

**THE CONSTITUTION AND BY - LAWS**  
**OF**  
**THE COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**2234 COUNTY LINE ROAD**

**DAYTON, OHIO 45430**



**May 2007**

**CONSTITUTION OF COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
***DAYTON, OHIO***

## **ARTICLE 1 NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the County Line Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio. ( The former name of “Kettering Baptist Church” being changed by vote of congregation on March 10, 1971)

## **ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to preach and teach the Word of God; to administer the ordinances of the New Testament Church; to minister in Christian services to the community; to promote the spiritual development of believers; and to seek the salvation of the lost through evangelism and missions both home and abroad. This church is to be organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

## **ARTICLE 111 CHARACTER**

This church shall be an independent, sovereign, self-governing body of believers, subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body or organization. This church shall maintain a separatist position toward all modernistic and unbiblical organizations and ecclesiastical groups. This church shall, however, recognize and sustain the obligations of mutual cooperation and fellowship amongst Baptist churches of like faith and position.

## **ARTICLE IV HISTORIC BAPTIST PRINCIPLES**

This church adopts the historic principles peculiar to Baptists down through the ages:

1. The preeminence of Christ as our Divine Lord and Master.
2. The supreme authority of the Bible and its sufficiency as our only rule of faith and practice.
3. The right of private interpretation of the Bible and the competency of the individual soul to approach God.
4. The absolute separation of Church and State.
5. A regenerated Church membership.
6. The beautiful, symbolic ordinance of believer’s baptism by immersion in obedience to the command of Christ.
7. The complete independence and its interdependence in associated fellowship with other Baptist churches.
8. The solemn obligation of majority rule, guaranteeing equal rights to all and affording special privilege to none.

9. The spiritual unity of all believers for which the Master so earnestly prayed.
10. A world-wide program of missionary fervor and evangelism in obedience to the final command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **ARTICLE V CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one Body in Christ.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to forsake the paths of sin, and walk in the ways of Holiness all the days of our lives. With this in view, we engage to strive together for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, Holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate religiously our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We further engage to walk together in Christian love and watchfulness, giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

As a member of the County Line Baptist Church, I agree:

1. To abide by the Constitution of the Church, especially those sections dealing with doctrine, conduct, and discipline.
2. To attend all services regularly, except when kept away for some good reason.
3. To contribute regularly to the financial support of the Church and Gospel by bringing my tithe and offerings into the storehouse.
4. To render any service as I am able.
5. To live as a Christian should, so that my life will not be a hindrance to others and a detriment to the Church.
6. To always be loyal to my Church, and if I have any complaints, to make them known to the Pastor or Deacons only.
7. To pray, study the Bible, strive to be a soul winner, and put Christ first in my life.

## **ARTICLE VII ARTICLES OF FAITH**

### I The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-filled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but **IS** the Word of God.
2. By "Inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by Holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. ( II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; John 17:17)
3. Whereas there are a number of new versions of the Bible in circulation, some of which are not reliable due to the revisers mishandling of texts, we consider it, therefore a safeguard to prefer using the King James Version in our pulpit and in our class rooms.

### II The True God

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressively glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine

perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7)

### III 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, or the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

(Gen 1:1-3; Matt 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Rom 8:14, 16, 26-27; Eph 1:13-14; Heb 9:14)

### IV 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.

(Matt 4:1-3; II Cor 4:4; Rev 20:30)

### V The Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution.

(Gen 1-2; Psalms 33:6; John 1:3; Col 1:16-17; Heb 1:10-11; Rev 4:11)

### VI The Virgin Birth

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

(Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14)

### VII The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in

consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but by choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

(Gen 3:1-6; Psalm 51:5; Rom 1:18,32; 5:10-19)

### VIII Atonement for Sin

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

(Isa 53:4-7; Matt 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; Rom 3:24,25; I Cor 15:3; II Cor 5:21; Eph 2:8; Phil 2:7; Heb 2:14; I Jn 4:10)

### IX The New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sin is made partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life; the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

(John 3:3,6-8; Acts 16:30-33; Rom 6:23; II Cor 5:17,19; Eph 2:1; Col 2:13; II Pet 1:4; I John 5:1)

### X Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification:

(a) That Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on the principles of righteousness.

(b) That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the redeemer's blood. His righteousness is imputed to us.

(Isa 53:11; Zech 13:1; Acts 13:39; Rom 5:1,9; 8:1)

## XI Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

(Acts 16:31; 20:21; Rom 10:13)

## XII Freeness of Salvation

We believe the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; that nothing prevents salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in condemnation.

(Isa 55:1; Mark 1:15; John 3:19; Acts 17:30; Rom 16:26; Rev 22:17)

## XIII The Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by 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 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 the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole 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.

(Matt 16:18; Acts 2:14-42; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; I Cor 11:2; Eph 1:22,23; 4:11; 5:23,24; Col 1:18; I Tim 3:15)

## XIV Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; (one time backwards) in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with the authority of the local church, to show forth a solemn and beautiful emblem; our faith in the crucified, buried, and new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relationship.  
(Matt 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:3-5)

#### XV The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the sacred use of bread and wine in which the members of the church are to commemorate together the death of the Lord Jesus Christ until He comes; that it should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.  
(Matt 26:26-29; I Cor 11:23-26)

#### XVI The Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ.  
(John 5:26; 10:27-30; Rom 8:35-39; Phil 1:6; Heb 7:25; Jude 1:24,25)

#### XVII The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.  
(Gen 18:23; Prov 14:32; Mal 3:18; Matt 25:34-41; Luke 6:25; Rom 6:17,18,23; I John 5:19; Rev 20:11-15; 22:11,12)

#### XVIII 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 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.

(Exo 18:21-26; II Sam 23:3; Dan 3:17,18; Matt 22:21; Acts 4:19,20; 23:5; Rom 13:7)

### XIX The Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Pre-Millennial Return Of Christ, and Related Events

- (a) We believe in the Bodily Resurrection.  
(Matt 28:6,7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 39; John 20:27; I Cor 15:4)
- (b) The Ascension.  
(Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Heb 12:2; Rev 3:21)
- (c) The High Priesthood.  
(I Tim 2:5; Heb 2:17; 5:9,10; 8:6; I John 2:1)
- (d) The Second Coming.  
(John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thess 4:16; Heb 9:28; James 5:8)
- (e) The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead.  
(I Cor 15:21,42-44; I Thess 4:13-18)
- (f) The Change of the Living in Christ  
(I Cor 15:51-53; Phil 3:20,21; I Thess 4:13-18)
- (g) The Throne of David.  
(Isa 9:6,7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29,30)
- (h) The Millennial Reign.  
(Psalm 72:8; Isa 11:4,5; 32:1; I Cor 15:25; Rev 20:6,14)

### XX Divine or Bodily Healing

We believe that sickness, together with every other disorder and evil in human life and the world, are the effect of sin. The New Testament clearly teaches that Christ “died for our sins” and that “He was made sin for us.” Divine healing is not in the atonement made by Christ in the sense that salvation and the forgiveness of sins are in His atonement. The suffering and death of Christ was substitutionary, penal, and vicarious (Rom 4:25; I Cor 15:3; II Cor 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18.) It is no where taught in Scriptures that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin. The effects of sin did not need a satisfactory penalty meted out, but sin did, because it is an infringement of His Law and Will and an offense against God’s Holiness. Christ, therefore, bore the penalty of sin in His suffering and death. We further believe that when Matthew 8:17 quotes Isaiah, “Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses,” it was not that He took them in the sense that He died for them and put them away as He did the sins of the believer, but as the context clearly reveals by “bearing” them, so that in the sense of sympathetically bearing them, so that He took them away by healing the sick. The passage

clearly refers to what took place in His death. In His vicarious death, Christ bore the penalty of sin and accomplished a redemption which covers every possible effect of sin and will therefore, when He brings in full and eternal redemption, put an end to all sin and sickness, as well as to every other disorder in the world because of sin.

We believe that the present dispensation of Grace is distinctly and preeminently the time for spiritual salvation and of spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. During the dispensation the Lord heals the body in answer to believing prayer, but only according to His own sovereign will and for His glory, and not because He is bound to do so because of what He has accomplished on the Cross. The Word of God does not make a promise of specific bodily healing to the Christian in the age of Grace, but the child of God can bring his physical needs to God in prayer just as he brings all of his other burdens (Philippians 4:6,7). Furthermore, the Word of God does not authorize public healing meetings for the Church Age (James 5:14).

We believe that when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, according to His own promise (John 14:3), and the revelation of a great mystery through Paul (I Cor 15:51-53), as well as the special word from the Lord through Paul (I Thess 4:13-18), the saints of the present dispensation will receive glorified bodies and shall then possess and enjoy the full benefits of an accomplished redemption by the Lord Jesus Christ. Until then they carry about with them a sinful nature and mortal body, which is subject to pain, sickness, and death. When the Lord Jesus Christ returns in triumph over all His enemies, subduing them and putting an end to them all, He will bring in the eternal day of God, when heaven and earth and the existing nations shall know and enjoy the full and eternal benefits of redemption He has accomplished by His death upon the Cross (II Peter 3:10-13; I Cor 15:24-28; Rev 21 and 22). The healings and deliverances of Christ in connection with His earthly ministry were but the evidences and manifestations of His power as the Son of God and Servant of Jehovah, as well as illustrations and forecasts of the power that shall be manifested in His earthly kingdom, when He will reign over restored Israel and the Nations of the earth (Isaiah 11:1-9; 65:18-25)

## XXI The Grace of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of Faith (II Cor 8:7). We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the Church) upon the first day of the week (I Cor 16:2). Under grace, we give, and do not pay the tithe -- “Abraham gave a tenth part of all” --”Abraham

gave a tenth part of the spoils” -- (Heb 7:2-4) -- and this was 400 years before the Law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, “These ye ought to have done” -- (Matt 23:23). We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury -- (Lev 27:30; Mal 3:10). In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the Church (Acts 4:34,35,37).

## XXII Statement of Faith - Marriage

We believe the marriage relationship is instituted by God, in His Word, and that the man and woman who lawfully enter into this union become one flesh. Therefore, this relationship should be terminated only by the death of either the husband or wife. (Gen 2:23-25; Matt 19:6; Rom 7:2).

## ARTICLE VIII MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 Qualifications

Any person in sympathy with the aim and purpose of this Church who will put the same into practice, acknowledging Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior, and who has been scripturally baptized, is entitled to membership in this church.

### Section 2 Duties

All members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the spiritual duties essential to Christian life, second, to attend habitually the services of the Church, to give regularly to its support and to its charities, “as the Lord has prospered,” and to share in its organized work.

### Section 3 Privileges

All members who are in full fellowship, according to Sections One and Two of this article, and who have reached the age of sixteen, shall be eligible to vote in transactions of this church according to Article XII, Section 2.

### Section 4 Admission

(A) Each applicant for membership is to be given a copy of the Constitution upon their application for membership in order that they may examine the faith and practice of said church. Failure to express

intentions of abiding by the Covenant and Constitution will without further question disqualify the applicant for membership in said church.

(B) Any person professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart, may be baptized, and then welcomed into membership of the church.

(C) Members from other churches of like faith and order, may be received by letters of dismissal from their respective churches, coming under the watch care of the church with full voting privileges until arrival of such letter.

Any person who has once been a member of a recognized Baptist Church, but who in consequence of some peculiar occurrence or circumstances cannot secure a letter of dismissal, may be received into membership, after having given a statement of faith in Jesus Christ.

(D) Each applicant for membership must be presented to the church for consideration, and must be ratified by the unanimous vote of members present. Any dissenting voters and the applicant will meet with the board, after which the board will recommend to the church whether or not the applicant is a proper candidate for membership.

#### Section 5 Dismissal

(A) Letters of transfer may be granted to any member in good standing for the purposes of uniting with another Baptist Church; providing the request comes from the church.

(B) Any member who does not attend at least four regularly scheduled church services during one year, unless due to being incapacitated or being in the armed forces, will be dropped from membership. Members will be contacted and names to be brought before the congregation during a regularly scheduled business meeting before being dropped.

#### Section 6 Church Discipline

(A) Formative Discipline

Formative discipline functions positively to promote and maintain the conditions of learning necessary for making disciples in Christ's Church, that is, people who are obeying His commands. It involves teaching truth in

such a way that it produces godliness. This is the *formal* responsibility of the church's leadership (Ephesians 4:11,12) and the *informal* responsibility of all members as they exercise their spiritual gifts, encourage, admonish, teach and serve one another ( I Corinthians 12:12-27; Hebrews 10:24,25; Colossians 3:16; Galatians 5:13,14).

#### (B) Corrective Discipline

Corrective discipline is necessary because of conduct or doctrine contrary to biblical commands. It is instituted when members refuse to settle differences biblically (Matthew 18:15-35); for public and scandalous sins (I Corinthians 5:1-13); for heretical beliefs (I Timothy 1:18-20); and for divisive actions in the congregation (Titus 3:9-11). Corrective discipline always aims for the glory of God, the welfare and purity of the local church, and the restoration and spiritual growth of the offender.

#### (C) Steps of Corrective Discipline

(1) It shall be the duty of any member of this church, who has knowledge of an erring member's heresy, misconduct, or refusal to be reconciled, to correct such a member in private and to seek their restoration ( Matthew 18:15; Galatians 6:1,2).

(2) If, after repeated attempts, the erring member refuses to heed such warnings, then the warning member shall return, privately, with one or two witnesses. These witnesses, after self-examination and prayer, shall adjudicate the matter and seek to reconcile the parties and/or restore the erring member (Matthew 18:16,19,20).

(3) If the witnesses determine that the erring member refuses to heed such warnings, they shall report the matter to the congregation. Special note of the erring member shall be made so that the congregation will not associate with them but will warn them of their error. Although still considered a brother or sister , the erring member must be excluded from participation in the Lord's table and the privileges of membership, according to the commands of Scripture ( Matthew 18:17; I Corinthians 5:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14,15).

At times, because of the public and scandalous nature of one's sin, a member may be reported to the congregation at this level of discipline without pursuing the informal and private steps ( 1Corinthians 5:1-13).

(4) If, after members of the congregation have attempted to regain the erring brother or sister, they still refuse to heed such warnings, they shall be put out of the church, turned over to Satan, and treated as an unbeliever, being publicly dismissed from the church ( Matthew 18:17,18; 1 Corinthians 5:4,5,13; 1 Timothy 1:18-20).

(5) If, during any of the steps of corrective discipline, the erring member seeks to resign from membership of the church, the resignation shall be accepted, but the reasons for the resignation shall be reported to the congregation and the congregation shall be instructed to treat the resigning member according to the commands of our Lord in Matthew 18:17 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.

(6) Restoration of the erring member shall proceed as follows:

a) If the erring member repents at the informal and private level of discipline ( i.e., one-on-one and witness stage), then repentance, confession and restoration shall be private ( Matthew 18:15,16; Luke 17:3,4; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).

b) If the discipline proceeds to the formal level of public disclosure before the congregation, then the repentance, confession and restoration must also be public and before the congregation ( 2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

c) On whatever level restoration occurs, the members of the church are commanded to forgive the offender upon their confession and repentance (Luke 17:3,4; Ephesians 4:32; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

## Section 7 Associate Membership

(A) For the benefit of students and others whose residence in the area is only temporary, an associate membership is available. This allows individuals to participate in the ministry of this church and also provides a local church relationship, permitting the retention of membership in the individual's home church.

(B) An associate member would have no voting privileges, and may not hold any elected office.

(C) The procedure for receiving or dismissing of an associate member will be the same as for regular membership.

## **ARTICLE IX OFFICERS**

(A) The officers of the church shall be: Pastor, Deacons, Clerk, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent, and such other officers as from time to time may seem necessary for the welfare of the church.

(B) All officers of the church and all subsidiary organizations including the Sunday School, Women's Missionary Group, etc., shall be members of this church, in good standing, and shall be required to subscribe to the Articles of Faith of this church. Upon refusal of any to subscribe, that office shall be declared vacant.

(C) There shall be as many deacons as the church deems advisable.

(D) The Clerk, Church Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Missions Treasurer, and Sunday School Superintendent are entitled to as many assistants as are needed. These assistants shall be appointed through the church.

### **Section 2 Qualifications**

Any person in sympathy with the aim and purpose of this church, who will put the same into practice, who has been elected to office by a majority vote of the congregation, and who will agree to enter into the Covenant of Section 3 of this Article is entitled to hold office in the church.

### **Section 3 Covenant for Officers**

In assuming this office, I agree to be loyal to the interests of the church, to seek its purity and prosperity, and to be subject to its discipline.

Furthermore, I cheerfully accept and subscribe to the following rules of office:

- (1) All officers and teachers must be members of this church in good standing according to Article VIII of this Constitution.
- (2) All officers and teachers must be in full agreement with the Doctrinal position of this church.
- (3) All officers and teachers must be in harmony with the administration of the church as long as that administration is consistent with God's Word.
- (4) All officers and teachers must agree not to partake of worldly pleasures detrimental to a Christian walk and testimony, because of the possibility of being a stumbling block, in accordance with the following scripture: Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-29; Romans 14:1-23; Matthew 6:24; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.
- (5) Inasmuch as the Biblical plan of giving is the tithe, all officers and teachers are expected to observe this plan. Exceptions will be allowed in the case an officer or teacher is the wife of an unsaved husband who is opposed to the tithe.
- (6) As the work of the church is dependent upon prayer, each officer and teacher is expected to conscientiously attend and participate in the regular prayer meeting of the church unless providentially hindered.
- (7) Since the Bible states that the Pastor or Deacon is to be the husband of one wife, no divorced person shall hold either of these offices ( 1 Timothy 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).
- (8) If at any time officers or teachers find they can no longer comply with this constitution, it is their duty to report it to the church and surrender office.

#### Section 4 Pastor

- (A) The Pastor shall be chosen by the church in a publicly announced business meeting by not less than 75% of the votes cast.

(B) Before he shall be considered as a candidate he shall affirm to the Board of Deacons either in writing or by word of mouth that he affirms the following:

1. The Doctrinal Statement or Articles of Faith of this church.
2. That he is the husband of not more than one living wife.
3. That he is a member of a Baptist Church completely severed from all forms of liberalism.
4. He shall affirm his willingness to cooperate fully with the particular affiliation of this church.

(C) It shall be his duty to preach at services of the church, and to moderate meetings of the Advisory Committee, also called the Advisory Board. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all church committees and boards, and counselor with all church officers in their respective positions with right of choice as to serving on such committees and boards. If he should desire a change of pastorates, he shall give the church thirty days notice prior to his leaving the pastorate of this church. Should the church desire a severance of pastoral relationship after meeting in a called business session duly announced from the pulpit at the regular services for two weeks in advance of said business session, he is to be given thirty days notice from that session. He may or may not, as he sees fit, remain for that thirty day period.

#### Section 5 Deacons

(A) The Deacon Board shall consist of as many men as the church deems necessary to be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the church. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall be chosen by the members from the Board of Deacons in their first regular meeting after the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the deacons to visit the sick, to prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper, to cooperate with the pastor in the performance of his duties, also to serve as Pulpit Supply Committee, and to aid in baptismal services.

#### Section 6 Church Treasurer

(A) There shall be a Church Treasurer elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the church treasurer to count the money taken in from the offerings in conjunction with the financial secretary, to pay out money as the church directs, to keep records of the sources and receipts of money and the disbursements of the same. The church treasurer shall make a yearly report to the church of all money received and expended to be given at the Annual Business Meeting.

(C) Any necessary steps shall be taken to keep the church treasurer bonded at all times. The books shall be audited annually, following the Annual Business Meeting.

#### Section 7 Missions Treasurer

(A) There shall be a Missions Treasurer elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the Missions treasurer to receive all monies designated to church missions, to pay out as the church directs to all specified missionaries and agencies, to keep records of the sources and receipts of money and disbursements of the same. The Missions treasurer shall make a yearly report to the church at the Annual Business Meeting.

#### Section 8 Clerk

(A) There shall be one Clerk elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep an accurate record of the business meetings of the church, to keep an accurate register of the membership of the church, to record the date and manner of admission and dismissal of members, and to perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office.

#### Section 9 Financial Secretary

(A) There shall be one Financial Secretary elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the financial secretary to count all offerings with the church treasurer and maintain an independent cash receipts record. In

event of the treasurer's absence, the financial secretary shall take charge of the offerings and secure one of the deacons to help count the offerings.

#### Section 10 Sunday School Superintendent

(A) There shall be one Sunday School Superintendent elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the Sunday School Superintendent to take general charge of all matters pertaining to the Sunday school. The superintendent shall strive to make Sunday school tributary to building up of the church.

(C) The superintendent shall appoint all officers and teachers of the Sunday school. The superintendent's appointments must be in turn subject to approval of the Advisory Board, to whom the superintendent shall be directly responsible.

#### Section 11 Music Department

(A) There shall be one Music Director, one Assistant Music Director elected by ballot at the Annual Business Meeting.

(B) It shall be the duty of the music director to coordinate all phases of the music for the church. The assistant director will aid in any way deemed helpful, and shall take charge in the absence of the director.

#### Section 12 Term of Office

(A) The Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term.

(B) The Deacons shall be elected for one year, and if they fulfill the office well, will be automatically recommended for nomination.

(C) All other officers shall be elected for one year. There is no restriction upon successive holding of office unless otherwise stated.

#### Section 13 Retirement

(A) It shall be the privilege of either the church or the pastor to dissolve the pastoral relationship by mutual agreement after thirty days notice.

(B) Any officer of the church who neglects their duties or removes place of residence from Dayton and vicinity so that they cannot do the work required by the church, shall by such neglect or removal, vacate said office, and the Advisory Board shall nominate a successor to serve out the unexpired term of said officer. The nomination shall be approved by the church.

## **ARTICLE X COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1 Advisory Committee**

(A) The Advisory Committee shall consist of all the deacons, the pastor to be the chairman.

(B) The Committee shall assist the pastor in superintending the work of the church.

### **Section 2 Pulpit Committee**

(A) The Pulpit Committee shall consist of all the deacons.

(B) It shall be the duty of the pulpit committee to see that the pulpit is filled in the absence of a regular pastor.

## **ARTICLE XI MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 Worship**

Unless otherwise provided, the church shall meet each Sunday for worship and evangelistic effort both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for prayer. Other meetings shall be planned as desired.

### **Section 2 Business Meetings**

(A) The Annual Business Meeting will be held between the 15th and the 31st of January as scheduled by the deacon board at least two weeks in advance.

(B) At this meeting shall be the election of officers. Officers and committees and the head of all departments shall make reports of the year's work and submit them in writing for adoption and entry into the church

records. Other business affecting the coming year's ministry of the church shall be acted upon as the church may direct.

(C) All written reports for the year by the officers will be submitted to the church for their acceptance at the Annual Business Meeting.

### Section 3 Special Business Meetings

A special meeting may be called by the pastor or by the board of deacons, but such meeting shall require a previous announcement at a regular devotional service of the church at least one day in advance of the special meeting.

### Section 4 Miscellaneous

(A) No business meeting may be called in the absence of the regular pastor except by mutual consent of pastor and deacons.

(B) All business which is to be brought up from the floor must be first made known to the pastor and deacons at least two days prior to the business meeting.

(C) All regular business meetings of the church shall be held in the place where the church regularly is meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII ELECTIONS**

### Section 1 Officers

(A) In case of the death or resignation of the pastor, his successor shall be called at a special meeting of the church, of which meeting one weeks notice has been given. The nomination of the candidate shall be made by the pulpit committee through its chairman, and after prompt discussion the church shall proceed to vote by ballot.

(B) All officers except pastor shall be elected annually.

### Section 2 Voting

(A) All elections shall be by ballot, other voting at the will of the church.

(B) Members of the church in full fellowship, according to Article VIII, Sections 1, 2 and 6, are eligible to vote when they reach the age of sixteen.

(C) In all ordinary matters each member shall be entitled to a vote at the age of sixteen. But in dismissal of a pastor, in the purchase and sale of property, in all cases of discipline, in amending of these articles, only members eighteen years of age or older shall be eligible to vote.

(D) A majority of members present constituting a quorum is sufficient to pass any motion pertaining to regular items of business.

### **ARTICLE XIII QUORUM**

Only members having attended a minimum of twelve services per year, sixteen years of age or older, shall be qualified to vote in any business meeting. Those members in good standing present at a duly called business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

### **ARTICLE XIV FINANCIAL POLICY**

#### Section 1 Source of Support

(A) The operating expense money shall be raised in public services by receiving the tithes and offerings of God's people.

(B) All special solicitation for funds shall be sanctioned by and under the direction of the Advisory Board.

#### Section 2 Designation of Funds

Believing that the Word of God gives definite teaching concerning the tithes and offerings of God's people, the position of this church shall be that members shall bring their tithes and offerings unto the Lord in the offerings of the church. Malachi 3:10 instructs us to bring our tithes and offerings into the storehouse. Furthermore, believing that these tithes and offerings are given to the Lord and the Lord's only ordained institution for carrying on His work on the earth is the church, we shall subscribe to the following:

1. All monies received by this church shall be designated and dispersed as the church authorizes.

2. The church shall receive no designated offerings other than those persons and projects authorized by the church.
3. This church is designated scripturally as the body of Christ. It shall be the duty of this one body to be a faithful steward unto the Lord.

## **ARTICLE XV NEW ORGANIZATIONS**

No new church organizations, such as an auxiliary or an extra church society, shall be formed without a written presentation of its purpose to the Advisory Board, whose sanction must be secured before said organization may use the church name or property.

## **ARTICLE XVI ORDINANCES**

- (A) The ordinance of baptism will be observed on any Sunday as candidates are available.
- (B) The Lord's Supper shall be observed no less than every other month.

## **ARTICLE XVII AMENDMENTS**

- (A) These articles may be changed or amended at any regular business meeting providing that written notice of such change shall have been proposed and read at a regular business meeting of the church at least one month previous; and, provided, that such alteration shall not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of this church.
- (B) Two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to adopt any amendment.

## **ARTICLE XVIII DISSOLVEMENT CLAUSE**

In the event a decision is made to dissolve this Corporation known as County Line Baptist Church, the members, prior to its dissolution, and after payment of all church liabilities; shall assign the remaining assets to one or

more fundamental, Bible-believing, Baptist, non-profit organizations such as; churches, mission agencies, schools, or associations which qualify, at the time, for recognition of exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

## **BY-LAWS**

1. All business meetings shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Deacons shall preside over the business meetings.
3. A majority vote shall be required in the transaction of all business except where otherwise designated.
4. "Hiscox New Directory for Baptist Churches" shall be considered the standard procedure in business meetings and matters of policy.
5. The church year shall begin January 1, and all reports of statistics, changes and matters relating to church progress, shall state facts with reference to that date.
6. All motions when requested shall be presented in writing.
7. These by-laws may be altered, suspended, or amended at any meeting of the church, provided it is done in accord with Article XVII on Amendments.
8. Each respective treasurer of an auxiliary group of County Line Baptist Church shall submit a written report of all receipts and expenditures quarterly and annually, the same to be presented at the regular business meetings of the church.
9. All votes taken with regard to the expenditure of money shall be by ballot and the results of said vote recorded in the permanent minutes of the business meeting.
10. Nominations for the annual Election of Officers shall be suggested by any member to the Nominating Committee at least two weeks prior to election. A ballot will be prepared and given to members at least three the days prior to the election.