer the Missions Policy, see Article VIII
  - (11) In the event of a long-term crisis (see Trustee Duties for details), the deacons will

continue to care for the flock, but also add to the flock by continuing to examine people for membership. The deacons can authorize church membership without a vote of the church assuming the candidate meets the normal admission requirements should the church not be able to call a business meeting for over 3 months. The membership will affirm the decisions of the deacons through a vote for all those who have entered into membership of the church at the first available business meeting (10/4/20)

- d. The clerk shall keep a complete record of the transactions of all business meetings of the church. He shall keep a register of the names of the members of the church with dates of admission and dismissal or death, together with a record of baptism. He shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendation voted by the church. He shall preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary as indicated in these by-laws.
- e. The treasurer of the church shall pay bills without order to meet the commitments of the church for all annually budgeted items including salaries of the employees of the church; monthly missionary commitments; the utilities and maintenance of the church and grounds; and supplies and expenses for all service organizations and ministries. The treasurer shall further pay the capital improvements bills upon approval of the trustees and/or congregation (in accordance with Section 2, Article 6, subsection h below) and shall provide updated spending information to the pastors and trustees on all church accounts. The treasurer shall also support the annual audit with the auditor. (11/9/14)
- f. The assistant treasurer shall act in the absence of the treasurer and shall be empowered to sign checks only in the treasurer's absence.
- g. The financial secretary shall, with the help of his assistants, take all envelopes and collections, count the collections, deposit all monies in the bank. He shall make a written report to the church at the annual meeting. He shall also keep record of each pledge.
- h. Trustees shall hold in trust the property of the church. They shall have actual care of the place of worship and properties of the church, and have restricted power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action. Trustees are authorized to purchase materials, parts, and labor to repair nonfunctional or improve impaired existing facilities or equipment up to the limit of the annual maintenance budget and the sum of any funds restricted for that equipment, facility, or specified gift. Such projects that will exceed the bounds of the budget and available restricted funds require a vote of the church. Facilities or equipment improvements that exceed \$2000.00 or are being purchased to make a significant change to the functionality of equipment or the facilities require a vote of the church to approve the proposed project, budget, and sources of funding. The emergency clause below can be invoked if it is relevant. (11/13/2022)

In the event of broken, worn, replaced, or unwanted equipment or materials, the trustees may at their discretion dispose of such materials of \$1000.00 or less value without a vote of the membership after having advertised the availability of the materials to the membership for a period of at least two Sundays. If there is value to

the material, the trustees will take bids from members of the church to purchase the material. Waste will then be sold as junk, recycled, or properly disposed of. Any income generated by sale or disposal will be deposited in the general fund. Hazardous waste shall be disposed of only by legal and environmentally safe mechanisms as prescribed by local, state, and federal laws. (10/4/2020)

#### EMERGENCY CLAUSE:

In cases where property and services would be jeopardized by waiting for a church vote (2 weeks), the trustees may authorize expenditures that exceed the above amount.

#### CRISIS CLAUSE

In the event of a local, national, or global crisis which restricts or denies our ability to meet and carryout business meetings (to include the Annual and Semi-annual meetings) the trustees may institute temporary changes as defined in this clause to allow the continuation of church ministries to the greatest extent possible. This clause may be invoked by a vote of the trustee board. Every effort should be made to engage with the full board through any means possible (in person, by phone, or any mechanism that exists at the time). When in effect, the trustees can extend or modify budgets as needed to maintain and protect the facilities and the ongoing operation of the church. They cannot hire or fire permanent staff. They cannot sell any facilities or land of the church or any of its ministries. They can extend use of the powers authorized under this clause as necessary until the end of crisis but must reauthorize them at least every 90 days through another trustee board vote. They must reestablish normal Constitutional operation and governance of the church as soon as it is safe and possible to do so. (10/4/20)

- i. The Sunday school superintendent shall be a support to the pastor(s) in the general supervision of the Sunday school program.
- j. The assistant Sunday school superintendent shall act in the absence of the Sunday school superintendent.
- k. The Chairman of the Youth Committee shall be responsible (with the committee) to co-ordinate the work of the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups in producing spiritual and wholesome planned activities on a yearly basis. The committee shall be composed of the pastor, Sunday school superintendent, youth officers and the youth sponsors.
- l. The Executive Committee shall:
  - (1) Appoint an auditing committee (composed of at least one member of the church) (5/4/2008) or the purpose of examining books of all treasurers with the financial secretary's records prior to the annual meeting.
  - (2) Appoint the following committees after the annual meeting:

- a) Hospitality Committee
  - b) Flower Committee
  - c) Librarian
  - d) Camp Committee
  - e) Head Usher (patrol)
  - f) Budget Committee
  - g) Bus Superintendent
  - h) Music Committee
- (3) Act as nominating committee for all elections
  - (4) Appoint temporary officers when vacancies occur, until the next annual election shall be held.
  - (5) This committee will meet when a need arises, as called by the pastor.

## **VII. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 - For Worship**

- a. Public services shall be held statedly on the Lord's Day and on some regular evening or evenings of each week.
- b. The Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of each month, or at such other time as the deacons may determine.
- c. Special meetings (evangelistic, missionary, etc.) may be planned by the pastor and deacons at their discretion.

### **Section 2 - For Business**

- a. At any of the regular meetings for worship, the church may, without special notice act upon the reception of members, upon the dismissal of members to other churches, upon disciplinary action, and upon the appointment of messengers, but not upon other business.
- b. (1) The pastor may, and shall, when requested by the deacons, trustees, or a standing committee, call from the pulpit special business meetings, the particular object of the meeting being clearly stated in the notice.
- (2) Special meetings of the church shall also be called by the clerk upon the written application of any ten (10) adult members specifying the object thereof. At such meetings a chairman shall be chosen by vote of the church.
- (3) All notices shall be read at the public service on the two Lord's Days next preceding the day fixed for such meeting.

- c. Preceding the annual meeting on the first Sunday in May at 6:00 p.m., (5/4/2008) a corporate meeting shall be called by the chairman of the Board of Trustees to elect a clerk and moderator and to elect one third (1/3) of the Board of Trustees, in compliance with the laws of New York State.
- d. The annual meeting of the church shall be held on the first Sunday in May at 6:00 p.m. (5/4/2008) each year at which time the annual reports shall be presented and officers elected and such other business transacted as may be deemed necessary.
- e. At the annual and special meetings thirty (5/12/95) members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- f. A semi-annual business meeting shall be held on the second Sunday of November at 6:00 p.m. (5/4/2008)
- g. In case of conflict of dates, the annual business meeting date of the second Friday in May be changed by a vote of the church at a specially called business meeting after following normal announcement procedures. (November 13, 1991)

## **VIII. MISSIONS POLICY**

### **Section 1 - Policy**

In order to fulfill our mission of making more and better disciples globally, we endeavor to partner with those of like, precious faith, who are in agreement with our doctrinal position, and are establishing and building the body of Christ in different geographic locations (Acts 1:8). We believe the New Testament clearly teaches that missionary work is evangelizing the lost, growing up saints, and results in the establishment of local New Testament churches (Acts 2:41-47; 16:5). Therefore, we believe our primary responsibility should be to support missionaries who are actively engaged in ministry that is directly related to the establishment, cultivation, and assistance of local churches.

We also endeavor to partner with those who are ministering to the “least of these,” such as orphans and widows, and are ministering in medical evangelism (James 2; Isaiah 5). We will seek to support those who are working in conjunction with local churches where those to whom they are ministering will sit under the teaching of the Gospel.

While we recognize that evangelism/church planting is the cornerstone of missions work, we also realize that there are many who partner with those carrying out the practical work of the Great Commission. Examples include, but are not limited to teachers of national pastors, translators, ministers to missionary children, church planting support teams (such as construction or communication/information specialists), and others. Because of their partnership in the Great Commission, these are worthy of our prayers and support.

We believe those serving in Gospel ministry need to be part of an accountability team that can provide counsel, direction and support. This may occur through a mission board, sending church or some other acceptable avenue. In order for us to pray more effectively for our partners in missions work, we believe it is important to review our partnerships every five years

through a report to our church community and/or deacon board. (11/9/14)

## **Section 2 - The Procedure**

- a. The prospective missionary shall meet with the pastor and deacons.
- b. He shall be interviewed as to his conversion, call to missionary service, goals and objectives on the mission field, financial needs and policies, and the position of the board under which he serves.
- c. A letter of recommendation shall then be received from his church which holds his membership.
- d. Deacons shall then present a recommendation (written) to the church for his support. A simple majority vote shall be required to pass (carry).

## **Section 3 - The Practice**

All classes (Sunday school), agencies, or departments within the church shall abide by this mission policy of the church.

# **IX. ADDENDUM**

## **Section 1**

For all matters not governed by these Articles, the church shall consult Hiscox New Directory for Baptist Churches.

## **Section 2**

The property of the Breesport Baptist Church shall forever remain in the control of its membership.

## **Section 3**

All monies shall be raised by voluntary subscriptions and offerings and in no other way than the Scriptural method. Monies or funds for the purpose of making alterations, improvements, or for the purpose of constructing a new building(s) may be raised by borrowing of monies, the issuance of bonds and/or other evidence of indebtedness.

# **X. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting of the church, or at a meeting specially called for that purpose, the proposed amendment being inserted in the call. No change shall be made in Articles II and III, entitled "COVENANT" and "CHARACTER" except at an annual meeting, and by a two-thirds vote of all members of the church entitled to vote, said proposed change having been laid before the

church in writing at a business meeting not less than one month before the time of the proposed action and read from the pulpit on the Lord's Day next succeeding such proposal.

### **AMENDMENT #1**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, this Church is organized exclusively for the religious purposes as specified in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal Internal Revenue Tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Upon the dissolution, the assets will be distributed to one or more religious organizations exempt pursuant to said Section of the Internal Revenue Code, or to another religious organization as directed by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, pursuant to Section 18 of the Religious Corporation Law, to be used in such manner as in the judgment of the court will best accomplish the general purposes, for which this Church is organized. the organizations to receive the assets shall be determined at an annual meeting of the Church, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. (5/11/79)

### **AMENDMENT #2**

We believe that the institution of marriage was designed by God to unite one man and one woman in lifelong commitment. We also believe that sexual intimacy is a gift from God that is to be expressed only between a man and a woman within the bonds of such a marriage (Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual expression is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift. Other forms include, but are not limited to: fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pornography, bestiality, incest, and pedophilia (Genesis 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18; Proverbs 6:32; Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 5:1; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

Furthermore, we believe that God takes sexual sins seriously, yet He lovingly offers complete forgiveness and restoration through repentance to those who disobey the Bible's teaching. We also take seriously the responsibility that we have as believers to model the example of our heavenly Father in loving all people - including those ensnared by sexual sin - as we seek their restoration (Galatians 6:1-2; 1 John 2:24-26; Jude 23).