

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

For the Church of



GREAT COMMISSION DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

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GREAT COMMISSION DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people, who shall constitute the Body of Jesus Christ, The Church, built and established upon the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone. Therefore, we adopt this Constitution for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church that all things may be done decently and in order, and that we may help each other in our Christian service as we serve the Lord.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Church shall be Great Commission Deliverance Ministries, located on 248 W. SECOND STREET, WAYNESBORO, PA 17268.

ARTICLE II – DOCTRINAL PLATFORM

The doctrinal platform for this Church shall be The Holy Bible, as it is the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Great Commission Deliverance Ministries exists for the purpose of communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His Atonement, and His Lordship for the edification of their commitment to Christ, and His leading of their lives. The Church is commissioned by Christ to maintain and expand His Kingdom through the ongoing, Spirit-led work of Evangelism, Bible Study, Worship, Prayer, and Fellowship.

ARTICLE IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God and is inerrant in the original writings. The Bible being the revealed Word of God is the ground and foundation from which all claims of truth will be substantiated (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:23).

1. By “The Holy Bible” we mean the collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but is the Word of God.

2. By “Inspiration” we mean that the books of the Bible were written by Holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a manner, that their writings, were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writing has ever been or will ever be.

OF THE TRUE GOD: We believe that there is one true and living God existing in three persons: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is a distinct person, but all of one essence and all having the same nature, perfections, attributes, and each is worthy of precisely the same Worship, Confidence, and Obedience (Genesis 1:1-3, 26; Matthew 3:16, 17; 28:19; John 1:1, 14; John 10:30, 14:26, 15:26).

OF JESUS CHRIST: We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and shed His blood on Calvary’s cross as a vicarious substitute for fallen humanity. He was born, died, and rose again, and ascended to the Father according to the Scriptures (Luke 1:16-33).

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, very God co-existing with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the chief agent in the regeneration of the soul, the chief convictor of sin, and the chief comforter of the believer. The Holy Spirit bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and in testimony; that He seals, endues with power, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer (John 14:16-17, 26, 16:8-11, 15:26-27; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; Genesis 1:1-3; Luke 1:35; II Thessalonians 2:7; Acts 5:30-32).

OF THE FALL OF MAN: We believe that man was originally created in the image and likeness of God, he was endowed with intelligence, conscience, and will. He had the ability to reason and make decisions for himself so that he could exercise free choice. He voluntarily yielded to the temptation of Satan, thus rebelling against God. Consequently man fell from his state of innocence and was placed under a state of condemnation. Hence, all humankind born to Adam become transgressors and is without defense or excuse (Genesis 1:26, 3:1-6, 24; Romans 3:10; Ephesians 2:1, 3; Galatians 3:22).

OF CREATION: We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God’s own image and after His own likeness; that man’s creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary changes of species; or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and God’s established law was that they should bring forth only “after their kind” (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3).

OF THE DEVIL OR SATAN: We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through rebellion, pride, and ambition to be almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels. He is now the prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world’s system. Satan has been judged defeated at the cross and awaits the final judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels (Isaiah 14:12+-15; Ezekiel 28:14-14; Revelation 12:9; Jude 6; I Peter 5:8).

OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH: We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in the souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation of Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our only and all-sufficient Savior (Acts 20:21, 2:37:38; Psalm 51:1-4, 7; Romans 10:9-11,13)

OF JUSTIFICATION: We believe that justification is God’s legal and full acquittal of sinners who believe in and have confidence in Christ; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on

the principle of righteousness; that it is bestowed not because of any works of righteousness that we have done; but solely through faith of the redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us (Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17, 4:1-8, 5:9, 8:1; Galatians 3:11).

OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS: We believe that all who endure to the end shall be saved; that only such believers, because of their persevering attachment to Christ, demonstrate and distinguish themselves from the superficial professor; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation (John 8:31-32; Colossians 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 1:14; Philippians 1:6; Matthew 24:4-13).

OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer; in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, with authority of the local church, to show forth a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effort in our death to sin and resurrection to new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a Church relation and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members, and the Church, by the sacred use of bread and fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the undying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

OF THE CHURCH: We believe that the Church is a congregation of baptized believers legally and divinely established by God, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel. The Church is governed by the ordinances of Christ and by His laws for exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in Him. The only scriptural officers are Bishops (overseers, Elders (pastors), and Deacons; whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the Church is to be visible representation of Christ in the earth, to make individual disciples, to build up the Church, and to teach and instruct as the Lord has commanded. We believe that the local Church has the absolute right to self-government; free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for the true Churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that every local Church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, and of benevolence (Acts 2:41-42, 6:5-6, 15:22-23; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11; I Timothy 3:13).

OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED: We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and everlasting conscious suffering of the lost (Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18; I Peter 1:18; Romans 1:17; I Corinthians 15:22; Matthew 7:13-14).

OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are not opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming prince of the Kings of the earth (Romans 13:7; II Samuel 23:3; Titus 1:1; I Peter 2:13-14; Acts 4:19-20; Matthew 10:28).

ARTICLE V. – FINANCES

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith and should be exercised by all who have received salvation for the support of the kingdom work here on earth. All members are to give a tithe or tenth of their gross income to the work of this Church. The offering will be the amount you faithfully seek the Lord about giving above the tithe.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of host, If I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:10).

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come (I Corinthians 16:2).

Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and in utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also (II Corinthians 8:7).

This Church also reserves the right to support herself through pledges, donations from other saints and through the sale of property in its possession.

For as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the Apostles' feet (Acts 4:34-35).

All monies collected by a Ministry or Auxiliary must be turned in to the Finance Office. Any monies distributed to any Ministry, Auxiliary or for Benevolent purposes will be disbursed in the form of a check and written by those authorized in the Finance Department.

All monies collected will be deposited the first business day following its collection.

ARTICLE VI. – MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this local body shall consist of persons who have believed and confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God and Savior of the world.

Membership: Before a new attendee is received into membership, it must be determined that he or she has dissolved any membership commitment to any other Church organization and made an open commitment to this Church.

Christian experience: providing said person meets the scriptural criteria set forth in Romans 10:9-10 and Matthew 28:19.

By letter: When membership is being transferred from another Church.

Restoration: When said person pledges faithfulness after being dismissed for disciplinary proceeding (I Corinthians 4:2).

Be registered in the Church office according to procedures set forth by the Pastor and this Church body.

Complete all orientation procedures set forth by the Pastor and this Church body.

CLASS OF MEMBERS

Members will be classified into three categories: Active, Inactive, Non-member Active.

Active Members:

- Are those who actively and faithfully attend Worship and Christian Education according to the standards set forth in the Constitution and By-laws.
- One who actively participates in roles of the church, whether it be in attendance, duties and through their consistent financial support of the church.
- Are officially registered as a member in the records of the church.

Inactive Members:

- Are those who have no justifiable reason for not attending Worship over a six month period and have not supported the Church over the same time period.
- A member can be considered inactive when it has been determined by the Pastor that sufficient evidence supports moving the member to an inactive status.

Non-Member Active:

- Are those who activity and faithfully attend Worship and Christian Education according to the standards set forth in the Constitution and By-laws, but do not desire, at the present time, to join the church as an official member.
- One who actively participates in roles of the church, whether it be in attendance, duties and through their financial support and has this status documented by the Church Secretary.
 - Note: Non-members who are actively supporting and participating in various roles within the church shall have their roles reassessed every 3 months to identify and determine their member status.
 - Non-members active will not be able to hold any leadership position in the church that is responsible for making decisions about or for the church or to vote on any matters reserved to members.

Members will be removed from inactive status and official Church role for the following reasons:

1. Member joins another local Church body.
2. Member moves out of the area and transfers membership.
3. Member dies.
4. Discovery of false statement concerning membership.

VOTING MEMBERS

In order for a member to be eligible to vote on business matters of the Church they must be an active member in good standings and have reached the age of accountability.

Voting eligibility shall be conditioned on the following:

- Age of accountability shall be 18 years of age - The age when members are considered capable of understanding the official affairs of the Church and the impact of those matters upon the Church and prayerfully can make their own independent evaluation and not be swayed by the opinion of others.
- Be a regular supporter of the financial program of tithes and the giving of offerings (Malachi 3:8-10; II Corinthians 9:6-8).
- Be a regular attendee of Worship Services, Church School, and be a partaker of the Lord's Supper (Hebrews 10:25; I Timothy 2:15; I Corinthians 11:17-34).
- Members having voting privileges shall be entitled to vote when present at any business meeting of membership called by the Pastor; for the purpose of voting on any issue with respect to business affairs, which consist of the official matters that might have a binding impact on the overall operation or life of the church and its members, as well as any issue required in this constitution. Voting members shall not be entitled to vote by proxy, nor shall a voting member vote through secret balloting. Except, as maybe otherwise specifically provided herein, the vote of a majority of voting members present at any business meeting shall be binding upon the Church. The Church shall maintain a written list of voting members.

SUSPENSION/DISMISSAL

A member's affiliation with this Church can be suspended or terminated for the following reasons:

1. Letter of transfer.
2. Continually sowing discord or dissension among the members of the body as determined by the Pastor (Proverbs 6:14, 19; Titus 3:10).
3. Failure to repent of known sin and openly living an immoral lifestyle as determined by the Pastor (I Corinthians 5:5, 13; II Corinthians 13: 2, 10).
4. Failure to abide in Articles IV, V and VI of this constitution.

ARTICLE VII. – OFFICERS

The Officers of this Church shall be:

PASTOR: He is the overseer (Acts 20:28), under shepherd (I Peter 4:2-4), and physical authority of the Church. He is responsible for the Annual Calendar of Church Events, and for presenting the Church budget. He is scheduler and moderator of all official Church meetings, and the executive of all auxiliaries. The Pastor has full charge of the pulpit, and is the only one who has the privilege to offer it to any Layman or other Minister. The Pastor is responsible for all Church services held in the name of Great Commission; whether held on the Church premises or at some other location. All services must have the approval of the Pastor prior to commencing. The Pastor shall in all cases appoint all officers, and leaders.

The Pastor is responsible for visiting the sick, and to have the sick visited by an associate when called upon whether confined in the home or in the hospital. The Pastor, upon his discretion, has the authority to delegate portions of his stated responsibilities to other officers of the Church.

OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION: The Pastor is vested with authority by the members of Great Commission to officially represent the membership of the Church in all matters relating to the Church, which representation is binding upon the Church. In this capacity, the Pastor is accountable and amendable to the members.

The Pastor is vested with full authority to designate the depositories in which the funds of the Church will be deposited and from which withdrawals may be made. The Pastor will designate officials of the Church whose signatures will be required for the withdrawal of funds, endorse notes, endorse drafts, execute mortgage notes, deeds, and to serve as guarantors or otherwise; by their signatures pledge the assets of the Church for obligations of the Church.

The Pastor shall serve the Church for an indefinite period of time or until death. In the event of the untimely death, resignation, retirement, or incapacity of the pastor, the elders and deacons of the Church will coordinate with the congregation, the District Bishop and the Board of Directors of KACWM (Kings Apostle Church World Ministries) to determine who will serve as the interim Pastor until a full-time pastor is appointed. The incapacity of the pastor shall be determined by the elders and shall be determined only if the pastor seems unlikely to recover to a point to pastor effectively or if the time of incapacitation cannot be reasonably determined.

The Pastor shall only be removed if he shall become mentally incapacitated or for violations of scriptural moral principles which shall be voted on by the majority vote of the active members of the Church at a special meeting of the voting members of the church called by the Presiding Bishop or the District Bishop, along with the Board of Directors of KACWM (Kings Apostle Church World Ministries), who will determine if the pastor is no longer capable of effectively and morally shepherding the Church.

If the Pastor should become incapacitated or unable to carry on his work, he shall be paid his full salary as long as the active members agree to the same, and providing the Pastor has served no less than 15 continuous years. Any provisions of retirement and disability insurance shall lessen the financial responsibilities of the Church.

If the Pastor should die while in service of the Church, the Church shall bear his funeral expenses and shall make determination of the type of support his widow shall receive. The support of the widow shall not exceed 3 months unless the active members deem it necessary and appropriate.

ELDER: The Elders are appointed by and accountable to the Pastor. The Pastor will deem appropriate the number of Elders to constitute the Office of Elders within the Church. The Pastor will appoint Elders to be licensed or ordained, determine their tenure, and remove may them for only the following reasons:

1. Failure to attend Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25), failure to attend Sunday School (II Timothy 2:15), failure to partake of the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34), or failure to tithe (I Corinthians 16:2; Malachi 3:8-10).
2. Being guilty of spreading malicious gossip (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:8-11), and causing division amongst Church members (Romans 16:17), or insubordination to the Pastor (Hebrews 13:17).

3. Failure to repent of known sin and openly living an immoral lifestyle (I Corinthians 5:5, 13; II Corinthians 13: 2, 10).
4. Failure to abide in Articles IV, V and VI of this constitution.

The Elders shall, first and foremost, devote their time to prayer and the ministry of the Word by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine and practice, assisting the Pastor's duties of shepherding God's flock. The Elders must be able to teach/preach at the request of the Pastor, or in the absence of the Pastor. The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective members and recommend to the congregation those who fulfill the expectations for membership. The Elders shall oversee the work of the Deacons and appointed teams and members of the church. The Elders shall gently but firmly admonish and correct those in error, aiding and overseeing the process of church discipline as necessary. The Elders shall pray for the sick upon request and visit the congregation. The Elders are to sit in council with the Pastor on spiritual matters. The Elders will meet at a time called or designated by the Pastor.

Elders will not hold meetings in homes to discuss Church business. Any Elder found in violation of this may be suspended by the Pastor from the Office of Elders; and any meeting without approval of the Pastor shall be of no consequences.

DEACON: The Deacons are helpers to the Elders and/or Pastor (Acts 6:1-7); and are accountable to the Pastor. The Pastor will deem appropriate the number of Deacons to constitute the Deaconship of this Church. The Pastor will appoint Deacons, determine their tenure and remove them for the following reasons:

1. Failure to attend Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25), failure to attend Sunday School (II Timothy 2:15), failure to partake of the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34), or failure to tithe (I Corinthians 16:2; Malachi 3:8-10).
2. Being guilty of spreading malicious gossip (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:8-11), and causing division amongst Church members (Romans 16:17), or insubordination to the Pastor (Hebrews 13:17).
3. Failure to repent of known sin and openly living an immoral lifestyle (I Corinthians 5:5, 13; II Corinthians 13: 2, 10).
4. Failure to abide in Articles IV, V and VI of this constitution.

The Deacons, as those appointed to give assistance to the Elders and/or Pastor, are to visit those who are sick and shut-in and to sit in council with the Elders and/or Pastor on spiritual matters. The Deacons will meet at a time called or designated by the Elders and/or Pastor.

The Coordinator of the Deaconship will be appointed by the Pastor, and will serve in that capacity until deemed appropriate by the Pastor. Deacons will not hold meetings in homes to discuss Church business. Any Deacon found in violation of this shall be suspended from the Deaconship; and any meeting without approval of the Pastor shall be of no consequences.

CHURCH SECRETARY: Will be responsible for accurately maintaining all of the membership records of the Church, including the role of members and the various changes that impact members during their tenure with the church. Records involving inactive or departed members will be archived and moved into an electronic database when no longer needed. Proper documentation retention and destruction must be managed and maintained by the church secretary.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: The Financial Secretary/Finance Ministry Team will be officially responsible for accurately counting, recording membership contributions within the church database, ensuring that all financial obligations of the Church are timely met and providing the third party entity with the necessary financial records for auditing and bookkeeping purposes.

TRUSTEES: The management of the affairs of this church, and its membership shall be vested in the Pastor. The Trustees of the Church are to work along with the Pastor in governing the affairs of this Church. The Pastor shall appointment such Trustees as he shall determine. The Pastor by virtue of his position will automatically be a voting member of the Trustees.

A trustee may only serve on the board of trustees if they are an active-member who is in good standings with the church and has been voted by other active-members or officers of the church. The Pastor shall have an equal vote as an active member.

Trustees shall:

1. Serve for one year unless removed from office by the Pastor for the following reasons:
 - a. Failure to attend Worship Services (Hebrews 10:25), Sunday School (II Timothy 2:15), or participating in the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34).
 - b. Failure to tithe (Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:2).
 - c. Causing division (Matthew 18:15-19; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 6).
2. Perform the following functions:
 - a. The Trustees shall have a President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Appointment of these positions will be by the Pastor.
 - b. Have charge of property of the Church with emphases on its physical upkeep.

Any meeting held by the Trustees without prior consent of the Pastor will be of **NO EFFECT**. Meetings of the Trustees (including joint meetings of the Trustees and the Deacons) will be set at the discretion of the Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII. – MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIP ASSEMBLIES: The congregation shall meet every Lord's Day (Sunday) for Christian Education, and Public Worship of Almighty God; every second and fourth Tuesday for Prayer, and every Wednesday for Bible Study.

The Pastor, for the promotion of growth, may schedule other assemblies, seminars, and workshops for all believers; that they might grow in the grace, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

BUSINESS MEETINGS: The members of this Church shall meet semi-annually, in June and December on a date and time designated by the Pastor to assess the stewardship of Church affairs. The meetings will be announced from the pulpit and published in the weekly bulletin two consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled date.

SPECIAL MEETINGS: The Pastor, or his designate, may call special meetings; whenever situations arise that deem it necessary to meet. If it is of a non-critical nature, notice of the meeting will be placed in the

bulletin two weeks prior to the scheduled date. If it is of a critical nature that a meeting is held, the Deacons, Trustees, Elders, and Auxiliary Leaders may be summoned by phone or other electronic means and advised of the meeting. Members will be notified primarily by phone if the meeting is to take place within a twenty-four to forty-eight hour period. If the meeting is to take place outside of this window then official announcements, email, texting or other electronic messaging would be a means of reaching the membership.

STAFF AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE MEETING: All staff and ministry meetings shall have the prior approval of the Pastor before commencing. The scheduled date, time, and purpose of the meeting will be in the weekly bulletin two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting.

No programs, fellowships, or any special ministry activities shall be planned without the approval of the Pastor. All ministry programs planned will be consistent with the vision of the Church and edification of its members and those in the surrounding community.