

PUBLIC WORSHIP

The Holy Scriptures declare that divine worship is the duty and privilege of man, who, in the presence of God, bows in adoration, humility and dedication.

It is essential to the life of the church. The assembling of the people of God for such worship is necessary to Christian fellowship and spiritual growth.

The Scriptures further reveal that the order of public worship need not be the same in all places but may be modified by the church according to circumstances and the needs of men. It should be in a language and form understood by the people, consistent with the Holy Scriptures to the edification of all.

(Ps. 95:1, 2, 6; Acts 5:1-11; I Cor. 5:1-7; Eph. 4:11-16; 5:19; I Thess. 5:11)

THE RAPTURE

The Rapture is the coming of Jesus Christ for His Church. The believers will be instantaneously lifted from this earth following the bodily resurrection of those who died in the faith.

(Ps. 17:15; Dan. 12:1-4; Mt. 24:29-44; Mk. 13:26-27; Lu. 17:30-36; 21:24-36; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Jn. 3:2-3)

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The Scriptures teach the second coming of Christ to be a bodily return to the earth, and that He will cause the fulfillment of all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil.

Faith in the imminence of Christ's return is a rational and inspiring hope to the people of God.

(Job 19:25-27; Isa. 11:1-12; Zech. 14:1-11; Mt. 24:1-51; 26:64; Mk. 13:26-37; Lu. 17:26-37; Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; I Cor. 1:7-8; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 9:27-28; Ja. 5:7-8; II Pet. 3:1-14; Jude 14; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-16; 22:6-7, 20)

THE LAST JUDGMENT

Jesus Christ will come in the last day to judge all mankind by a righteous judgment.

God will give unto the resurrected believers eternal life, happiness, rest, peace, and joy without end.

But God will bid the resurrected impenitent and ungodly depart unto the lake of fire with the devil and his angels, to endure everlasting damnation, punishment, pain, torment and misery.

(Eccl. 12:14; Dan. 12:2; Mt. 10:15; 25:31-46; Mk. 9:43-48; Lu. 11:31-32; 13:3; Jn. 8:21, 23; 14:3; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 14:10-11; II Cor. 5:6, 10; 8:10; II Tim. 4:1; Heb. 2:1-3; 9:27; 10:26-31; II Pet. 3:7; Rev. 20:11-13)

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

MEMBERSHIP

Churches & Organizations:

Any Church, Christian School, Christian Camp, or para-church organization which is not a member of an organized denomination or desires to separate from an organized denomination may apply for membership in The Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its membership given proper notice.

In the case of churches, proper notice would mean proper announcement at least two (2) Sundays prior to the vote. Such a vote signifies adherence to the By-laws and Articles of Faith of the Association.

Membership may be received ad interim the Annual Meeting by the Executive Board but must be confirmed at the Annual Meeting.

Ministers:

Ministers may become members of the Association by application to and approval of the Board of Ministry. Application for membership must be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the next Annual Meeting.

Individuals:

Individuals may become members of the Association by application to and approval of the Executive Board. Application for membership must be confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the next Annual Meeting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

A status of Associate membership may be conferred upon Churches, Organizations, Ministers and Individuals who have fellowshipped with the Association in camps and retreats for two years.

This status will be discussed and voted on by the Executive Board and/or Board of Ministry ad interim the Annual Meeting.

There are no voting or election privileges with Associate Membership.

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Churches & Organizations:

Any church or organization may withdraw from the Association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members present and voting at a meeting announced at least two (2) weeks in advance, and by mailing a letter of withdrawal to the Chairman of the Association.

Ministers:

Any minister may withdraw from the Association by mailing a letter of withdrawal to the Chairman of the Board of Ministry.

Individuals:

Any individual member may withdraw from the Association by mailing a letter of withdrawal to the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Association.

ANNUAL MEETING

Every year an Annual Meeting shall be called to elect officers and conduct the business of the Association.

The Annual Meeting shall review the work of the Executive Board and provide guidelines for its operation.

The Annual Meeting is to provide a Spiritual challenge during each Annual Session.

AMENABILITY

The Annual Meeting is the final authority on all Association matters. Ad-interim the Annual Meeting, the final authority will rest with the Executive Board.

ANNUAL MEETING REPRESENTATION

No church or organization shall be able to cast more than three (3) votes on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting. No individual member whether a Minister or a Layperson shall be able to cast more than one (1) vote on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting. These stipulations supercede all the following statements on voting representation.

Member Churches:

Each member church shall elect a delegate and an alternate to represent its laity and Association Licensed Ministers at the Annual Meeting.

As a voting representative, delegates and alternates must be members of their church and of legal age.

Even if they hold other voting privileges in the Association by reason of their ministerial credentials or board position, the delegates from each member church must vote the will of the majority of the members of their local church.

The alternates shall only vote when they are a substitute for a delegate.

Member Organizations:

One representative from each member organization shall join with other representatives of member organizations at the Annual Meeting and form a caucus. They shall elect a delegate who will cast a collective single vote for them on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting.

This delegate shall also represent his group for a one year term on the Executive Board.

Non-Member Churches or Organizations:

Both Association Licensed Ministers and Individual members of non-member churches or organizations shall also form a caucus at the Annual Meeting.

These Licensed Ministers and Individual members shall elect a delegate who will cast a collective single vote for them on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting.

This delegate shall also represent his group for a one year term on the Executive Board.

Ordained Ministers:

All Association Ordained Ministers, both of member and non-member churches or organizations, may cast an individual vote on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting.

Executive Board:

All members on the Executive Board may cast an individual vote on any issue or election at the Annual Meeting.

Associate Members:

Associate Churches, Organizations, Ministers and Individuals are invited and encouraged to have representation at the Annual Meeting, however, no voting may be exercised.

ELECTIONS

Elections shall be held at each Annual Meeting.

All elections are to be conducted by ballot prepared by a nominating committee appointed by the Executive Board. Nominations shall also be open from the floor. Should the first ballot for any office not produce the majority necessary for election, a second shall be prepared from the two (2) nominees receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot.

The election of ministers and Lay Members-at-Large to the Executive Board shall provide for a balanced representation of both on the Executive Board, excluding the Chairman.

All nominations for Lay Members-at-Large shall be made from member church lay delegates attending the regular session of the Annual Meeting.

Nominees for the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have been an active member of the Association for a minimum of four (4) consecutive years. Terms of these elected officers shall be four (4) years.

Lay Members-at-Large, the delegate elected by the caucus of member organizations, as well as the delegate elected by the caucus of Association licensed ministers and individual members shall represent their groups on the Executive Board for a term of one year following their election.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board is to conduct the business of the Association ad-interim the Annual Meeting.

The Board shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Board of Ministry, the Association Lay Members-at-Large, the Delegate for member organizations, and the Delegate for Association licensed ministers and individual members.

The Executive Board may fill any vacancies in office by election. The term of all offices filled in this manner shall terminate at the next Annual Meeting.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall consist of two (2) ministers and three (3) laymen elected for a four (4) year term. The first election shall provide for alternate terms to provide continuity of leadership.

The Trustees of the Association shall hold all Association's property, such as Camps or Buildings, in trust for the Association. No property may be bought or sold without the consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Association.

They shall organize according to the laws of the Association and the State.

THE BOARD OF MINISTRY

There shall be a Board of Ministry consisting of two (2) sanctified laymen and five (5) ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Association.

All ministers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Biblical Holiness. Therefore, the Board of Ministry shall interview ministers who apply for work within the Association, including those ministers who intend to candidate in an Association Church.

The Board of Ministry shall organize by electing a Chairman and a Secretary.

LAYMEN'S COMMITTEE

There shall be an organized Laymen's Committee composed of all lay delegates to the Annual Meeting.

They shall organize by electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary at the Annual Meeting.

Such a committee shall meet during the Annual Meeting session and be active in promoting the views of Association lay people in a Christian manner.

DECORUM

All ministers and laymen are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Biblical Holiness. (I Cor. 16:13-14; Col. 3:17; I Thess. 5:21-22; I Tim. 1:5; 2:7-10; 3:1-13)

In matters pertaining to the conduct of ministers or member Churches the biblical principles found in Matt. 18:15-17 and II Cor. 2:5-8 shall be followed.

DISMISSAL OF A CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION

If a member church or organization strays from the Association's Constitution and By-Laws or the Articles of Faith they shall be dealt with as disobedient.

If, after allowing a time for correction of Decorum, aforesaid church or organization does not conform to the document governing the Association, that church or organization shall be subject to immediate dismissal upon action of the Executive Board ad-interim the Annual Meeting.

DISMISSAL OF A MINISTER

If a minister is found guilty of imprudent or unchristian conduct; or if he is uncooperative concerning the Association's Constitution and By-Laws or the Articles of Faith, he shall be brought before the Board of Ministry for an explanation.

If, after allowing a time for correction of Decorum, aforesaid minister does not conform to the document governing the Association, that minister shall be subject to immediate dismissal upon action of the Executive Board as recommended by the Board of Ministry ad-interim the Annual Meeting.

DISMISSAL OF AN INDIVIDUAL

If an Individual member is found guilty of imprudent or unchristian conduct; or if he is uncooperative concerning the Association's Constitution and By-Laws or the Articles of Faith, he shall be brought before the Executive Board for an explanation. If, after allowing a time for correction of Decorum, aforesaid Individual member does not conform to the document governing the Association, that individual member shall be subject to immediate dismissal upon action of the Executive Board ad-interim the Annual Meeting.

DISMISSAL OF AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

If an Associate member church, organization, minister or individual strays from the Association's Constitution and By-Laws or the Articles of Faith they shall be dealt with as disobedient.

If, after allowing a time for correction of Decorum, aforesaid Associate member does not conform to the document governing the Association, that Associate member shall be subject to immediate dismissal upon action of the Executive Board and/or Board of Ministry ad-interim the Annual Meeting.

LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY

Each local church shall own and hold title to its own property.

If financial assistance has been provided by the Association such financial assistance shall constitute a non-interest bearing lien against the property. Unless such financial assistance has been provided, the Association shall make no claim of any type or any kind against any local church property.

This paragraph cannot be amended except by a unanimous vote of the members of the entire Association.

PROGRAM

Each local church or organization shall organize and conduct its own internal program.

Each local church or organization shall be expected to cooperate with and/or participate in the Association's camping programs, retreats for men, women, and youth, and other Association sponsored functions.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall constitute the final order of procedure. The Chairman shall rule on all matters of procedure. Such ruling may be appealed to the Annual Meeting.

FINANCES

The Association Budget shall be drawn up on an annual basis by the Executive Board to be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting. The Budget shall be funded through free-will offerings.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws can only be made by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the voting members at the Annual Meeting and a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the congregations of the member churches.

The only exception is the paragraph dealing with local church property which cannot be amended without a unanimous vote of the membership of the entire Association.

Furthermore, this paragraph cannot be amended without a unanimous vote of the entire Association.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Members:

It is the responsibility of member churches, organizations, ministers and individuals to cooperate with the Association of Evangelical Churches and its programs. Each member shall work through the Association for leadership and shall earnestly endeavor to raise support for the Association.

The Chairman:

It is the responsibility of the Chairman:

- 1) to travel and enlist churches in the Association and to give leadership in establishing new churches.
- 2) to work with churches in the change of ministers.
- 3) to endeavor to make known and encourage observance of the Association rules to all members.
- 4) to chair the Annual Meeting and Executive Board Meetings.
- 5) to be available for consultation with churches and ministers upon their request.
- 6) to be available for consultation with organizations and individuals upon their request.

The Vice-Chairman:

The Vice-Chairman shall be responsible for assuming the duties of the Chairman in his absence or at his request.

The Secretary:

The Secretary shall keep accurate records of all meetings and shall make copies of the same available to all members.

The Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall keep and give an accurate record of receipts and expenditures and give a report at the Annual Meeting. He shall have the books audited at the close of each calendar year.

The responsibilities and tasks of all officers shall be determined by the Annual Meeting.