



Constitution

Updated 2010

West Cohasset Chapel Constitution 2010

Preamble

We, the group of Christian believers known as West Cohasset Chapel, and incorporated under this name, do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I

The name of this organization shall be the West Cohasset Chapel, 24650 State Hwy 6, Cohasset, Minnesota 55721.

Article II

Our existence as a church is to glorify God, equip God's people to model Christ and to see God establish a church convinced by Christ's message, committed to prayer, continuous in fellowship and compelled to connect people to the Lord Jesus Christ. We shall seek this end through evangelizing unbelievers, encouraging believers in their personal faith, fellowship and service. Our focus will always be to exalt God's name and His Word.

Article III

The articles of faith and teaching of this church are as follows:

1. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments alone are verbally inspired of God, and are without error in the original writings and we believe they are the only authority in the matter of faith, daily life, and final destiny.

2 Timothy 3:16

16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

2 Peter 1:21

21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:22-23

22Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

2. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons, namely: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 13:14

14May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 3:16-17

16As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Hebrews 1:1-2

1In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Genesis 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

John 1:1-3

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary when she was still virgin, and that He is true God and true man.

Luke 1:1-35

John 14:7-11

7If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." 8Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." 9Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 11Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

John 10:30

30I and the Father are one."

1 John 5:20

20We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

John 16:8-11

8When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Romans 8:9

9You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Ephesians 4:30

30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the design of God for each believer to be filled and led by the Spirit.

John 16:8-11

8When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Ephesians 5:18

18Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit

Romans 8:14

14because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

We believe that God, by His Spirit, is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; that He calls and equips individual believers for leadership and service; and that His indwelling presence produces Christ-likeness in each believer.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Ephesians 4:7-12

7But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. 8This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." 9(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? 10He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) 11It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Galatians 5:22-23

22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

5. We believe that man was created by God from the dust of the earth in God's image; but that when Adam sinned, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. As a result of Adam's sin, all men are born with a sinful nature which makes them sinners in thought, word, and deed.

Genesis 1:26-27

26Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2:7

7 the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.

Romans 5:12

12Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 3:23

23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Job 15:14

14 "What is man, that he could be pure, or one born of woman, that he could be righteous?

Ecclesiastes 7:20

20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

6. We believe that the only escape from the penalty and power of sin is to receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith; He, who alone is our sacrifice and substitute- having suffered the wrath of God for us and whose blood cleanses us from all sin.

John 1:29

29The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Hebrews 9:26

26Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1 John 1:7

7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 13:3

21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 3I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of Jesus Christ, and His ascension into heaven, where He is now seated at the Father's right hand, as our only high priest and intercessor.

John 20:24-29

24Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." 26A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

1 Peter 3:21-22

and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Hebrews 9:24

24For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

Hebrews 7:25

25Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

3For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

8. We believe, according to the word of God, in the blessed hope, which is the personal, visible, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:13

13while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

John 14:3

3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

1 Corinthians 15:22-24

22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

9. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose for them, become children of God, being born again by the Holy Spirit; and that such have eternal life, and shall never perish. We also believe that all such are members of the true church, or the body of Jesus Christ which knows no bound of denomination or sect.

John 1:11-13

11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 3:5-6

5Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 5:24

24"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

John 10:27-29

27My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Ephesians 4:4-6

4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 5:25-27

25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Romans 8:38-39

38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

10. We believe that the Scriptures teach that all believers are to be baptized by water, and we preach and practice immersion.

Matthew 28:19-20

19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15-16

15He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Romans 6:3-4

3Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Acts 2:41-42

41Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. The Fellowship of the Believers 42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 8:36-38

36As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38.

11. We believe that the Lords Supper is an ordinance given for believers only, to be remembered until He comes. It serves as a proclamation of His death, a reminder of our gathering together unto Him; it symbolizes the fact that an abiding fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ can only be maintained by self-examination and confession of sin; it pictures our need of constantly partaking of Christ for spiritual sustenance; it bespeaks a unity of the body of Christ, the Church.

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

24and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

16Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Matthew 26:26-29

26While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

12. We believe that sanctification is threefold: first, that our standing in Christ is now perfect

2 Corinthians 5:21

21God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 10:10-14

10And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. 13Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, 14because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

second, that our daily walk is imperfect, but we must endeavor to grow in grace

2 Corinthians 7:11

11See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

2 Peter 3:18

18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Philippians 3:10-12

10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

third, that we shall all be made perfect like Christ when we shall see Him face to face

1John 3:2

2Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53

51Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed 52in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

13. We believe that the heathen, even though they have never heard the Gospel, are still lost and that it is the tremendous responsibility of every child of God to do all he can to see that they hear the Gospel which alone can save.

Romans 1:18-20

18The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Mark 16:15-16

15He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

John 3:18

18Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 14:6

6Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12

12Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

14. We believe that all who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ shall be raised from the dead into everlasting blessedness; and that all others shall be raised from the dead into everlasting, conscious punishment in hell.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Revelation 20:4-6

4I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:11-15

11Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Article IV

MEMBERSHIP:

Section 1 - Qualification for Membership

Any person who has attended regularly for three months may be admitted into membership in this church, if he:

- a. Accepts the articles of faith of the constitution of this church.
- b. Has been examined to the satisfaction of the Elders.
- c. Has given public testimony before the congregation of his faith in Jesus Christ.

Section 2 - Receiving Members

As many as have been duly examined by the Elders, and have fulfilled the qualifications for membership under Article V, Section 1, shall be received publicly into the fellowship by majority vote of the church at such time as may be determined by the Elders.

The names of proposed members shall be announced at a Sunday meeting one week before the candidate shall be received into fellowship, to give opportunity for the voicing of any objections to the admission of the candidate as a member.

Section 3 - Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of the church membership are summarized in the church covenant as follows: Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God and this church most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- a. To exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in all of our activities and relationships. (Galatians 5:19-26)
- b. To endeavor by all that we do, say, or think to be devoted to prayer, watchfulness, thankfulness, wisdom and grace so that "You may know how to answer everyone." (1 Peter 3:15-16; Colossians 3:17, 23-24)
- c. To walk together in Christian love, purity, and unity so that the outside world will know we are committed followers of Jesus Christ. (John 13:34-35, Colossians 3)
- d. To submit to, and pray for the leadership. (Hebrews 13:17-18)
- e. To serve the family of believers with God's gifting. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- f. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the church, the relief of the needy, and the evangelism of all people. (1 Corinthians 16:1-4, 2 Corinthians 9)

g. To seek God's kingdom first through regular Bible reading, prayer, regular public worship, fellowship, and service. (Matthew 6:33)

h. To strive by example, through prayer, with friends, neighbors, and work associates to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. (Colossians 4:2-6)

Section 4 - Termination of Membership

Members are dismissed from this church by:

- a. Their request.
- b. Being received into membership of another church without letter of dismissal from this church; or
- c. Removal, when there is persistent repetition of conduct unbecoming to professing Christians, after faithful effort has been made to restore fellowship; or
- d. Removal, when any member has shown no interest in the work of this church during the period of one year, after faithful effort has been made to revive such interest; or
- e. Removal, when there has been at any time a change in his position doctrinally so as to put him in conflict with the constitution of this church.
- f. Members shall not be dismissed by removal except upon recommendations of the Elders and vote of the congregation.
- g. Physical Death

Section 5 - Inactive Members

Any member absenting himself habitually from formal church gatherings without valid reason and due notification to the secretary shall be placed on an inactive membership. Restoration may be made through Elder Board approval.

Inactive members shall not have voting rights.

Section 6 - Discipline

a. In cases of personal offenses, the procedure shall be in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18.

b. In cases which affect the church in general, the first attempt shall be to restore the offender (Galatians 6:1). If the offender does not humble himself in the matter, the church shall precede in accordance with 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:20. In case of heresy, the rule shall be as in Titus 3:10-11.

c. In case of heresy, the rule shall be as in Titus 3:10-11

Article V

GOVERNMENT:

The government of this church, under the authority of God's word and by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, is vested in the body of believers who compose it, whose majority vote, except as otherwise indicated in these by-laws, shall be final.

The immediate direction of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church shall be committed to the elected officers during their term of office. The church receives the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, church order and discipline, and is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body.

Article VI

OFFICERS:

All persons who hold any position of leadership (including but not limited to teachers, committee members, and church staff) must meet and maintain the following spiritual qualifications for leadership. Qualifications:

- a. Has accepted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.
- b. Is a member of West Cohasset Chapel.
- c. Provides robustly spiritual, financial, and physical involvement to WCC ministries.
- d. Is known for a life lived in full devotion to Jesus Christ. He/ she will purpose to put any sin, including doubtful conduct and conversation, in order that their influence is helpful and not a hindrance.
- e. He/ she will fulfill such specific Biblical requirements that may apply to the position of responsibility.
- f. No officer of WCC or committee chair shall be a member of a lodge or secret fraternal organization.

Section 1

a. The officers of the church shall consist of the Board of Elders, a Board of Deacons (not less than five men on each), a Congregational Secretary and Church Treasurer. Additional officers would be: Sunday School Superintendent and Sunday School Assistant. All officers shall hold membership in the church and shall subscribe in writing annually to the Doctrinal Statement as set forth in

Article III.

b. The Board of Elders by its discretion and recommendation with congregational approval may increase or decrease the membership of committees. The Board of Elders may establish or eliminate committees as needs arise and as needs are no longer evident.

Section 2 - Election of Officers

a. The Elders and Deacons shall be selected by a nominating committee and elected by a majority vote of the convened members in the Annual Congregational Meeting for a period of up to three years on a rotating basis.

1. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Board Secretary, shall be elected by each respective board at the first regular meeting after the Annual Meeting of the church.

2. The term of all officers shall begin and end after their successors have been duly elected.

3. Should the office of a board member become vacant before the expiration of his term of office, his successor shall be appointed by the elders until the next Annual Meeting at which time his successor shall be elected for the remainder of the term.

b. The Congregational Secretary, Church Treasurer, Sunday School

Superintendent, and Sunday School Assistant shall also be elected by the majority vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Church Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years.

Section 3 - The Election of Pastor

a. The pastor shall be recommended to the church by a 3/4 vote of the elders and elected in a congregational meeting of the church.

b. At time of election, a 3/4 majority vote of the convened qualified voters shall be required to call a pastor. Said meeting shall have been expressly called for this purpose.

c. The termination of the pastor's service may be effected at any time by the same order of procedure as is prescribed for his election and call. The pastor and his wife shall not vote in his termination.

Section 4- The Church Boards

a. The Elder Board (comprised of the pastor and elders) shall be responsible for the administration of the church under the authority of God's word by the leadership of the Holy Spirit under the guidelines of this constitution.

b. The deacons shall be directly responsible to the elders and shall serve under their authority as scriptural overseers and under-shepherds. As such they shall be empowered to conduct business on behalf of the church as outlined in Section 6, deacons.

c. Any member of a church board who becomes an offense to the church and its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, or misdemeanor in office or by willfully promoting division or discord in the church may be censured, reprimanded, or excluded from membership by the Elder Board.

d. Regular meetings of the Elder and Deacon Boards shall be held monthly and special meetings may be called by the chairman when and as they are needed. By mutual agreement of all members, a meeting may be postponed.

e. All employees, salaried or otherwise, shall be directly responsible to the Elders.

f. The deacon board and elder board shall review and approve by majority of each board any contract that would obligate the church to an indebtedness of \$5000.00 or more. This contract must then be approved by 2/3 of members present at a congregational meeting. Signers of the contract shall be Elder Chairman, Deacon Chairman, and Church Treasurer.

g. If any elder or deacon shall absent himself from 3 regular meetings of the Board without presenting a reasonable excuse to the Chairman of his respective board, his name shall be removed from the board.

h. Two-thirds of the elders or deacons must be present to form a quorum and two-thirds majority vote is needed to carry a motion.

Section 5 - Duties of Church Officers

Pastor:

a. The pastor shall be a minister of the Gospel whose personal life shall conform to the qualification laid down in Acts 6:1-4, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:7-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

1. He is to give himself to prayer and the study of the Word of God.

2. To preach and expound on the Word of God.

3. Administer the Ordinances in accordance with the Word of God.

4. Share in the pastoral care of the congregation along with the other elders and members of other committees.

5. Perform the marriage ceremony at his discretion in accordance with the laws of God, WCC's understanding of marriage, and the state of Minnesota.

6. Officiate at funerals of members of WCC and non-members at the leadership's discretion.

7. Together with the other elders maintain church discipline.

8. Act as ex-officio member of all committees and boards.

9. Perform other constitutional, Scriptural, and general pastoral duties.

10. He shall be directly responsible to the elders.

b. The vacation schedule for the pastor(s) shall be as follows:

During year one: Two weeks, including two Sundays;

During years 2-3: Three weeks, including three Sundays;

During years 4-5: Four weeks, including four Sundays;

During year 6: Five weeks, including five Sundays;

During year 7: Three month sabbatical, plus two weeks' vacation including two Sundays; if full sabbatical is not taken, the pastors vacation will be adjusted by the Elder Board;

During year 8 and beyond: Five weeks, including five Sundays;

During Year 14, etc.: Three month sabbatical, plus two weeks' vacation including two Sundays; if full sabbatical is not taken, the pastors vacation will be adjusted by the Elder Board;

Before being granted a sabbatical, the pastor(s) must submit a written sabbatical application to the elders. This application will outline what his plans are for the sabbatical and how it will enhance his future performance as pastor. Upon elder approval, the pastor(s) is entitled to a three-month, full-pay sabbatical.

c. The pastor shall be entitled to be away for other preaching engagements for four additional Sundays during the year. The pastor shall pay for pulpit supply for these Sundays.

d. The pastor and his family shall automatically become members of the congregation upon completion of the membership application form. Termination of membership shall coincide with termination of ministry.

e. The pastor(s) shall be strongly encouraged to take a minimum of five continuing education days per year with additional days upon approval of the Elder Board.

Elders:

To be devoted to prayer and the study of God's word, and sustain a caring ministry for the flock which involves:

a. Serving as partners with the pastor for WCC's growth

b. Praying for the sick and the pastoral care of the congregation including, but not limited to, visitation.

c. To teach and exhort as well as refute those who contradict the truth which involves:

1. Insuring that instructors, Bible study leaders, and Youth leaders are properly qualified

2. Arranging for pulpit supply in the pastors absence

d. To lead by Christ-like example, this involves:

1. Consistently modeling spiritual character, attitudes, values, and behavior among the members.

2. Providing and inviting the opportunity for frequent and ongoing contact with members.

e. Conducting the affairs of the church in an atmosphere of openness and mutually sensitivity, focusing as much on nurturing the members as on decision making.

f. Accepting mutual accountability as the norm for pastor and elders.

g. To oversee the affairs of the church, this involves:

1. Approving all applicants for church membership.

2. Maintaining the legal status of the church.

3. Installing the duly elected pastor.

h. To give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to any charges that are brought against a member. To investigate thoroughly all cases and hear testimony from all parties involved before bringing the report to the church for action.

i. In the absence of the pastor, they are to provide leadership for prayer meetings and a pulpit supply on the Lords day, and to welcome and introduce guest speakers at these or similar services. In the event of the pastor's resignation or death, the elders shall have charge of the prayer meetings and shall be responsible for the pulpit supply.

j. The elders shall determine the amount of honorarium for all guest speakers in conjunction with the deacons.

k. The elders shall meet the qualifications as stipulated in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 6:1-4.

Deacons:

a. Under the direction of the elders they shall exercise care, oversight, and maintenance of the property of the church and entire facility and grounds. They shall also have direct responsibility for the benevolence, maintenance, and building budgets, and general oversight of finances.

b. They shall administer to the needs of the saints as they arise, including financial assistance, love gifts, work projects, and care for orphans and widows. They shall oversee any committee delegated to the fulfillment of these objectives along with the elders whom exercise general oversight of all ministries.

c. They shall oversee all ushering responsibilities as outlined in the job descriptions for Usher. This includes opening and closing the facilities for all public services, approving use of facilities for funerals and special meetings, as well as special facility set-up for church events such as dinners, baptisms, outreaches, concerts, etc.

d. They shall present to the elders their annual goals with appropriate details of fiscal projections, timelines, etc.

Treasurer:

a. The Church Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the church. It shall be the Treasurer's duty, as authorized, to receive and disburse all church moneys.

b. An accounting of finances shall be provided:

1. Monthly to the Elder and Deacon Boards
2. Monthly to the congregation
3. Annually to the congregation

c. The treasurer shall submit the books at any time for auditing, and turn over to the board as directed by them (or to his or her successor when elected) all moneys, documents and papers belonging to the church.

Congregational Secretary:

a. The Congregational Secretary shall keep a faithful register of the membership; record all business proceedings of the church, and promptly issue all letters of dismissal when granted or required.

b. Shall give the board and all organizations notice one month preceding the Annual Meeting that they are to make their reports at said meeting.

c. Shall provide notice to all members of the congregation of any special or annual meeting as in accordance with these by-laws.

d. Shall have available at all times copies of the constitution of this church, all documents, and keep all records, files, or other papers belonging to the church up-to-date.

e. Assist the treasurer in the counting and recording of all moneys received in the offerings of the church and act as an assistant to the treasurer, understanding the financial transactions of the church.

Article VII

Section 1 - Church Year

The church fiscal year shall end September 30.

Section 2 - Annual Report

Final and complete reports from the Church Secretary, Treasurer, Board and committees within the church shall be made and presented for approval at the Annual Meeting in October. Said reports shall be in the hand of the Church Secretary one week in advance of the meeting for printing and distribution at said meeting.

Article VIII

Section 1 - Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the church shall be held on a day in October decided on by the Elder Board.

Section 2 - Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business of all congregational meetings shall consist of 30% of the voting membership of the church. Only members who have attained the age of 18 years and upward shall be eligible to vote at any of the business meetings.

Section 3 - Congregational Meetings

- a. Any meeting of the congregation may be constituted a meeting for the transaction of business, providing announcement of said meeting is given from the pulpit and publicly posted on two Sundays preceding said meeting.
- b. Any meeting of the congregation may be called at any time by the pastor, the Elder Board, or upon the written request of 10% of the members who are eligible to vote.
- c. In all congregational meetings, the Chairman of the Elder Board shall preside and in his absence, the Vice-Chairman or Secretary of the Elder Board in that order of availability.
- d. In the transaction of business in all congregational meetings, "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be used in all cases not covered by the constitution.

Article IX

ORDINANCES:

Christians are enjoined to observe two ordinances - baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are to be observed as remembrances of His death, burial, resurrection, and coming again. They are not a means of grace toward salvation.

Section 1 - The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated as frequently as the Elders shall direct

Section 2 - Baptism

Baptism shall be administered only upon the recommendation of the pastor or the Elders, after due examination, the mode being by immersion.

Article X

ORDINATION:

Spirit-filled men may be called out from among us to proclaim the Gospel of the grace of God. Such men may be given a commission to preach and administer the ordinances by an ordination council composed of the pastor, the Elder Board, and such pastors and lay delegates as they may invite to participate.

The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine by written work, conversation, and examination of giftedness of all applicants for ordination as to their call to the ministry. Having satisfied themselves in these particulars, and in the individuals theology they shall recommend the candidate to the church for ordination.

Article XI

COMMITTEES - SELECTED BY THE CHURCH BOARD

Section 1 - Missionary Committee

The Missionary Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the Missions Policy of this church.

Section 2 - Christian Education Committee

- a. The Christian Education Committee shall consist of representatives of each educational ministry of the church.
- b. The Christian Education Committee shall be responsible for carrying out the Christian Education Policy of this church.

Section 3 - The Nominating Committee

- a. During the month of July, the Nominating Committee and its Chairman shall be selected by the Elder Board. The Nominating committee shall be chosen from the congregation as follows: two Elder Board members and three members from the congregation.
- b. There shall be added to this Committee one additional member from the congregation for each 50 members in the membership, up to a total of seven members.
- c. The committee shall thoroughly investigate the character, qualifications and capability of every candidate. No candidate shall be considered unless agreed on by a 2/3 majority of the Committee, and in entire agreement with every particular of the church constitution.
- d. The Committee shall post on the church bulletin board the names of candidates for each vacancy to be filled, at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the church.
- e. Nominations from the floor will not be permitted. Suggested names for the Nominating Committee's consideration may be submitted to them, at a minimum, one month prior to the Annual Meeting.
- f. The Nominating Committee shall appoint the following committees and persons, with other committees being added as deemed necessary by the Elder Board or congregation:

1. **The Baptism Committee** shall consist of the pastor, two males and two females who shall counsel with the candidates and determine their readiness for this act of faith. This committee shall recommend time and place, and shall counsel men and women concerning wearing apparel, etc.
2. **The Worship Committee** shall consist of qualified Christians who will cooperate with the pastor for the planning and arranging of pianists, organists, and special music for the regular and special services of the church.
3. **The Ushers** shall consist of a group of men approved for this ministry during the church service. One man will serve as Head Usher. He will arrange for the necessary number of men to serve for each worship service, and the number needed to serve in other services. Their responsibility is to care for the seating of parishioners, receiving the offering, and attending to the comforts of the congregation such as heat, light, ventilation, public address system, hearing aids, etc.
4. **The Sunshine Committee** shall consist of members who shall keep informed concerning the sick and bereaved, and shall minister in good judgment to their needs.
5. **The Social Committee** shall consist of six or more persons. The chairman is responsible for the securing of kitchen and bathroom supplies for the church; the scheduling and arranging of food (and program when needed) for church family functions, such as Thanksgiving suppers, fellowship dinners, etc.; the arranging of food for unexpected church or community needs upon request, such as funerals.

Article XII

FINANCES:

- a. All money received by the church shall be by free-will offerings.
- b. The use of envelopes (for offering) is encouraged with the name of the giver so as to assist the treasurer in acknowledgment of the same by receipt. Believers are encouraged to give proportionately and regularly, as unto the Lord, for the support of the Lord's work, stewardship being an indication of unselfish love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. Visiting speakers shall be approved by the Board of Elders. The sum of money paid speakers, and the funds from which speakers will be paid, shall be determined by the purpose of their visit.

Article XIII

AMENDMENTS:

Any proposed alteration or amendment to this constitution must be presented in writing at a congregational meeting, and the vote on such amendment is not to be earlier than one month from the date of its presentation. Three-fourths of all the votes cast shall be necessary for its adoption. The notice of such proposed amendment shall be posted in the vestibule of the church from the time of its presentation until the meeting at which action is to be taken. The posted notice shall also specify the date of the business meeting at which the vote on the proposed amendment is to be taken.

Article III of this constitution, which gives the doctrinal basis of the church and this particular section limiting its amendment shall not be subject to amending except upon three fourths voting of all votes cast by members present at a Congregational Meeting.

Article XIV

DISSOLUTION:

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment, of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of an future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Trustees shall determine.

Article XV

When WCC members approach matters concerning its constitution, we pray that the love of Christ guard our attitudes toward one another so that we exhibit a genuine concern for the care and building up of all of God's people in an atmosphere of love.

How to Give Your Testimony

Some help on writing and then giving your testimony of how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.

I. What does it mean to be a Christian?

a) To be a Christian is to believe on Christ for our salvation. To believe on Christ is to believe his Gospel. The Gospel is this: The free forgiveness of our sins, through the suffering and death of Christ in my place.

b) God is our judge, and we have sinned against him. This has brought his wrath, his judgment and his curse. We must be rescued from these things or we will be eternally condemned, and we cannot save ourselves. But Christ has died in order that sinners can be forgiven and God's just wrath averted. As we repent and believe on Christ, our sin debt has fully been paid and we become part of the family of God.

c) The righteousness God requires if we are ever to be right with him, he himself has bestowed, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is revealed in story of his death. It is bestowed on all those who place their trust in him.

II. What were you before? (What I was.)

A) Paul's example

-Acts 26: 1-11

B) The Bible says.

- Ephesians 2:1-3

- Romans 3:10-21

C) Your experience says.

III. How were you introduced to the Gospel? (What happen?)

A) Paul's example

-Acts 26:12-18

B) Our Testimony- I was first heard the Gospel _____

C) After hearing the Gospel I responded..._____

IV. What decision did you come to? (What did you believe?)

A) Paul's example

-Acts 26:19-29

B) My decision_____

(Jesus Christ has paid the full penalty of my sins and he is now the ruler of my life.)

V. Using your above notes, combine them and right down how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.