

AN INTRODUCTION AND INVITATION

Holmes Moore

When David was reproached by his eldest brother because he had made himself bold to defend Israel in the cause of the giant, Goliath, and his defiance against the armies of God, he defended his actions by a penetrating question, “*Is there not a cause?*” (I Samuel 17:29) So it seems to be in our day. A thousand objections can be raised against our present efforts to form a Fellowship of autonomous, Sovereign grace Baptist churches and I am sure that not a few will question what we are tryin to do and the motives behind this effort. Concerns and fears of affiliating with anything beyond the local church are as various and numerous as the pastors and churches themselves. Some may be almost ready to reproach us for the very thought, much more the attempt of such an endeavor. Let me assure all those who may be at this point that the many objections and fears that you now are experiencing have tormented my mind and heart too. It has not been an easy thing for me, personally, to come to the position of sponsoring such a concept as The Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship.

Yet I truly believe that “*there is a cause,*” that *this cause* is worth the subduing of our doubts and fears and the tackling of the considerable problems involved in our getting together in order to do something significant toward the advancement of the Kingdom of God in our day. While nations still lie in darkness and we possess the light have the means, it banded together, to spread that light, “*there is a cause.*”

For the last few decades God has been renewing His truth of sovereign grace among us. This truth has been planted in many local churches throughout our land so that it is difficult to travel anywhere today and not meet with at least one of these. For the most part we are small and struggling groups of believers, yet firmly established in the grace of God. Surely there are many among us who, like David of old, are ready to take a bold new step in order to advance the cause of God and truth. I firmly believe that such a step could be our affiliating together in The Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship. If God be in such a step how many giants of error and wickedness might fall before us to the praise of His glory and grace!

Holmes Moore is the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri and served acting moderator for the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship in its formation.

THE SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

On February 2, 2000 a group of men sharing something of the same vision as outlined by Bro. Holmes Moore met in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church for the purpose of exploring the possibility of forming a fellowship of Baptist churches and pastors. The goals and desire as expressed were: providing a format for further encouragement and mutual edification, as well as providing a means whereby we might work together on matters too large for individual churches to do on their own.

Work was begun on the Confession of Faith and By-Laws that you now hold in your hand. The meeting ended with further work to be done and with the agreement that we would gather again to finish the project. Being Providentially hindered from meeting for one year, the group met again in Nashville on March 6, 2001. Most of the original group was in attendance and a couple of men who had not been able to attend the previous meeting were able to be present.

The work on the two documents was finished and with much discussion and interaction, all in the spirit of Christian unity and mutual commitment. The group is deeply grateful for the hospitality of Bro. Don Tindle and the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Nashville, Tennessee.

Agreeing to the final documents were the pastors/elders listed below.

Gene Breed

Grace Baptist Church
Jonesborough, Georgia

Gary W. Long

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Springfield, Missouri

Ron Staley

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Richmond, Virginia

Larry Dean

Bridgetown Baptist Church
Nesbit, Mississippi

George McGuinness

Reformed Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee

Don Tindle

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

Jim Gables

Oakland Baptist Church
Birmingham, Alabama

Holmes Moore

Bible Baptist Church
St. Louis, Missouri

Terry Worthan

Calvary Baptist Church
Winston, Georgia

Tom Henry

Bible Baptist Church
St. Louis, Missouri

Dean Olive

Grace Baptist Church
Madison, Alabama

Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship

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Articles of Faith
Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship
Approved by Steering Committee - March 6, 2001
Adopted by the Fellowship - September 11, 2001

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is the inerrant and infallible Word of God, a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Sam. 23:2; Acts 1:16; 3:21; John 10:35; Luke 16:29-31; Psa. 119:11; Rom. 3:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4; Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48; Phil. 3:16; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 2:12; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11; 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6; Jude 3:5; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:59-60; Phil. 1:9-11

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10; Exod.

15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8; Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13; Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7; John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5; comp. 2, 7

III. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Gen. 1:27,31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 16:26; Gen. 2:16; Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12 Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7; Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18 Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18,32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15 Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22

IV. Of the Way of Salvation

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 atonement for our sins; that having risen from the death, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Eph. 2:5; Matt. 18:11; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:1;

1 John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24; Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14;

2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21;

Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2;

1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15; Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

John 1:16; Eph. 3:8; Acts 13:39; Isa. 3:11-12; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43; Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21; Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:28;

Phil. 3:7-9; Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12; Rom. 5:1-3, 11; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe 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; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17; Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15;

Rom. 1:15-17; John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46; John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 1:14; Rev. 8:7-9; 21-27; 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7; John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11; Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4, 18

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and

of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication 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 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:1; John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31; Luke 18:13; 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:11; Rom. 10:12-13; Psalms 51; Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 4:14; Psalms 2:6; Heb. 1:8; 8:25; 2 Tim. 1:12

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe in unconditional Election, and that it is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

2 Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:15; 1 John 4:19; Hos. 12:9; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14; Exod. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36; 1 Cor. 4:7; 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:16; Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:10; 1 Pet. 5:10; Acts 1:24; 1 Thess.

2:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; 2 Pet. 1:10; 1 Thess. 1:4-10; Rom. 8:28-30; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29; 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

X. Of Sanctification

We believe that our Sanctification in Christ is eternal and complete, and moreover we believe that practical Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

Heb. 1:10; 13:10; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11; 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; 13:9; Eph. 1:4; Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16; John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14; Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

XII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the Law of God is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to holiness, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; 4:15; Rom. 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Gal. 3:21; Psa. 119; Rom. 8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44; Rom. 8:2, 4, 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 12:28

XIII. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the 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 only scriptural officers are Bishops, or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 11:31; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9; 1 Tim. 3:5; Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:6; 2 Cor. 2:7; 1 Cor. 4:17; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thess. 4:2; 2 John 6; Gal. 6:2; all the Epistles; Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 12:14; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and the cup, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8; Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:27-28; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts and Epistles; 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

XV. Of the Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by assembling together in the local church, by seeking to avoid all that would hinder such assembly; by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Exod. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Psa. 118:24; Psa. 119:15; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Luke 4:16; Psa. 26:8; 87:3; Heb. 4:3-11

XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; 1 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:23; Jer. 30:21; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8; Acts 5:29; Matt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2; Rom. 14:9-13

XVII. Of 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, 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.

Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16; Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18; 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

XVIII. Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven literally, personally, bodily and visibly and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7;
Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Acts 24:15;
1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42; Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33; Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18; Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17

Approved Document
Constitution and Bylaws
Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship
Adopted by the Fellowship - September 11, 2001

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name shall be "Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship."

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

To establish and maintain a Fellowship of Baptist pastors and churches which believe that salvation rests ultimately in the sovereign grace of God; to provide a medium for fellowship and mutual encouragement so that such pastors and churches may be edified in love and grace; to cooperate together in the carrying out of the Great Commission in those areas that cannot well be accomplished alone, namely world missions, church planting, and the education of aspiring, God-called ministers; and to assist one another in the maintenance and promotion of sound biblical doctrine and practice in ways deemed necessary and right in the honest light of Holy Scripture.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

(amended by the SGBF General Assembly, September 13, 2005)

A Statement Concerning the Autonomy of the Local Church

1) The Fellowship may not interfere in any manner with the affairs of its member churches. 2) All cooperation in the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship is strictly voluntary and the Fellowship can make no demands of its member churches beyond its purpose of association. 3) The only authority the Fellowship has over a church is: 1) whether or not the church is admitted into the Fellowship as a member church; and 2) whether or not the membership of a church in the Fellowship is terminated by the Fellowship. Both of these are determined by majority votes of the Fellowship. 4) The Fellowship may offer advice to a member church if it is requested to do so by: 1) a majority of the duly elected of the officers of that church; or 2) a congregational request made in accordance with the church's own constitution or by-laws. 5) The Fellowship will not respond to requests of individuals or groups within its member churches.

Admission To The Fellowship.

- 1) Churches who desire membership in the SGBF must:
 - A. Be in general agreement with both the Articles of Faith of the Fellowship and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fellowship.
 - B. Send a letter to the Secretary of their desire to be a member of the SGBF.
- 2) Churches that meet all the qualifications of membership can be approved by a three-fourths vote of the member churches. This vote will occur at the Annual Fellowship Meeting or during the year by a vote using mail, fax, or email.

Voting Procedures.

Each church shall be entitled to send one voting messenger to the annual meeting. 2) Each voting messenger of a member church must register before being seated in the annual meeting. Only the voting messenger of the member church is allowed to vote on any issue that comes up before the Fellowship. 3) Only the voting messengers shall be allowed to speak and vote on an issue before the Fellowship. Exceptions to this can only be made by the Chairman of the Fellowship or the Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence. 4) No decision of the Fellowship shall be binding on any of the churches except by their consent.

Section 4: Withdrawal from the Fellowship

- 1) A church may withdraw from the membership in the Fellowship at any time and for any reason sufficient to themselves.
- 2) The only request that the Fellowship makes to the church is that it lets the Fellowship know in writing that it has withdrawn its membership. This letter should be sent to the Secretary of the Fellowship.

IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Committee

The officers of the Fellowship shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. These shall compose the Executive Committee and shall have the general supervision of all Fellowship work and projects.

Section 2. Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The church representatives of the Fellowship may nominate bi-annually two men for each office. These nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary before the annual meeting and he shall count the nominations. The two highest nominees shall be presented to the Fellowship to be voted upon. These two officers shall be eligible for re-nomination to the Executive Committee, but shall not serve more than two consecutive two year terms (Modified 09/2015)

The Chairman shall preside at all business meetings of the Fellowship and the Executive Committee.

The Vice-Chairman shall be active in the leadership of the Fellowship and Executive Committee, moderating meetings when the Chairman is absent.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall be elected annually and shall keep accurate records of all meetings of the Fellowship and Executive Committee. He shall be curator of the official correspondence of the Fellowship. All records and minutes of the meetings shall be considered the property of the Fellowship.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected annually and shall dispense all funds as directed by the Fellowship and shall keep proper and accurate records of all said financial transactions. He shall provide necessary information and assistance to the Executive Committee in monetary procedures, and shall make an annual financial report to the Fellowship. At all times his records shall be considered the property of the Fellowship and shall be subject to reasonable right of examination by other Fellowship officers or pastors. His records shall be audited by a certified public accountant in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Committees

As the need arises, the Executive Committee may recommend and the Fellowship can establish the necessary committees to head up the various activities of the Fellowship in the area of missions, church planting, education, publications, or other mutual endeavors. These committees shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and voted upon by the Fellowship. They shall report to the Executive Committee and to the Fellowship annually.

Section 6. General Procedures for Officers

All new officers shall assume their duties at the closing session of the Annual Meeting. All officers and members of committees shall be participating pastors or members of Fellowship churches. They shall at all times consider themselves servants of Christ and of the churches.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

A meeting of the Fellowship shall be held annually, in conjunction with a Bible or Missionary Conference, at the invitation of a member church through its pastor. The date and place of the annual meeting shall be finally determined by the Executive Committee. Other meetings could also be held according to need and desire of the pastors and churches.

Section 2. Business Meeting

A business session shall be held at the annual meeting for the election of officers, committees, and for the transaction of other necessary Fellowship business.

Section 3. Quorum

All business shall be decided by a majority vote of the assembled church representatives in a duly-called business meeting, unless otherwise specified. Those members present at any properly called meeting shall be considered a quorum.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

According to the Scriptures (Philippians 2:3-4), all things should be done decently and in order. Any disputed procedure will be determined by the will of the Fellowship.

ARTICLE VI - FISCAL POLICY

Section 1. Budget

The Fellowship shall approve at its annual meetings the raising and dispensing of all funds for the various common efforts that shall be endeavored. Accordingly the Treasurer, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, shall disburse all such funds in accordance with the allocations approved by the Fellowship.

Section 2. General Fund

The Treasurer shall maintain a General Fund, and as many other funds as necessary, to handle contributions for various Fellowship causes. The Executive Committee shall, after proper consideration, authorize the Treasurer to pay all regular and ordinary expenses incurred by the Fellowship and its officers out of the General Fund.

Section 3. Designated Funds

The Treasurer shall maintain records of any designated funds and these shall be disbursed in accordance with the indicated designation. Such designations might include individual missionaries and projects, ministerial training, beneficence, the General Fund, and such like. The Fellowship retains the right to refuse any designation not in accord with our stated purposes and contrary to the spirit of our Articles of Faith. Such contributions will be returned to the donors.

Section 4. Projects and Agencies

All projects and agencies must be approved by the Fellowship, and shall submit an accounting of its activities and expenses through its committees to the Executive Committee and the Fellowship.

ARTICLE VII - DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Word of God is our only infallible and final guide for our faith and practice and it alone can assert itself over our consciences. It remains supremely authoritative for us over any Confession of Faith adopted by the Fellowship.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship Confession of Faith (a revision of the New Hampshire Confession of Faith) shall be considered a general expression of our doctrinal belief and is not intended to limit or bind the faith of any participating pastor or church. Neither shall any matter not covered in these Articles of Faith necessarily be considered a test of fellowship among us.

AMENDMENTS

Amendment One - Amending the Constitution - (adopted September 13, 2005)

This Constitution of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship may be amended in one of two ways: (1) Ordinary Amendment, or (2) Emergency Amendment.

Ordinary Amendment. The Constitution may be ordinarily amended as follows:

By recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may, by a 75 per cent vote of the committee, present an amendment for consideration to the General Assembly at the annual meeting. The amendment shall be taken under consideration after having been presented at the annual meeting with the vote taken to approve it at the next annual meeting. A 75 per cent vote of the attending and voting representatives of the churches will be required to approve such an amendment. By motion and second from the floor. A proposed amendment may be offered by any representative of the churches of the fellowship. A majority vote of the attending representatives shall place the amendment before the General Assembly at the next annual meeting. A 75 per cent vote of the attending and voting representatives shall be required to approve the amendment. **Emergency Amendment.** Recognizing that certain situations may require an emergency amendment, the constitution may be amended as follows. Any attending representative may move to amend the constitution at the current meeting of the General Assembly, with a second to the motion required. Such an amendment shall be taken immediately under the advisement of the Executive Committee which may forward it to the floor with a 75 per cent vote of the Committee. A short recess of the meeting of the General Assembly may be called in order for the Executive Committee to consider the amendment. A 90 per cent vote of the attending and voting representatives shall be required to approve the emergency amendment. It will take effect as determined by the General Assembly. The date of effectiveness shall be included in the final presentation to the General Assembly.

Amendment Two - Dissolution of the Fellowship - (Adopted Dec. 21, 2006 by Adjunct Session to the 2006 General Session)

Upon the dissolution of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship, the Board of Directors shall, after the payment of all the liabilities of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship, dispose of all of the assets of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship exclusively for the purposes of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt corporation or organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or of the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law) as the Board of Directors shall determine.

The funds shall be dispensed only to such organizations as agree in principle with the articles of faith of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship.

No part of the net earnings of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, officers, directors, or any person except that the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments in the furtherance of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws of the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship, the Sovereign Grace Baptist Fellowship shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax,

under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or by the corresponding section of any future Revenue Code of the United States of America) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding section of any future United States revenue law).