[Illegible]

 For the purpose of preserving, propagating and making articulate

the principles of our Faith, and to the end that this body of believ-

ing Christians may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with

the accepted tenets of Missionary Baptist Churches, for the purpose

of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of

this church, and in order to set forth the relationship of this body

to other Baptist bodies, we do adopt and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I

NAME

 The name of this organization shall be Evergreen Baptist Church,

Rt. 2 Autryville, North Carolina, 28318

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The Evergreen Baptist Church is organized for the purpose of advanc-

ing and promoting the worship of God through the reading and study of

the Holy Bible as the revealed word of God, the teaching and preaching

of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, conducting regular

services of worship for the spiritual training, development and bene-

fits of each member and for the winning of souls to Jesus Christ.

This church shall be missionary in spirit, extending the Gospel through

organized religious channels to the entire world. It shall promote

and maintain the teachings and doctrines of that Christian body uni-

versally known and designated as the Missionary Baptist Denomination.

It shall exist to provide regular opportunities for public worship,

To sustain the ordinances, doctrines, and ethics set forth in the

New Testament for the church of our Lord Jesus Christ and to channel

its offerings to the support of the objects and purposes set forth

above, the church will have power and authority to purchase, lease

and acquire by gift, devise or bequest, and to hold, mortgage, convey

and dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, pro-

vided that the title to all property shall be vested in the church

trustees as here-in-after set forth.

CONSTITUTION PAGE I

[illegible]

Of

Evergreen Baptist Church

Route 2, Autryville. N.C.

Purpose

ARTICLE II

 It’s purpose is further expressed in the following Church Con-

venant. This Convenant shall be read frequently at or in connection

with the Communion Service, the congregation standing.

THE CHURCH CONVENANT

 Having been led as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive

the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, and on the profession

of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, the Son,

and the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, His Holy ang-

els, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the con-

venant with one another, as one body in Christ.

 We engage therefore, by the aid of our Holy Ghost, to walk to-

gether in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church

in knowledge, holiness, and in comfort; to promote it’s prosperity

and spirituality; to sustain it’s worship, ordinances, discipline,

and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the sup-

port of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the

poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

 We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to

Religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kind-

Red and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just

In our dealings; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive

anger; to be faithful in our engagements, and to be exemplary in our

deportment; to abstain from the sale and the use of intoxicating a

drink as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

 We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;

to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and

distress, to cultivate Christain sympathy in feeling and courtesy in

speech; to be slow to tak offense, but always be ready for recon-

ciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it with-

out delay.

CONSTITUTION PAGE 2

[illegible]

MEMBERSHIP

 Section I. The membership of this church shall be composed of

persons who have given evidence of regeneration by the spirit of God,

who have been baptized by immersion, and who have subscribed to the

church convenant, articles of faith, and constitution of this church,

and who have been received into membership by vote of the church.

 Section 2. A member of another Baptist church may be received

by a vote of the church upon promise of letter of transfer from the

church where membership resides. The applying member will be in a

watch-care relationship until letter of transfer is received from the

other church.

 Section 3. Any one who has once been a member of a Baptist

Church and in consequence of peculiar circumstances has lost that

relationship or is not able otherwise to promise a letter of transfer

may be received into the fellowship of this church upon statement to the

 membership and by a vote of the church.

 Section 4. Applications for membership under circumstances other

than those described in Section I, 2, and 3 above will be considered

by the church in conferences and the decision of the church will be

final in each case.

 Section 5. A letter of transfer to unite with another Baptist

Church may be issued upon request by the church which the member is

planning to join providing such member is in good standing. All such

applications must be passed upon by the church in conference.

 Section 6. It shall be the duty of each member of the church,

resident or non-resident, to attend, communicate with, or contribute

to the church at least once every six months. Any person who, over

this period, neglects or refuses to support the church by attendance

[or] giving, may automatically be placed on the inactive list; provided,

[ho]wever, that before the name of any member be place on the inactive

[li]st shall consciontiously try to re-enlist him. It shall be the task

[of] the Deacons to seek to re-enlist him, and if they cannot, recommend

[t]he member be listed as inactive.

[C]ONSTITUTION PAGE 3

 Section 7. Any member may have his name removed from the roll by

presenting a written request to the church, by the affirmative vote of

the church.

 Section 8. Any member who is reported to be living in a fashion

unbecoming to a Christian and church member, or whose action by design

or effect result in harm to the fellowship, harmony and work of the

church. A member may, after hearing and recommendation of the church

by a majority vote, be excluded. However, date and purpose of the

meeting shall have been announced to the accused and to the church,

two weeks before it is held. The accused shall have an opportunity

to appear in his own behalf and provided, also, that the steps pointed

out by the Master in the fifth and eighteenth chapters of Matthews

have been strictly followed, to secure reconciliation and forgiveness,

if possible, before the church takes action.

 Section 9. Any person having a complaint or grievance against

the Pastor, Sunday School Superintendant, Training Union Director,

Brotherhood President, W. M. U. President, Member of the Board of

Deacons, or any other members in the Church shall present such com-

plaint, criticism, or grievance in writing and in person at a meeting

called for that purpose to study and to take necessary action.

All charges shall be in writing.

 Section 10. Any person coming for membership in this church

after adoption of this constitution whether for Baptism, by letter,

statement or restoration is expected to attend a training class for

new members, unless the individual case is physically or otherwise

unable to attend.

 Section II. The church, after due notice and opportunity for

hearing and every possible kindly effort to make such action unnec-

essary, may upon majority of vote, terminate the membership of a person

in the body for reasons it considers sufficient to warrant such action[.]

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

 Section I. This church shall hold regular meetings for worship,

teaching, training and fellowship.

 Section 2. This church shall hold regular business meetings

for the disposition of all business matters not otherwise provided for,

to hear reports from the church organizations and to consider other

CONSTITUTION PAGE 4

Matters essential to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the

congregation.

 Section 3. Other meetings of the church as a whole, or of author-

ized groups within the church, may be set according to the needs of the

congregation.

 Section 4. The Ordinance of Baptism. The church shall observe

the Ordinance of Baptism in any meeting it deems wise. This observance

is a Believer’s Baptism by immersion, and only those who accept this

shall be accepted into this fellowship.

 Section 5. The Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper shall be observed

on the first Sunday in each quarter or at any time the church deems

wise. Only unleavened bread and the unfermented fruit of the vine shall

be used.

 Section 6. Election of officers shall be on the first Sunday

night in July.

 Section 7. The annual business conference shall be held on the

first Sunday night in October at which the budget and calendar shall

be considered.

ARTICLE I

OFFICERS

 The officers of this church shall be a Pastor, and other vocat-

ional leadership as needed, Deacons, Trustees, Financial Secretary,

Sunday School Supt., Clerk, and other officers as shall be required

to do the work of the church in any of its departments or organizations.

All of these shall be elected in July by the church and shall be mem-

bers in good standing at the time of election except a Pastor, Choir

Director, or Educational Director, may not be a member until after his

or her call. In all cases where an assistant is needed, the person

holding the office will choose his/her own assistant.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTION AND DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

1. Pastor

Section I. Call. Whenever a vacancy occurs, a Pastor shall be

called by the church to serve for a period of one year. In either

case, at least sixty days notice shall be given of termination of the

relationship, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, with both Pastor

and the church seeking to follow the will of God through the Leader-

ship of the Holy Spirit.

CONSTITUTION PAGE 5

 The call of the Pastor shall take place at a meeting especially

set for that purpose of which at least one weeks’ notice has been given

the membership. The election shall be upon the recommendation of a

special committee recommended by the Deacons and approved by the church

to seek out and nominate as Pastor a minister of the Gospel whose

Christian character and qualifications fit him for the office. The

committee shall bring only one name at a time for the consideration of

the church and no nomination shall be made except by the committee.

Elections shall be standing vote or by ballot a the discretion of the

congregation with an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present

and voting necessary for an extension of a call. Should the minister

recommended by the committee fail to receive a two-thirds vote, the

committee will be instructed to seek out another minister and the meet-

ing at which the vote was taken shall be adjourned without debate.

 Section 2. Duties. The Pastor shall have in charge the welfare

and oversight of the church; he shall be ex-office member of all or-

ganizations, departments and committees; he shall call a special

meeting of the Deacons or of any committee according to procedures

which are set forth in the By-Laws; he shall conduct religious services

on stated and on special occasions, administer the ordinances, minister

[t]o the spiritual needs of the members of the church and community; he

[s]hall have special charge of the pulpit ministry of the church and shall

provide for pulpit supply when he is absent, and shall arrange for

ministers to assist in revival meetings and workers to assist in other

special services required by the church. It shall be his special [res-]

[po]nsibility to win the lost to Christ, to minister to the spiritual

[needs] of the members of his congregation, and through prayer and study[,]

[to] render effective preaching and pastoral ministries. He shall be the

[adm]inistrative head of the church and shall arrange and approve all

absences and vacations of all Church employees He shall have charge

of all regular and special services of the church.

1. Deacons
2. The Board of Deacons shall consist of nine members. Of these,

six members shall be on the active roll while three members shall be

on the inactive roll. The Deacons shall be elected from among these

members who have proven themselves to have spiritual qualifications

CONSTITUTION PAGE 6

According to I Timothy 3 or Titus I. He is required to subscribe to

the moral and energetic support of our church program. The Deacons

shall be elected in July, notice having been prior to date of election[,]

and they shall assume office on the First Sunday in October.

1. The following members: H. L. Hall, Thad Bullard, H.F. Shirley

and Oscar Horne shall be lifetime members on the active roll. All

other members shall be rotated on the following basis. The Board shall

be divided into two groups with one groups term expiring each year.

At the expiration of one term none of the retiring Deacons shall be

Eligible for re-election until the lapse of one year. The Nominating

Committee shall make the nominations, and upon presentation the floor

Shall be open for further nominations.

 Deacons shall at all times regard themselves as servants of the

church, with the Pastor, and as the Holy Spirit may direct, they are

to consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters

pertaining to its work and progress, including establishment and

maintenance of Spiritual relations with all members of the church.

They shall assist the Pastor in the observance of the ordinances;

have general oversight over the upkeep, repair and use of property

(with proper respect for the responsibilities of the church trustees)

Supervise the financial program of the church, as provided in Article

V, Section 4 of By-Laws on page I9 of this Constitution. They shall

arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to

the discharge of their duties. The Pastor, or the chairman of the

Deacons, may call the Deacons into special session whenever needed

for such arises.

1. Trustees

Upon the adoption of this constitution the five persons now

serving as trustees shall be deemed re-elected and at all times there

shall be five trustees who are to hold title to all church property

for the benefit of the members of the church who follow the established

usages, customs, doctrines, practices and organizations of the church,

together with its connections with other denominational bodies whether

a majority or a minority of the membership. The trustees shall execute

all contracts, deeds, mortgages or other instruments when authorized

to do so by the church in conference. The trustees shall serve for

one year and until a successor is elected by the church. Upon the

CONSTITUTION PAGE 7

Death, resignation, or inability to serve of any of the trustees, a

successor shall be elected by the church in a conference called for

this purpose, the person receiving the highest number of votes shall

be chairman of this committee.

1. CLERK

The clerk shall be elected annually upon recommendation of what

ever committee is established to recommend the church officers. It

shall be his/her responsibility to attend or be represented at all of

the church business meetings, to keep an accurate record of all business

transactions, and he shall notify all officers, members of committees,

and valuable records and letters that belong to the church, and preserve

a true history of the church, keeping same in a safe place. It shall be

the duty of the clerk to see that an accurate rollof the church member-

ship is kept, the dates and admissions and dismissal, change in anme,

correct mailing addresses, and other pertinent information about each

member. All books, records, accounts, papers, etc. kept by him shall be

the property of the church.

1. TREASURER

The church shall elect a treasurer to receive, keep in a bank, and

disburse by check upon proper authority all money or things of value that

[ar]e given to the church in accordance with instructions from the church.

[H]e or she shall keep at all times an itemized account of all receipts

[a]nd disbursements; rendering an account regularly to the church to be

[p]reserved by the church clerk. The treasurer’s book shall be audited

[at] least one time a year as arranged by the church, and all books, re-

[co]rds and accounts kept by him shall be the property of the church. The

[tr]easurer shall upon invitation meet with the Deacons, and shall be an

[ex-]officio member of the Finance Committee and of the Budget Committee.

[Th]e offices of Treasurer and Financial Secretary may be combined into

[o]ne office.

F. FINANCIAL SECRETARY

 The Financial Secretary of staff shall receive the empty envelopes

[f]rom offerings after the money has been removed and counted by the pro-

[p]er person(s); and from these he shall give each contributor individual

[cr]edit as provided in the record system approved by the church.

[He] or she shall keep record of the receipts from the envelopes, plate or

[CO]NSTITUTION PAGE 8

Loose, and miscellaneous or special offerings. He or she shall keep

the envelopes for reference as the church directs. The Financial Sec-

retary shall also be responsible for preparing and mailing regular

statements to all contributing members as the church directs.

1. Church Staff

The employment, and dismissal of the church staff shall be on the

Recommendation and approval of pastor and deacons. The church staff

shall be under the supervision of the Pastor.

ARTICLE VII

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

 Section I. The government of this church shall be congregational

in nature and shall be vested in the membership.

 Section 2. Church Conference. A church conference shall be held

on the first Sunday night of each quarter and at such other times as

may be necessary. An annual business meetin of the church shall be

held on Sunday night, the first Sunday in October of each year. In

addition to stated conferences, a conference of the church may be

called at any time by the Pastor, Board of Deacons, or upon the re-

quest of any twenty-five (25) members of the church who are regular

in attendance and support.

 Section 3. Moderator. The Pastor shall preside over Church

Conferences as Moderator. The Chairman of Deacons shall preside at

the request of or in the absence of the Pastor. In his absence, the

chairman of Deacons, or Pastor shall anme some member of the Church in

good standing to assume this responsibility.

 Section 4. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than

20 members of the church.

ARTICLE VIII

 AFFILIATION

 Section I. This church is a free, automonous, independent body,

Congregational in nature with authority to determine for itself in the

Manner set forth in this constitution, free of any outside control,

authority or power, whether governmental or otherwise, the use of its

property and church policies.

 Section 2. Association. The church recognized the value and mutual

helpfulness in the voluntary association of churches which are in such

CONSTITUTION PAGE 9

agreement in faith and practice as to make possible a spirit of fellow-

ship and good will. It is recognized that associational and cooperation[n]

between such churches will influence the missionary, educational and

benevelent interest of each other. The church does, therefore, declare

its intention, as far as conscience will allow to work in mutual coop-

eration with other Baptist groups.

 Section 3. Affiliation. Upon the adoption of this constitution

this church shall be deemed to have affiliated itself with the New

South River Association.

 Section 4. Cooperation. Upon the adoption of this constitution

this church shall be deemed to be in friendly cooperation with the aims

and purposes of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and of

the Southern Baptist Convention as set forth in the constitution of

those autonomous bodies and through duly elected messengers, will part-

icipate in their deliberative assemblies, and shall as we are able,

support the missionary, benevolent and educational programs of each.

 Section 5. Discontinuance of Affiliation and /or Cooperation.

The calling of a church conference for the purpose of voting on with-

drawal from affiliation from the New South River Association and/or

the Southern Baptist Convention will require that a written notice be

sent to each resident member of the church, stating the purpose and

time of said conference. Action to withdraw to be valid must be car-

ried by vote of ¾ of the members present and voting; in which case

transferal of property jority. In the event of serious rupture in

fellowship at this point an necessity of such action set forth, it is

expected that the various fractions of the church will sit down in

Christian love and in the spirit of prayer and seek to effectuate re-

conciliation on an agreeable basis of division, each being mindful of

the Beatitude which says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall

be called the sons of God.

ARTICLE IX

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

 Section I. This constitution shall be considered adopted and in

immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the

business meeting at which vote is taken shall vote in favor of same.

CONSTITUTION PAGE 10

This vote shall be taken not less than thirty days after formal presen[t-]

ation of the Constitution of the church, and notice of such meeting in

which the vote is to be taken shall be given at least one week in ad-

vance.

 Section 2. This constitution may be amended, altered or repealed

by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular business

meeting of the church; provided, however, that such amendment, alter-

ation or repeal shall have been presented to the church at least thirty

days prior to the time the vote was taken.

 Section 3. The word “he” as herein used shall and does apply

to both male and female.

ARTICLE X

DOCTRINE

 The doctrines of this church are in conformity with those gener-

ally accepted by Baptist Churches and are expressed in the following

Confession of Faith.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

 Item I. of the Scriptures. We believe that the Holy bible, as

originally written, was the inspired word of God and the product ofI

Spirit controlled men, and thereforehas truth without any admixture or

error for it’s matter. We believe that it is the true center of Christ-

ian union and the only infallible rule for all human conduct, creeds,

and opinions. (2 Tim. 3:I6-I7; 2 Pet. I:I9-2I; Luke I6:29-3I; Eph.

2:I9-22; Matt. 2229-32; John I:45; Ps. I9:7-II; Ps. II9:I-9).

 Item 2. Of the True God. We believe that there is only one liv-

ing and true God; infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of

the Godhead there are three personal distinctions—the Father, the Son,

and the Holy Spirit; yet in one substance and equal in every divine

perfection. (Ex. 20:2-3; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7; Ex. 3:I4; Deut. 5:6-7;

Deut. 6:4-5; Isa. 48:I2-I3; Jer. I0:I0; Matt. 28:I9; John 5:26; Gal.

4:4-6; Tim. I:I7; Heb. II:6).

 We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ;

that He was divine as no other man could be, being very God of very God,

existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Sprit; that

He never ceased to be God for one instant and that his humiliation did

CONSTITUTION PAGE II

not consist in laying aside His Deity; that as a man He was miraculous-

ly be begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. (John

I:I-2; I John 5:20; Matt. I:20; Luke I:26-38).

 We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with the

Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature; that He con-

victs of sin, righteousness and judgement, bears witness to the truth,

is the agent of the New Birth and that He seals, endues, guides, teache[s,]

witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believers, indwelling every

child of God. (II Cor. I3-I4; John I4:I6-I7; Rom. 8:I4-27).

 Item 3. Of the Dvil or Satan. We believe in the distinct per-

sonality of Satan; that he is the unholy God of this age, author of all

powers of darkness and sin, and is destines to the judgement of an eter-

nal justice in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:I-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:I0)

 Item 4. Of Sin. We believe in the reality of sin; that sin is that

which separates between God and man; that it is possible to sing by omis-

sion as well as commission, and all mankind is under the curse of sin,

and the wages of sin is death; that sin is a transgressional and a falli[ng]

short of the will of God; and the only cure is the attoning death of

Jesus Christ which is appropriated by faith. (Rom. 3:I0; Rom. 3:25; Rom.

6:23; Rom. I4:23).

 Item 5. Of the Creation. We believe that God created the heavens

and the earth, including life, “each after his own kind” by direct act,

and not be the process of evolution. (Gen. I:I-3I; Gen. 2:I-25; Col.

I:I6-I7; John I:3).

 Item 6: Of the Fall of Man. We believe that man, is the person

of the first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgressi[on]

[?] into sin and death, so that now all mankind become willful sinners

[w]ith the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse

[before] God. (Gen. Capt. 3; Rom. 5:I0-I9).

 Item 7. Of the Redemption from Sin. We believe that the only es-

cape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by

Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature,

yet without sin, and by His suffering, death, and resurrection made full

satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings

of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe

and confess and that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these af-

[f]ects of mercy. (John I:I-3; I:I4; 3:I-7; Acts I6:30-33; Heb. IO:4-I4).

CONSTITUTION PAGE I2

 Item 8. Salvation By Grace. We believe that faith in the finish-

ed work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation

from sin and this salvation is wholly by grace; that no works, however

good, make that salvation more secure.

 We believe that all who take Christ as their Saviour are born from

Above and are eternally secure in Christ. (Acts I6:3I; Eph. 2:8-9;

Titus 3:4-7; Rom. IO:9-I3; John IO:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Phil. I:6).

 Item 9. Of the Church. We believe that the church was establish-

ed by the Lord Jesus Christ who is it’s sole head; that it is empowered

and perpetuated by the holy Spirit; that it is Christ’s body for service[e]

and his bride for glory.

 We believe that the church universal is manifest through the local

church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by con-

venant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances

of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and priv-

iledges invested in it by His word. That it’s officers are Pastor,

Deacons, School Supt., Trustees, Treasurer, clerk and such other officers

as the church may deem necessary to the success of it’s mission; that it

has the absolute right to self government without any outside interfere-

ence; that this self government is to be directed by the Holy Spirit and

is answerable only to Christ, and that in all matters of membership,

policy, government, discipline, and benevolence the will of the local

church is final. (Matt. I8:I5-I7; I Cor. I:2; 4:6; 7:I7; II:I6; I Tim.

3:I-I5).

 Item IO. Of the Ordinance. We believe that there are two church

[o]rdinances; Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is the immersion of

[a] believer in water and is p roperly called “Believer’s Baptism”. It

[s]ets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, bur-

[r]ed and risen Saviour, with the effects of that faith in our lives as i[t]

[pro]duces death to sin and resurrection to continual fellowship with him,

[a]nd should be preceded by baptism and always by careful self examination.

(Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. II:23-32).

 Item II. Of the Righteous and the Wicked. We believe there is a

radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked;

that only such are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; and

sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in God’s sight; while

all such who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked

CONSTITUTION PAGE I3

And therefore under the curse; and this distinction holds amoung men

both during life and after death, in the everlasting pease of the saved

and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Mal. 3:I8; Rom.

6:I7-23; Matt. 25:34-4I; Luke 6:25; John 8:2I).

 Item I2. Of Justification. We believe justification is God’s gra-

cious and full acquittal upon principals of righteousness of all sinner[s]

who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration

of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redeem-

ption that is in and through Jesus Christ.

 It bring us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God

and secures every other needed blessing. (Rom. 3:2I-26; 5:I-2; 8:3O;

I Cor. I:3O-3I; II Cor. 5:2I).

 Item I3. Repentance and Faith. We believe that repentance and

faith are sacred duties, and also inseperable graces, wrought in our

soul by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply [convinced]

of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by

Christ, for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus

Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the

only and all sufficient Saviour. (Mark I:I4-I5; 6:I2; Luke I3-I5; John

I6:8-II; Acts 2:38; 3:I9; I7:3O; 2O:2O-2I; Rom. 3:25-3I).

 Item I4. Sanctification. We believe that Sanctification is the

process by which those who are born again gradually attain to moral and

spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit,

dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the earthly life and

is accomplished by al the ordinary means of grace, and particularly by

the word of God. (John I7:I5-I7; Acts 2O-32; Rom. 6:3-7; 8:I7-28; II [Corn.]

[3:18]; Gal. 5:I6-26; Eph. 3:I4-2I; Heb. I2:I4).

 Item I5. The Lord’s Day. We believe that the first day of the wee[k]

is the Lord’s Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observa[nce.]

It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be

employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and

private. (Matt. 38:I-6; John 2O:I; Acts 2O:7; I Cor. I6:I-2; Rev. I:9-I[?]

 Item I6. The Resurrection We believe that Jesus was crucified,

buried, and on the third day that he arose from the grave. His resurrect-

ion was attested by many infallible witnesses and personal manifestat-

ions to his disciples; that the reality of his resurrection may be known

CONSTITUTION PAGE I4

Personally by believers by his indwelling the hearts of those believers;

That he now exist in a glorified body at od’s right hand where he makes

Intercession for us, and from whence he will return and by his mightly

Power will call forth all that are in the graves; that the righteous

Will be raised to suffer the effects of everlasting shame. (Matt. 28:6;

John 5:28-29; John I4:I-3; 2O:I-29; Acts 24:I4-I; I Cor. I5:I-58; II

Cor. 5;I-IO; Phil. 3:2O-2I; I Thess. 4;I6-I7; Rev. 2O:I2-I5).

 Item 17. Religious Liberty. God alone is Lord of the conscience,

and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which

are contrary to His word or not consained in it; that church and state

should be separate. The state owes to the curch protection and full

freedom in the pursuit of it’s spiritual ends. In providing such pro-

tection, no church or denomination should be favored by the state more

than another. Civil government is ordained of God and it is the duty

of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not con-

trary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to

civil power to carry on it’s work. The Gospel contemplates spiritual

means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to

impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no

right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free

church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the righ[t]

of free and unhindred access to God on the part of all men, and the righ[t]

to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without inter-

ferance by the civil power. (Matt. 22:I7-2I; Mark I2:I3-I7; Rom. I3:I-7;

I Tim. 2:1-4; I Pet. 2:I7).

 Item I8: The Kingdom. We believe the kingdom of God is the reign

of God in the heart and life of the individual in every human relation-

ship, and in every form and institution of organized human society;

that the chief means for promoting the kingdom of God on earth are the

preaching of the gospel and the teaching of the principals of righteous-

ness contained therein; that the kingdom of God will be complete when

every thought and will of man shall be brought into captivity to the

will of Christ; that it is the duty of Christians to pray and labor

continuously that the kingdom may come to pass and that His will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Dan. 2:37-44; 7:I8; Matt. 4:23; 6:IO;

8:I2; I3; 25; Mark II: IO; Luke I2:32; 22:29;23:42; John 3:3; I8:36;

I Cor. I5:24; Col. I:I3; Heb. L2:28).

CONSTITUTION PAGE I5