

## **VICTOR COMMUNITY CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**1. We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity** (2 Timothy 3:16). It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct (1 Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.) It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity (John 20:31, 1 John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2).

**2. We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love** (1 Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4). He exists eternally in three coequal persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who act together in creation, providence and redemption (Genesis 1:26; 1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3).

**3. We believe the Son of God became a man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary** (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18). Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles and teaching (John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24). He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25). He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation (Philippians 2:5-11).

**4. We believe the Holy Spirit of God convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth** (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16). At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society (Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10).

**5. We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will** (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16). The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God (Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14). Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position (Revelation 12:7-9).

**6. We believe God created humans in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be stewards over His creation** (Genesis 1:26-28). As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect (Psalm

139:13-17). Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:9-18, 23).

**7. We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death** (2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21).

**8. We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members** (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5). Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility (Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28). The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20). It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Savior Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-5). The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

**9. We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society** (Matthew 5:13-16). In a Christ-like spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4). We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4).

**10. We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth** (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1). The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise (Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3). The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge humankind in righteousness (John 5:28-29). The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10). The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

# **CONSTITUTION FOR VICTOR COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## **ARTICLE I – INTRODUCTION**

The Articles of Incorporation for Victor Community Church of Victor, New York as filed with the Secretary of State constitute the legal basis of the establishment and operation of the organization. The purpose of this Constitution and By-laws are to provide further guidance of the normal functioning of the organization. Should any conflict exist between this Constitution and By-laws and the Articles of Incorporation, the Articles of Incorporation take precedence over the Constitution and bylaws.

The Victor Community Church of Victor, New York is organized as a non-profit Corporation under the laws of New York State. It shall be affiliated with the North American Baptists, Inc. with headquarters at Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

If for any reason Victor Community Church or its successor should cease to exist, all the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of all necessary expense hereof, be distributed only to Christian organizations that qualify under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

## **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

Victor Community Church exists to glorify God through the power of the Holy Spirit by making loving disciples of Jesus Christ who are devoted to God's Word, fellowship, worship, prayer, service, and evangelism both locally and globally.

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Reception of Members**

All applications for membership shall be made to the church through the Senior Pastor and a Deacon Board member, whose duty it shall be to make diligent inquiry into the spiritual fitness of the applicant, and if found satisfactory, approve them for membership. Admission shall be by the above and by one of the following:

- a. By baptism (immersion), on confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
- b. By letter, from another church of like faith and practice.
- c. By experience, on statement of Christian experience, if previously baptized by immersion on confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
- d. By restoration, on satisfactorily clearing cause of cessation of membership.

## **Section 2. Termination of Membership**

- a. By death
- b. By letter. Any member in good standing shall, on request, be granted a letter-of-transfer, by vote of the Deacon Board to any church of like faith and practice.
- c. By erasure. If any member of this church does not participate (when able to do so) for a period of six (6) months, the Deacon Board shall make a reasonable effort to contact them and to re-establish them into the fellowship. If, at the end of one (1) year, the member has not participated in the fellowship and program of the church, his or her membership shall be brought to the Deacon board for action. Erasure of membership shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Deacon Board.
- d. By Exclusion. In cases involving clear evidence of gross immorality such as reflects on the Christian character, and if worthy efforts of reclaiming without success have been made, the member shall be excluded by 2/3 vote of the Deacon Board and subsequent announcement to the church.
- e. By Request. Any member may have his/her name removed upon his/her request.

## **Section 3. Discipline and Grievances.**

- a. Discipline. The Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board shall be responsible for dealing with members who are living in clear violation of Biblical principles. Failing to receive satisfactory evidence of repentance and renewal, they shall report the offenders to the Deacon Board and shall be removed from membership.
- b. Grievances. In all cases of grievances between members, the members involved shall deal with the grievance in accordance with the principle laid down in Matthew 18:15-17.
- c. All matters shall be resolved within the context of the church.

## **Section 4. Voting**

Any member of the Church, age 18 or older shall have the right to vote. The method of voting shall be determined by the Deacon Board.

## **ARTICLE IV- OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

### **Section 1. General Requirements**

All officers and Board members shall be members of Victor Community Church of Victor, New York. No one shall hold more than one elective office. (This section may be waived until membership reaches 100).

## **Section 2. Pastor(s) or Elder(s)**

The Senior Pastor shall have responsibility for the daily mission and activities of the church. The Pastor(s) shall meet the qualifications set forth in Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:1-4. The senior pastor shall be responsible for the general spiritual oversight of the church, including, but not limited to the supervision of any and all assistant pastors and all administrative staff. He shall be an ex-officio member of all Boards and committees. He shall be responsible for church worship services. He shall perform the other duties ordinarily expected of a pastor. The pastor(s) shall be elected and called by the church. The election shall be announced two successive Sundays prior to the election. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the ballots cast shall be necessary to elect or remove the senior pastor. The senior pastor's oversight of the assistant pastors includes the authority to appoint any of them as ex-officio members of any committee or Board in his stead as he may deem appropriate. Termination of the office may be ended upon sixty (60) days notice on the part of the pastor or the church. Shorter notice may be given where pastor and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of church membership agree. Following the resignation of the senior pastor a pastoral search committee shall be appointed by the Deacon Board.

## **Section 3. Pastoral Staff**

Pastoral Staff: Pastoral staff shall be recommended to the church membership by the Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the ballots cast shall be necessary to elect pastoral staff. All staff shall be directly responsible to the senior pastor. Pastoral staff may be removed at the request of the senior pastor or by a majority vote of the congregation.

## **Section 4. Chair.**

The chair shall be elected by the church to serve a two-year term. The chair shall preside at all business meetings of the church and serve as chairman of the Deacon Board.

## **Section 5. Vice-Chair.**

The vice chair shall be elected by the church to serve a two-year term. The vice chair shall preside at all business meetings of the church and serve as chairman of the Deacon Board in the event that the Chair can not attend or serve.

## **Section 6. Secretary**

The secretary shall be elected for a two-year term. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the church and within two weeks make copies available to the members of the church. The secretary shall take care of the correspondence for the church, keep an accurate record of the membership of the church, and maintain files of all important documents at a central location specified by the Deacon Board. The secretary shall serve as secretary of the Deacon Board.

### **Section 7. Treasurer.**

The treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years for a two-year term. The treasurer shall receive and deposit monies for the church and all organizations that are part of the church. The treasurer shall be bonded. The books shall be maintained on the fiscal year of October through September. The treasurer shall prepare written cumulative quarterly reports for each fiscal year, and operate according to the approved budget and changes approved by the church. All books shall be reviewed annually or upon the resignation of the treasurer.

### **Section 8. Assistant Treasurer**

The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years for a two-year term and shall receive all records of individual contributions as well as total offerings and shall keep records of these contributions.

### **Section 9. Church Deacon Board**

The church Deacon Board is composed ex-officio of the chair, Senior Pastor, vice chair, secretary, treasurer, and one member elected at large from the congregation. The church Deacon Board shall have the oversight of the church. They shall serve a two-year term with as close to half being elected each year. They shall appoint a member of the Deacon Board to serve as vice-chair to chair the Deacon Board in the absence of the chair. The church Deacon Board shall appoint all committees as the needs arise e.g. Christian education, worship, missions, outreach, etc. Each committee shall select its chairperson. A member of the Deacon Board shall have oversight of each committee. If a Deacon Board member is removed or resigns, an interim Deacon Board member will be appointed by a two-third (2/3) vote of the Deacon Board to serve the remainder of the term for the vacated position.

### **Section 10. Elder Board**

At some point, it is the intent of Victor Community Church to bring on additional Pastors to lead specific ministries in the church as needed. The Pastors may be added, along with the Senior Pastor, to a newly created Elder Board. The intent of this Board is to keep watch over the local body of believers regarding spiritual matters. The Elder candidates shall be examined and recommended to the congregation by the Senior Pastor and Church Board. The Elders shall meet the qualifications set forth in Titus 1:5-9, I Timothy 3:1-7 and I Peter 5:1-4.

### **Section 11. Nominating Committee**

The Deacon Board shall elect a nominating committee.

## **ARTICLE V - CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Services of Worship**

Services of worship shall be held weekly

### **Section 2. Other services**

The church Deacon Board shall schedule baptismal services and communion services. The Senior Pastor, chair or the Deacon Board shall schedule all other services.

### **Section 3. Business meeting.**

The annual business meeting shall be held in October or November with the new officers taking office as of January 1 of the new year. Other business meetings shall be scheduled by the Senior Pastor, chair or by request of at least five members of the church. All business meetings shall be announced at least two weeks in advance, stating the time and place of the meeting.

### **Section 4. Quorum**

One-third (1/3) of the voting shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VI - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

We recognize Robert's Rules of Order Revised as our authority for resolving any question as to procedure.

## **ARTICLE VII - CORPORATE OFFICERS**

Individuals elected to the positions named below in accordance with this Constitution shall also serve as corporate officers and directors as outlined below:

The Chair shall be the President and Registered Agent

The Vice-Chair shall be the vice-president.

The Secretary shall be the Corporate Secretary.

The Church Treasurer shall be the Corporate Treasurer.

The Deacon Board of Directors shall be the four individuals holding the above offices.

### **Indemnification**

The church shall grant to its Deacon Board, Pastor(s), and employees and lay leaders ("indemnification parties") indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law, all in accordance with such policy or policies as the Deacon Board of establish. No amendments to this provision or to any such policy will be effective to decrease the amount or terms of indemnification of indemnified parties who took office prior to such change.

**ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution must be posted two weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be acted upon. It must be passed by two-thirds majority vote of those casting ballots.