

**Constitution
Of
The Genesis Bible Church**

As of October 11, 2023

Growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
(Revised October 2023)

Article One, Name and Purpose

Section One

The name of this body of believers in Christ shall be:

The Genesis Bible Church incorporated thusly and recorded in the County Clerk's Office in Belmont, New York on August 29, 1984. The name of the Church was amended and recorded in the County Clerk's Office on February 13, 2009.

Section Two

The purposes of this church shall be:

1. To present the Gospel to every person in our surrounding communities and by prayer and financial support to help carry the Gospel to every person worldwide.
2. To establish believers in the faith through a teaching ministry and through personal counseling.
3. To provide Christian fellowship and encouragement for all believers in our community who wish to fellowship with us.

Article Two, Articles of Faith

We believe:

1. In the word-by-word inspiration of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, that they are without error in the original manuscripts, and that they are the final authority in all matters of faith and living.

II Tim. 3:16 & 17; II Pet. 1:20 & 21; Jn. 10:35; II Pet. 3:16

2. In one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in Being, co-equal in power and glory, of the same essence, and having the same attributes.

Isa. 43:10; Deut. 4:35; 6:4; II Cor. 13:14; Mt. 28:19 & 20; 3:16 & 17; Jn. 14:16; 5:26; Deut. 33:27; Rev. 1:4-8; Isa. 44:6; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; 9:14; Jn. 1:1; Acts 5:3 & 4

3. In the Lord Jesus as true God and true man; in His virgin birth, sinless humanity, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, present advocacy, and His personal, bodily, visible, and premillennial return.
Jn. 1:1–3; Heb. 1:1–14; Col. 1:16 & 17; Rev. 1:17 & 18; Heb. 13:8; Mt. 1:18–25; Lk. 1:26–35; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:15, 7:26; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:22, 24; Eph. 1:7; Isa. 53:4–12; I Cor. 15:3 & 4; Heb. 9:24–28; Mt. 28:6; Mk 16:6; Lk. 24:6 & 7; I Cor. 15:3–8, 12–21; Acts 1:3; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I Jn. 2:1 & 2; I Thess. 4:13–18; Rev. 19:11–16; 20:1–6.
4. That the Holy Spirit is a person; that believers are born of the Spirit, sealed with the Spirit, indwelt with the Spirit, and baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ at the moment of conversion; that all believers are commanded to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
Jn. 15:26, 16:7–8, 13 & 14; Acts 5:3; 15:28; Eph. 4:30; Jn. 3:3–6; Eph. 1:13 & 14; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:12 & 13; Eph. 5:18.
5. That man was created sinless and perfect by God in a special act of creation, but willfully disobeyed God and brought sin and death into the world; that since the Fall of man, all men are born sinners with wicked, deceitful hearts; that none are righteous, all are alienated from God, enslaved to sin, and under the wrath of God.
Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:15–17; 3:1–7; I Tim. 2:14; Rom. 5:12, 19; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10; Eph. 4:18; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 2:3.
6. That salvation is a free and everlasting gift of God, entirely of grace and apart from anything man can do to either earn or keep it; and that every person is responsible to either receive salvation by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary to obtain the forgiveness of sins, or to reject salvation.
Eph. 2:8–10; Rom. 3:21–24; 4:1–8; Jn. 1:12; I Pet. 1:18 & 19; 2:24; Isa. 53:11; Jn. 6:37–40; 10:27–30.
7. That Satan is a created being who rebelled against God and induced mankind to sin; that he will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Since he was cast out of heaven along with his evil angels, it has been Satan's plan to seek to hinder and destroy the work of God and to attack God's people through deception, accusation, and oppression. Satan's present-day activities will continue until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
Ezek. 28:12–17; Isa. 14:12–15; Gen. 3:1–13; I Thess. 3–5; Rev. 20:1–4; 7–10.
8. In the bodily resurrection of all humanity; the saved to unending life with the Lord, the unsaved to judgment and unending punishment in the Lake of Fire.
Jn. 5:28 & 29; Lk. 23:43; 16:19–31; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 20:5, 6, 11–15.

9. That it is the responsibility of each believer, motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to witness for Christ and to use their spiritual gifts to build up the body of believers and to live sacrificially for the proclamation of the gospel to all the world. Salvation includes every necessary provision for godly living. Therefore, those who have been born again are totally accountable for their lives.

Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-48; Jn. 20:21; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13 & 14; 15:20 & 21; I Cor. 15:34; II Pet. 3:11 & 12; Mt. 24:14; I Pet. 1:18 & 19; 2:24; Phil. 1:6; Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 6:6-18; I Jn. 1:8 & 10; II Pet. 1:3; I Cor. 12:4-31; 14:1-40; Eph. 4:1-13.

10. That human beings were created in God's image and that God created them biologically male and biologically female. God ordained marriage and established it as a lifelong covenant between one biological man and one biological woman. Jesus affirmed marriage as such; thus, marriage is a sacred institution.

Gen. 1:27; 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6; Mal. 2:13, 14, 16

11. That the two ordinances of the local church are the baptism of believers and the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is practiced as a remembrance of our Lord's shed blood and broken body on Calvary's cross. The elements are not and do not become the actual body and blood of Jesus.

Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41; I Cor. 11:23-26.

We practice the baptism of believers by immersion.

Mt. 3:16; Mk. 3:10; Rom. 6:1-4.

Article Three, Church Covenant

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and upon profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized according to the Scriptures; we do now in the presence of God and each other, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to endeavor to please God in every way, pursuing a manner of life consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We commit, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of the Church, to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also commit to maintain family and personal devotions, and to educate our children in spiritual things; to actively pray for and witness to our unsaved relatives and acquaintances; to be just, faithful and exemplary in our dealings, realizing we are new creations in Christ and completely responsible to God for all our actions, being fully convinced of what is right

in our own minds, but being careful to neither judge a brother in matters of personal conviction nor cause a fellow Christian to stumble.

We further commit to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation, and eager to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, commit that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the principles of God's Word and the spirit of this covenant.

Article Four, Membership

Section One, Eligibility

Any person

- (a) who has accepted Christ as their Savior,
- (b) who has been baptized by immersion subsequent to Salvation,
- (c) whose life shows evidence of the new birth,
- (d) and who is in agreement with the Articles of Faith, Constitution, and Covenant of this Church, shall be Eligible for membership.

Section Two, Procedure for Accepting New Members

- A. Any person wishing to become a member of the Church shall indicate his desire to do so to an Elder.
- B. Upon indicating his desire to become a member, the candidate shall be given a copy of the Constitution to carefully examine for a period of not less than two weeks.
- C. After studying the Constitution, especially the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant, and being in agreement with it as evidenced by continuing the membership process, the candidate shall be examined by the Board of Elders regarding their conversion, doctrinal beliefs, and seriousness of intent to actively support the church.
- D. If the candidate has previously belonged to another church, a letter of commendation may be sought.

- E. The Elders may require any course of study they feel necessary prior to admission into membership.
- F. At two consecutive Sunday morning services prior to admission into membership, the Elders shall inform the membership of the candidate's desire to become a member.
- G. Having considered all the information made available to them, and being satisfied as to the candidate's qualifications, the Elders shall accept the candidate into membership at the earliest possible Sunday morning service.
- H. If the Elders are not satisfied as to the candidate's qualifications, the application shall be rejected, and the reasons for such action shall be made known to the candidate.

Section Three, Voting Eligibility

Upon reaching age eighteen, all members shall be eligible to vote.

Section Four, Voluntary Termination of Membership

Any member who submits a letter of resignation shall have it accepted without prejudice within a period of two weeks.

Article Five, Church Discipline

Section One

All members of this church shall be subject to the discipline of this church. Corrective discipline has for its aim the glory of God, the purity and welfare of the church, and the spiritual restoration and growth of the offender.

Section Two, Exclusion from Membership

Any person may be removed from the membership of this church at the discretion of the Board of Elders if he/she has been absent for a period of two months or more and fails to respond to communications.

Any person who disregards the Church Covenant or comes to hold doctrinal positions contrary to the Articles of Faith shall be liable to exclusion from membership. If the Elders observe either of the above conditions, the person whose conduct or doctrine is in question shall be visited by representatives of the Board of Elders for the purpose of resolving the problem. If after counseling the Elders feel that no progress toward

resolution has been made, the Elders shall recommend at the next business meeting the removal of the name of the person not reconciled from the church rolls.

Any person removed from membership who desires to be reinstated shall be examined in the following manner. At two consecutive Sunday morning services, the Elders shall inform the membership of the person's desire for readmission. Having considered all the information made available to them, and being satisfied of the person's qualifications, commitment, repentance, and/or doctrinal position, the Elders shall accept the person into membership. If the Elders are not satisfied with the person's qualifications, commitment, repentance, and/or doctrinal position, the request for readmission into fellowship shall be rejected, and the reasons for such action shall be made known to the person.

Section Three, Exclusion from Fellowship

It is right and in harmony with Scripture (**Tit. 3:10; II Thess. 3:14; I Cor. 5:9–13; Mt. 18:15–20**) to exclude from fellowship any professing believer who teaches false doctrine, is immoral, is a swindler, is an idolater, has a foul tongue, is a drunkard, is a thief, or is unwilling to settle differences with others in a Scriptural manner. Any believer who observes the conduct described above shall visit the offending believer for the purpose of helping them back into fellowship with Christ, (**Gal. 6:1 & 2**). If this visit does not achieve the desired result, they shall take with them two or more Elders as witnesses, so the facts may be confirmed before two or more witnesses. If either party refuses to listen to the counsel of the Elders, they shall be summoned in writing before the congregation at a specially called business meeting. The members present shall hear both parties and the Board of Elders, and if the suspected person is found guilty of one or more of the offenses listed above and refuses to listen to the counsel of the Board of Elders, they shall be excluded from the fellowship of all church members as decided by a unanimous decision of the Board of Elders. Any member excluded from fellowship shall also be automatically excluded from membership.

It shall not be forgotten that the purpose of discipline is restoration. Exclusion from fellowship shall be withdrawn and the offender completely forgiven upon the presentation of evidence of sincere repentance and a renewed commitment to serving the Lord. The desire of the offender to be restored to fellowship shall be expressed to the Elders. At two consecutive Sunday morning services, the Elders shall inform the membership of the person's desire for readmission. Having considered all the information made available to them, and being satisfied of the person's qualifications, commitment, repentance, and/or doctrinal position, the Elders shall accept the person into fellowship. If the Elders are not satisfied with the person's qualifications, commitment, repentance, and/or doctrinal position, the request for readmission into fellowship shall be rejected, and the reasons for such action shall be made known to the person.

Article Six, Governance

This Church acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head, the Holy Scriptures as its only infallible guide, and the Holy Spirit as its teacher.

The governance of this Church is vested in its Board of Elders as appointed by the membership.

This Church shall remain autonomous, independent, and free from any association that carries with it any obligation to succumb to a higher ruling body.

Article Seven, Organization

The officers of this Church shall be Pastor(s), Elders, Trustees, Deacons, a Church Clerk, a Church Treasurer and a Financial Secretary.

Section One, Elders

In this Constitution, a Pastor shall be defined as an Elder employed by the church. All Elders, whether employed by the church or employed in a secular field, are to be regarded as equal and worthy of the support, respect, and submission of the whole church.

The qualifications for an Elder shall be those listed in **I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9**.

There shall be no set numbers of Elders. No one shall be selected for this office who does not desire to be an Elder. When a person is put forward as a candidate for the office of Elder, he shall first be examined by the Board of Elders as to his qualifications and desire to serve. No candidate shall be chosen without the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders. Upon receiving the approval of the Board of Elders, the candidate and his desire to serve shall be presented to the congregation during two consecutive Sunday morning services. In both these services a short exposition of the qualifications of an Elder shall be made. The members shall be charged at both services with their responsibility to present any objections to the candidate to the Board of Elders. If no objections are raised, or remain after investigation and counseling with the candidate and the objector, the candidate shall be added to the Board of Elders as a Provisional Elder for the period of one year. After the one-year period and with the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders, the Provisional Elder will be asked of their intent to continue as a Regular Elder. The transition from Provisional Elder to Regular Elder status will be announced at a subsequent Sunday morning service.

Elders shall hold office as long as they meet the qualifications. An Elder should resign at any time he does not wish to remain in office. An Elder may be removed from office by either the unanimous consent of the other Elders or a majority of the members at a duly called meeting. Charges for the removal of an Elder must be brought on the basis of **I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9**, or teaching contrary to the Articles of Faith. Charges against an Elder shall not be considered on the basis of one witness (**I Timothy 5:19**).

The Elders shall be the spiritual shepherds of the Church family. They shall be in charge of the teaching and counseling ministry of the Church and shall be in charge of all services.

They shall have the general oversight of the total ministry of the Church including those areas specifically delegated to other church offices, and shall receive, consider, and dispose of any grievance, suggestion, or recommendation by any member or organization of this Church. They shall meet together as often as they deem necessary, but not less than once a month.

The Elders shall appoint individuals or committees to handle any special needs of the Church.

Section Two, Pastor and Associate Pastor(s)

Pastor

It shall be the policy of this Church to have one Pastor (salaried Elder). The Pastor shall preferably be selected from among the Board of Elders. If an Elder satisfactory to the Board of Elders and the membership cannot be found, the Pastor may be selected from outside the Board of Elders. In either case, the Pastor shall be sought by the Board of Elders which shall function as a search committee. No man shall be considered without the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders. No man shall be considered who cannot sign without mental reservation a statement accepting the Articles of Faith and Constitution of this Church. The selection of the Pastor shall be voted upon by ballot at a meeting of the church membership especially called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be given at all services of the Church on the two consecutive Sundays proceeding the meeting called for such an election. A three-fourths majority of the voting members present shall be required to call the Pastor.

The Pastor shall function as a salaried member of the Board of Elders and work with them in the fulfillment of his duties.

Associate Pastor(s)

Associate Pastor(s) shall be sought by the Board of Elders which shall function as a search committee. No man shall be considered without the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders. No man shall be considered who cannot sign without mental reservation a statement accepting the Articles of Faith and Constitution of this Church. The selection of an Associate Pastor shall be voted upon by ballot at a meeting of the church membership especially called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be given at all services of the Church on the two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting called for such an election. A three-fourths majority of the voting members present shall be required to call an Associate Pastor.

Associate Pastor(s) shall function in various capacities as determined by the Board of Elders. An Associate Pastor may, but is not required to be a member of the Board of Elders. All Associate Pastors shall report to, and be held accountable by the Board of Elders and will work with them in the fulfillment of their duties.

Section Three, Trustees

It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to conduct the legal and corporate affairs and oversee the business matters of the Church in accordance with the laws of New York State.

The Trustees shall not encumber with loan, or transfer, or sell, or purchase any real estate for the Church except by the express authorization of the Church conveyed through a majority vote of the membership present at a constitutionally called congregational meeting. No obligation shall be incurred to spend over the pre-determined limit set each year at the annual business meeting, without the special vote of the congregation, unless said item already appears in the adopted budget.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of three members elected for three-year terms with one Trustee elected annually.

The Trustees shall be elected by the congregation from among the Board of Elders, with the Pastor excluded. Should there be less than three Elders, the remaining Trustee(s) shall be elected from among the Deacons. Should there be less than three Elders and Deacons combined, the remaining Trustee(s) shall be elected from the men of the congregation, subject to the approval of the Elders, to serve out the term to which he was elected.

The Trustees shall audit the books of the church annually.

The Trustees shall meet together as often as they deem necessary.

Section Four, Deacons

The Deacons are extremely important to the ministry of the Genesis Bible Church. The word “deacon” (diakonos) means “a servant,” according to Acts 6:1–6. The office of Deacon is to be the same here at the Genesis Bible Church.

The qualifications and duties of a Deacon shall be those listed in **Acts 6:3** and **I Timothy 3:8–12**. They shall be chosen by the church body.

There shall be no set number of Deacons. No one shall be selected for this office who does not desire to be a Deacon. When a person is put forward as a candidate for the office of Deacon, he shall first be examined by the Board of Elders as to his qualifications and desire to serve. No candidate shall be chosen without the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders. Upon receiving approval from the Board of Elders, the candidate and his desire to serve shall be presented to the congregation during two consecutive Sunday morning services. In both these services a short exposition of the qualifications of a Deacon shall also be made. The members shall be charged at both services with their responsibility to present any objections to the candidate to the Board of Elders. If no objections are raised, or remain after investigation and counseling with the candidate and the objector, the candidate shall be added to the Board of Deacons as a Provisional Deacon for the period of one year. After the one-year period and with the unanimous consent of the Board of Deacons and Board of Elders, the Provisional Deacon will be asked of their intent to continue as a Regular Deacon. The transition from Provisional Deacon to Regular Deacon will be announced at a subsequent Sunday morning service.

Deacons shall hold office as long as they hold the qualifications. A Deacon should resign at any time he does not wish to remain in office. A Deacon may be removed from office by the unanimous consent of the Board of Elders. Charges for the removal of a Deacon must be brought on the basis of **I Timothy 3:8–12**.

Duties include: (From Deleted Article Thirteen)

1. Maintaining the buildings and grounds of the Genesis Bible Church.
2. The organization and oversight of church work days.
3. Serving in the distribution of designated goods and/or funds to the less fortunate.
4. Maintaining and serving in the usher ministry.
5. Preparing the facilities for church events (special services, dinners, etc.).
6. Assisting the Board of Elders as needed.

Section Five, Statement of Agreement

It is the position of the Board of Elders and the church membership that anyone who desires to preach, teach, or serve in any ministry of this church must be a member of this church. If membership with this church is not possible, then the said person must be able to sign the Statement of Agreement without reservation, and receive the approval of the Board of Elders.

Article Eight, Business Meetings

The fiscal year shall close December thirty-first.

The annual business meeting of the Church shall be on the third Sunday of the new fiscal year. The election of elected officers shall take place at this time. There shall be quarterly business meetings on the second Wednesday of April, July, and October.

The Elders may, or upon the request of ten members, call special business meetings of the members. Notice of any business meeting shall be read and posted in the two consecutive Sunday morning services preceding such meetings.

Article Nine, Ordination

The Board of Elders shall have the authority to call an Ordination Council for the purpose of examining and ordaining suitable men into the Gospel ministry. The Board of Elders is to be charged with the responsibility of accepting only those candidates who have been called of God to the Gospel ministry; men who are qualified to do this work, and men who have the blessing of God upon their ministry.

The Board of Elders shall have the power to discipline any minister ordained by this Church, even to the revocation of the ordination license credentials, who, after a fair and impartial trial, is found guilty of heresy or sinful practices clearly forbidden by the Word of God.

Article Ten, Finances

The work of this Church shall be supported entirely by voluntary offerings of the people as the Lord has prospered them.

Before the annual meeting, the Board of Elders shall prepare a detailed budget of the proposed expenditures for the coming year and shall submit the same to the congregation at the annual meeting for approval.

Article Eleven, Dissolution

No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any donor, member, director, or officer of the corporation or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets. Upon dissolution, any assets of the corporation must be distributed to one or more organizations recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as one organized exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes. Such a corporation must be in agreement with the letter and spirit of this Constitution.

Article Twelve, Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular congregational meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed in written form to the membership at least two weeks prior to such congregational meetings.

Amendment to the Constitution of Angelica Bible Church – February 26, 2009

Change incorporation and official name of Angelica Bible Church to Genesis Bible Church. Genesis Bible Church shall assume the constitution, government, and assets of Angelica Bible Church.