

CONSTITUTION
And
By-Laws
Of The
CEDAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Dillsburg, PA

As Adopted By the
Congregation
On
February 6, 1994

Amended
2005

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organized Christian congregation shall be the Cedar Hill Baptist Church of Dillsburg, PA.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Church shall be to obey the great commission of Our Lord Jesus Christ as given in Mt. 28:19, 20; by...

1. Evangelizing the world through the proclamation of the Gospel.
2. Baptizing those who receive Jesus Christ as Personal Saviour.
3. Instructing believers in the truths of God as found in the Bible and incorporated in the Statement of Faith

AND...to follow the example of the first Christians in continuing steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, the observation of the Lord's Supper, Godly worship and prayer.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH**A. BIBLIOLOGY**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of 66 books is the Word of God. That it was written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:20-21;) so that their writings in the original manuscripts were supernaturally inspired. We believe that the Bible is plenary and verbally inspired. (II Tim. 3:16) Therefore free from error and omission. It is the complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, and is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

B. THEOLOGY

We believe that there is one infinite, changeless, holy God. eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are the same in substance, and equal in power and glory. God is righteous and loving, having created mankind and all that exists.

God the Father: - We believe in God the Father who is perfect in holiness, boundless in love, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power (I John 2:20; Gen. 17:1; I John 4:8). We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men (Psalm 108), that He hears and answers prayer (Dan. 10:12) and that He saves from sin and hell all who come to Him through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.(John 3:16)

God the Son: - We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is God (Col. 2:9), and all the fullness of the Godhead dwelleth in Him. He is eternal and therefore existed before His incarnation (John 1:1; John 8:58). He was born of a virgin (Luke 1:35) and was without sin (I John 3:5). His death on Calvary's cross is the only means of man's redemption, being set forth in the Scriptures as a ransom (I Peter 1:18; Gal. 3:13), a propitiation (Rom. 3:25), a reconciliation (Rom. 5:10), and as a substitution (Is. 53:6; I Peter 3:18). He arose bodily from the dead (John 20:6, 7; Acts 2:32-36), and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9), to the right hand of God. He presently acts as our intercessor

(Rom. 8:34), and advocate (I John 2:1). We also believe in His imminent and premillennial return to establish His kingdom (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16-17).

God the Holy Spirit: - We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He has all the attributes of Deity, including personality. (John 14:26; Eph. 4:30; I Cor. 12:11) The Holy Spirit bestows common grace upon all men, and efficacious grace involving salvation (I Tim. 6:12). The Holy Spirit indwells believers upon acceptance of Christ (Rom. 8:9) regenerates (John 3:5), and seals them unto eternal life. (Eph. 4:30)

C. ANTHROPOLOGY -

We believe that man is a direct creation of God (Gen. 2:7), and that woman was created by God from the rib of the first man (Gen. 2:22) Man was created in the image and likeness of God. (Gen 1:26). We believe that man was created without sin, but that Satan deceived Eve and that Adam was persuaded by Eve to eat the fruit (Gen. 3). This was an act of rebellion against God's authority, which led to both physical and spiritual death (Rom. 5:12; Gen. 2:17). Therefore man is now born in sin, alienated from God, totally depraved, and unable to merit salvation by human activity.

D. SOTERIOLOGY -

We believe that salvation is by God's Grace and will, and not through man's deeds or power. (Eph. 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5). The individual receives salvation when he realizes that he is a sinner, that Jesus is the Savior, and then places his faith in Jesus as he rejects his sinful past, and repents (I Peter 1:18-21; Acts 3:19;). We believe that God calls the sinner to Christ through the Holy Spirit, who convicts, illuminates, and regenerates (John 16:8-11; I Cor.2:10-14; John 3:5;). When the individual responds to God's call by inviting Lord Jesus Christ into his life, he is justified (Rom. 3:24; 5:11;) before God. This begins the process of sanctification (I Peter 1:2; Col. 3:8-12;) as the Holy Spirit begins to deliver His child from the power of sin.

E. ANGELOLOGY -

We believe that angels are personal beings which were created by God. The exact time of their creation is not known, but Job 18: 4:7 explains that it was before the earth was made. We believe that angels are incorporeal (Psalm 104:4), wiser, (II Sam. 14:20) and stronger (II Peter 2:11) than men. We believe that before the fall of man an angel called Lucifer rebelled against God along with other angels (Ezek. 28:11-19;) The result of this rebellion was that many angels lost their holiness and became vile. Some were cast into Hell (II Peter 2:4), while others known as demons are still opposing God's work (Dan. 10:12-13). They will one day be cast to the earth and following their judgment be placed into the lake of fire. (Mt. 25:41)

F. ECCLESIOLOGY -

We believe that the Bible distinguishes between the universal and the local church. The universal church is defined as consisting of every person who has placed his faith in Lord Jesus Christ, and is therefore baptized into the body of Christ. (I Peter 1:3,22-25; I Cor. 12:13) The church is a spiritual organism made up of believers who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God. It is set forth in scripture as the body of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18), the temple or building of which Christ is the chief

cornerstone (Eph. 2:20, 21; I Cor. 3:9-17), and the bride of which Christ is the bridegroom (II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27) The church began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit indwelt the believers (Acts 2).

The local church is seen as a group of believers assembling in one locality for worship and the practice of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The purpose of the church is as follows:

- 1) Glorify God (I Cor. 6:20)
- 2) Evangelize the World (Mt. 28:19,20)
- 3) Disciple believers (I Peter 5:1-4)

G. ESCHATOLOGY -

We believe in the second coming of Christ. His return from heaven will be personal, visible and glorious. It is a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray. When He comes, He will first by the resurrection of the dead and by the translating of the living remove from the earth His waiting church. (I Cor. 15:51-54; I Thess. 4:13-18) He will then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world (Rev. 6:16). He will afterwards descend with His church and establish a literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years (Rev. 19:11-19).

We believe that the spirits of the saved, at death, go immediately to be with Christ in heaven. (II Cor. 5:4; Phil. 1:23). Their works shall be brought before the judgment seat of Christ for the determination of rewards at the time of Christ's return for His saints. (II Cor. 5:10)

We believe that the spirits of the unsaved upon death descend immediately to Hell where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave (Luke 16:23-29; Mt. 25:30). They shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire which is the place of final and everlasting judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

ARTICLE IV - COVENANT

SECTION 1 - Having accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and thus having become members together of the Body of Christ, we do most solemnly covenant together, the Lord enabling us, that as strangers and pilgrims we will abstain from flesh lusts which war against the soul (I Peter 2:11). We will put away from us all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking. We will be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us (Eph. 4:31, 32). That as we have opportunity, we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10). That we will remember them who have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God (Heb. 13:7). That we will faithfully support our Church with our prayers and our presence at it's services. That we will give as God doth prosper us (I Cor. 16:2), contributing not grudgingly nor of necessity, but cheerfully to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spreading of the Gospel through all the world (II Cor. 9:7). That we will pray for one another, rejoicing with them that rejoice and weeping with them that weep (Rom. 12:15). That we will serve the living God and wait for His Son from heaven (I Thess. 1:9, 10).

SECTION 2

The provisions of Article III, (the Statement of Faith) and Article IV, (the Covenant) in their entirety, are to be considered as fundamental. These are the basis upon which this Church is founded, and none of the provisions of Articles III and IV shall ever be changed or deleted.

ARTICLE V - ORDINANCES

The Ordinances of this Church shall be two in number, namely Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism shall be administered, by single immersion in water, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, to those who profess that they have received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

The Lord's Supper shall be observed on a monthly basis during a public service. The table shall be open to all of those who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. The elements representing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus shall be unleavened bread and grape juice.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP**Section 1 Admission of Members**

- a) All applications for membership in Cedar Hill Baptist Church, whether by Baptism, Letter or Christian Experience, shall be submitted to the Board. Those who apply for church Membership will be invited to meet with the Board and give their personal testimony. Candidates will then be presented to the Church during a regular service to give a brief testimony concerning their Christian experience. Upon the positive vote of the Church the candidate will be formally received into the Church during the first Lord's Day morning of the month following the action of the Church.

- b) By Baptism:

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Son of God and personal Savior who has not received Believer's Baptism, making application to unite with the Church, shall upon the recommendation of the Board, appear before the Church and relate his/her Christian Experience, when if there be no objection, he/she shall upon the action of the Church be received into the membership upon being baptized.

- c) By Letter:

Members of other Baptist Churches, who profess the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and have received Believer's Baptism, making application to unite with the Church, shall upon the recommendation of the Board, appear before the Church and relate their Christian Experience, when if there be no objection they shall upon the action of the Church be received into the membership pending receipt of their Letter.

d) By Christian Experience:

Members of non-Baptist Churches, who profess the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and have received Believer's Baptism, making application to unite with the Church, shall upon the recommendation of the Board, appear before the Church and relate their Christian Experience, when if there be no objection they shall upon the action of the Church be received into the membership.

Any person who professes the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior and has received Believer's Baptism, who has been a member of a Baptist Church with which it may be impossible or impractical to communicate, may be received into the Church by Christian Experience.

e) Requirements and Stipulations:

All those that seek membership or current members thereof shall adhere to the doctrinal statement set forth in this Constitution. Cedar Hill Baptist Church does not recognize the homosexual lifestyle as an alternative, acceptable lifestyle according the Holy Scriptures. Therefore Cedar Hill Baptist Church will not take into membership those that are involved in a homosexual relationship; neither will Cedar Hill Baptist Church or its pastor(s) perform a marriage or union of homosexual partners. Any current members found to be involved in the homosexual movement will be brought before the Church board with the possibility of membership loss.

Members of Cedar Hill Baptist Church are expected to be a testimony and witness for the Gospel in their lifestyle. Members should not be associated with any religious or civic organization that is in conflict with our doctrinal statement.

Cedar Hill Baptist church does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, origin, sex, or age.

Section 2 Transfer of Members:

- a) Application for transfer must be made to the Board and by them reported to the Church.
- b) Any member in good and regular standing desiring to unite with another Baptist Church, may by vote of the Church, receive a letter of transfer stating the name of the Church with which he/she wishes to unite. When such letter is given, the applicant's name will be removed from the Church Roll and the action will be noted in the minutes.
- c) If an application is made by any member, for a letter to join a non-Baptist Church, a certificate of standing and character may be given to the applicant, upon the action of the Church. When such letter is given, the applicant's name will be removed from the Church Roll and the action will be noted in the minutes.
- d) In all cases of delinquency through failure to comply with Covenant obligations or spirit, members may be excluded from the fellowship of the church, their names being removed from the Church roll, when such exclusion is recommended by the Board, an approved by a three-fourth majority of the members present and voting at a meeting duly called for this purpose.

Section 3 Inactive Members

- a) All members who by choice do not regularly attend the services of the Church for a period of three months shall be placed on an Inactive list, upon the recommendation of the Board. The Board shall notify, in writing, to inactive members advising loss of their voting privileges. Any time during their inactivity, members may resume active membership by notifying the Board of their intent in writing. Upon the action of the Church, said members shall have the privilege of voting restored. Those who by choice remain inactive for a period of one year shall upon the recommendation of the Board to be terminated and action of the Church have their membership terminated and be notified in writing by the Board.
- b) Members who have become inactive due to agedness, sickness, or other extenuating circumstances will be retained upon the Church Roll indefinitely if they do desire, forfeiting their voting rights until reinstated into the active membership by vote of the Church. Application for reinstatement must be made in writing to the Board.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

Section 1

The Officers of this Church shall consist of the Pastor, Deacons, Church Secretary, Treasurer and Sunday School Superintendent.

Section 2

PASTOR:

I Timothy 3: 1-14

The Board and Pulpit Committee will have the responsibility of soliciting applicants for the position of Pastor.

The Pastor shall be called by vote of at least seventy-five percent of the members that constitute a quorum and voting by ballot, at a special meeting which has been duly informed in regard to the impending call. He shall be called for an indefinite period of time.

The relationship between the Pastor and the Church may be dissolved at any time by mutual consent, or by either party giving 60 days notice in writing. Should the Church be led to dissolve the relationship with the Pastor, a vote of two-thirds of the members that constitute a quorum and voting by ballot (at a special meeting, duly called by the Board, intention and purpose having been announced at the public services of the Church on two Sundays previous to the meeting) shall be required to terminate the relationship.

The Pastor is entitled to 1 vote as a member of the Board.

Duties: The Pastor shall be responsible for sermon preparation, and for formatting the public services of the Church. He shall occupy the pulpit at all regular services. In consultation with the Deacons, he shall select all speakers to fill the pulpit, for special occasions and in his absence.

He shall by his personal life and preaching of the Word of God be a source of encouragement and edification to his flock. He shall be available to visit the membership, the sick, and counsel the distressed.

He shall personally display, and seek to develop in his congregation, an earnest burden for the evangelization of the lost.

Developing programs within the church to meet needs as the church grows.

Presenting a report at Annual and Quarterly Business Meetings, summarizing Pastoral activities and Church progress.

He shall preside at all Church Board meetings and at all regular business meetings of the Church.

Section 3

DEACONS:

I Timothy 3: 8-14

There shall be four Deacons for the first fifty members or fraction thereof, and one for each additional twenty-five members of fraction thereof, until the membership reaches two hundred. Thereafter, there shall be one additional Deacon for every hundred members. During the first election two Deacons shall be selected to serve a term of one year, and two Deacons shall be selected to serve a term of two years. Thereafter each Deacon shall be elected to a term of two years. A Deacon may not succeed himself after serving a full two-year term, but may be nominated to fill a vacancy at the following annual election of officers.

The voting officers shall elect a Chairperson from the duly elected Deacons or Pastor, each year, at the first Board meeting following the Annual meeting, or when a Chairperson officially resigns, at the next meeting following the resignation.

The Deacon is entitled to 1 vote as a member of the Board.

To be eligible for the position of Deacon, candidate must be a member of the church for one year.

The Deacons will solicit quotations from outside firms to conduct annual audit of the financial books.

Duties: Together with the Pastor they shall comprise the Board. As members of the Board they shall be responsible to the Church for the oversight of its temporal affairs, and the conservation of all its property.

They shall assist and counsel with the Pastor in matters relating to the problems, works, experiences and opportunities of the Church. They shall assist in the administration of the Ordinances, visit and pray with the sick of the Church, and administer the Benevolent Fund of the Church.

Section 4

CHURCH SECRETARY:

The Church Secretary shall be elected by ballot at the annual election to serve for two years. He / She may be re-elected to succeed himself / herself.

Duties: The Church Secretary shall keep a record in the minutes of the Church of all business conducted at its regular or special meetings; a list of the members showing the date of their admission and how admitted, keep copies of all correspondence, and to attend to such correspondence as his / her duties may require. This position is entitled to 1 vote as a member of Board.

Section 5

TREASURER:

A Treasurer shall be elected by ballot at the annual election to serve for one year. He / She may be re-elected to succeed himself / herself.

Duties: The Treasurer shall deposit and keep record of all monies received, and checks written in payment of duly incurred Church obligations.

This position is entitled to 1 vote as a member of the Board.

Section 6

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

An Assistant Treasurer shall be elected by ballot at the same meeting to serve concurrently with the Treasurer for one year. He / She may be re-elected to succeed himself / herself.

Duties: The Assistant Treasurer shall, in addition to performing the duties of the Treasurer in his / her absence, keep a ledger of all Church Accounts, and submit a Monthly Financial Statement to the Board, and a Quarterly Financial Report to the Church.

This position is not a voting position on the Board.

Section 7

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be elected by ballot at the annual election to service for one year.

Duties:

The Sunday School Superintendent shall oversee and direct the ministry of the Sunday School. He shall appoint the teachers and such officers as may be necessary to the proper conducting of the Sunday School ministry, subject to the approval of the Board.

He shall submit to the Board for its approval, all curricula he may choose to recommend for use in the Sunday School.

He shall hold monthly meetings of his Sunday School Staff for the purpose of appraisal and programming of the Sunday School ministry.

This position is entitled to 1 vote as a member of the Board.

Section 8

ELECTIONS:

All Officers except the Pastor shall be elected by majority vote.

The Board will establish a Nominating Committee to solicit individuals to run for Church officers. Nominations will be accepted the first two weeks of October and the Board notify the nominees and will be voted on the first Sunday in December by ballot.

The Annual Election Meeting will be held on the first Sunday morning in December by ballot.

Section 9

VACANCIES:

Vacancies occurring between the annual election meetings in offices other than Pastor, may be filled at any regular or special business meeting of the Church, due notice having been given from the pulpit two successive Sundays previous to the meeting.

Section 10

DISMISSAL:

If at any time an Officer of this Church shall deviate from the doctrinal statement or duties set forth therein, or be involved in an immoral situation, the Church Board shall seek to rectify the situation and if necessary, address the situation with the membership of the church. If resolution cannot be made, a church vote may be taken to remove the officer from their position. Removal of an officer shall require two-thirds of the members that constitute a quorum. Requirements for dissolution of the Pastor / Church relationship is set forth in Section 2.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS:

Section 1

DEVOTIONAL:

The Church shall meet twice each Sunday (morning and evening) for public worship. Once in each week it shall be the duty of the members to meet for prayer. The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly by the Church on the first Sunday of each month. Other services may be appointed at any time by the Church upon recommendation of the Board.

Section 2

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Church shall develop and maintain a viable Sunday School program for all age groups under the direction of the Sunday School Superintendent.

Section 3

BUSINESS MEETINGS:

The annual business meeting shall be held on the third Sunday in January. Quarterly business meetings shall be held on the third Sunday of the months of April, July and October.

Section 4

ELECTIONS AND BUDGET MEETINGS:

The annual meeting for elections and budget approval shall be held on the first Sunday morning in December.

Section 5

SPECIAL MEETINGS:

Special meetings may be called by the Pastor or any five members of the Church, at any time that the Church may be together in regular sessions, to transact any business that does not conflict with the Constitution.

Section 6

QUORUM:

60% OF active members shall constitute a quorum for the transacting of any business at any regular or special business meeting.

Section 7

VOTING IN MEETINGS:

Voting privileges will be limited to active members, who are present in the meeting and are eighteen years of age or older.

ARTICLE IX AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS:

Section 1

DEFINED:

Organizations sanctioned by the Board as Ladies Missionary Fellowship and Youth Fellowship.

Section 2

OFFICERS:

No one shall hold office in any Auxiliary Organization who is not an active member of the Church.

Section 3

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:

The Doctrinal Statement of the Church shall be binding upon Auxiliary Organizations.

ARTICLE X DISSOLUTION:

In the event the congregation should move to dissolve the Church, such action can only be taken providing that notice of the proposed motion be given in writing to each active member, and be read at each of the stated meetings of the Church upon the two Sundays preceding the meeting where the motion will be acted upon.

If the motion to dissolve should carry by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members that constitute a quorum, all assets remaining after the settlement of debts and liabilities, shall be equally distributed to all supported Church missionaries, that shall qualify as an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Code. Under no circumstances will any assets be distributed to the members or officers of the Church.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS:

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting, by a two-thirds vote of the members that constitute a quorum, providing that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in writing to each active member, and read at each of the stated meetings of the Church upon the two Sundays preceding the announced meeting.

ARTICLE XII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS:

- a) In order to avoid confusion and maintain consistency in our local ministry, the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures shall be used as the text in the preaching and teaching of this Church and its Auxiliary Organizations.
- b) This church shall accept no funds, services or benefits of any kind whatsoever from any level of government or agency thereof, unless the Church pays fair market value for the same.
- c) The fiscal year of this Church shall be from January 1 through December 31.

QUALIFICATION OF A PASTOR

To insert in the constitution and By-Laws of Cedar Hill Baptist Church under the Section 2, sub title – PASTOR and under the scripture verses the phrase;

- A. Qualification of a Pastor is the same as for a Deacon.
- B. He must not hold memberships in any secret organizations.

QUALIFICATION OF A DEACON

To insert in the constitution and By-Laws of Cedar Hill Baptist Church under the Section 3, sub title – DEACON and under the scripture verses the phrase;

- A. Qualification of a Deacon is the same as for a Pastor.
- B. He must not hold memberships in any secret organizations.

QUALIFICATION OF A DEACON

1Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9 (KJV)

A.) The Bible has established a very definite set of qualifications for men, who would serve as servants to the church (a) he must be an active, male member who is willing to serve as a Deacon of the local church, (b) he must to a degree evidence the following qualities of spiritual maturity in his life at the time of being considered as a candidate.

- 1) **Blameless.** The word blameless means to be above reproach. It does not require that a person be absolutely sinless but it does require two very important things. (1) In his daily walk with God, a man must know how to deal with sin immediately and keep current in his confession of sins, maintaining a healthy fellowship with God the Father, and not grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit. (2) He must never be guilty of serious sins which can cause embarrassment to Christ, His Church, or His work.
- 2) **Good Report of them which are without.** The man who provides leadership within the church must have a good reputation outside the church as well.
- 3) **Not a Novice.** The word novice refers to someone who is just starting out, a person Newly planted in his faith like a seedling tree that is still in the nursery. The point being made by this qualification is that spiritual maturity is absolutely essential for providing leadership in the church. This maturity should not be measured simply by how long one has been a Christian, but by how far he has progressed in his Christian growth.
- 4) **Husbands of one Wife.** The person must set an example in his own marriage relationship as to what Christ meant when He said “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church” (Ephesians 5:25). Christ has promised never to leave nor forsake the church, no matter what. The husband of one wife (not one woman at one time) is a loyal husband totally devoted to one woman never having been divorced and not married to a divorcee or another woman. If a man is divorced from his wife and married to another woman while his first spouse is still alive he loses the opportunity to fulfill this office.
- 5) **Ruling Well His Own House.** The home is a good proving ground for men who aspire to leadership in the church. There he learns how to deal with all kinds of situations similar to those he will encounter by working with people in the church. If he has managed his home well through such circumstances, he is a good prospect to provide oversight to the church. If he has failed at home, he will likely fail in the church.
- 6) **Having His Children in Subjection with All Gravity.** He must be able to manage his home well; a father will develop within his children the tendency to be obedient and respectful in their demeanor.

- 7) **Having Faithful Children.** Having children that are known to be obedient, respectful and faithful to what they have been taught at home wherever they go; this man is a good prospect for providing leadership in the church.
- 8) **Holding forth the Word of God as he has been taught.** He is familiar with the Scripture and has learned them well and is able to apply them to his spiritual life.
- 9) **Vigilant.** He is cautious, watchful, and guarding against trouble. This kind of man is not taken by surprise nor easily shaken in his leadership. He is well prepared to face difficult situations.
- 10) **Patient.** He must be fair, gentle and equitable in dealing with all of God's people.
- 11) **Just.** He must be the kind of man that is concerned about knowing what God has said to be right and about upholding that in his personal conduct and in his relationship with those in the church and outside the church.
- 12) **Holy.** This word describes the condition of a man's life that has cooperated with the Holy Spirit in the process of sanctification. This refers to the characteristics of the man in his dealing with God.
- 13) **Sober.** This word describes the soundness of a man's mind. A sober man is one who takes life seriously and is conscientious in all he does.
- 14) **Given to Hospitality.** He is hospitable toward the needy and strangers, he set an example of benevolence before all the people of the church, he shows that he demonstrate that he is not selfish or a respecter of persons.
- 15) **Lover of Good Men.** He must exhibit proper values.
- 16) **Apt to Teach.** Not all deacons will be teaching deacons, but he must be one that labors in the Scriptures and direct others into the truths of the Word of God.
1 Timothy 5:17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."
- 17) **Able by Sound Doctrine both to exhort and to convince others who object to the Word of God.** He must demonstrate that his faith is unshakeable because he is able to support what he believes from the Scriptures. He will not be carried away because he is capable of defending sound doctrine against those who would contradict it.
- 18) **Not Greedy of Filthy Lucre.** He is a man who understands the purpose of money and uses it wisely. He is neither in love with money nor in danger of doing questionable things in order to obtain it.

- 19) Not Covetous.** He is a man who is content with what he has. He is not constantly wishing he had something new, or different, or more that he presently has. As the scripture says, he is a man who has learned both how to be abased and how to abound, in whatsoever state he is in, he has learned therewith to be content.
(Philippians 4:11-12)
- 20) Temperate.** This is not simply a man who has developed self control. He is a man who has developed quality of control as a result of a vibrant relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- 21) Of Good Behavior.** He is a man who displays modesty and respectability and is willing to do good things without being recognized for them. He does them because he believes that this is what God would have him to do and it is not for self but for the glory of God.
- 22) Not Given To Wine.** He is one not given to wine – means a person totally abstains from the use of alcoholic beverages in any form and therefore he would not bring shame upon the name of Christ or His church.
- 23) No Striker.** He is a person that is not contentious, argumentative, quarrelsome, etc. but is a person who leads the church in a nonviolent and peaceful manor both in his actions and words.
- 24) Not a Brawler.** He is a person who is not willing to get into a fight, but is a man who seeks a peaceful solution to difficult situations.
- 25) Not Self Willed.** He is a man who is not arrogant and does not insist on having his own way, but is a man who is able to accept the rejection of his own ideas and to listen respectfully to the ideas of others as he shares responsibility with them.
- 26) Not Soon Angry.** He is a man who has a very long fuse and is not given to explosive reactions. Instead, he remains calm even in the midst of very stressful circumstances.

B.) He must not hold memberships in any secret organizations.