



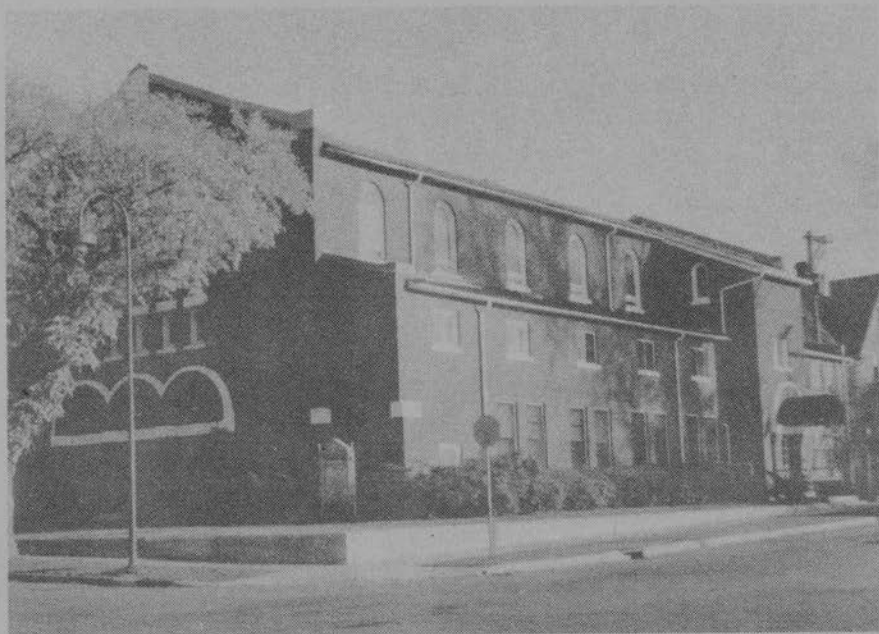
Martin O. Weddington Papers.

Copyright Notice:

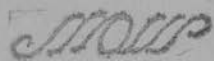
This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

M. O. W.

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH



Constitution and Bylaws



732 West Central Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
(612) 227-3220

Dr. Earl F. Miller, Pastor
Rev. Kathleen Gatson, Assistant Pastor

ARTICLE I - NAME

This church shall be called PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH of St. Paul, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II - COVENANT

Having been led as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and in comfort; to promote its prosperity and spiritually; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute regularly and cheerfully to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to seek the salvation of kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithfully in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense; but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay. We moreover, engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we may carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

ARTICLE III - CHARACTER

Section 1. Policy

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are among American Baptist, National Baptist, Inc. Convention Churches.

Section 2.

It receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein as in essential accord with Baptist beliefs.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Members shall be received upon confession of faith, on statement of Christian Experience and Baptism; they shall be received by letter from any church of like principles and spirit, provided they shall previously have been baptized.
- (b) Requests for membership shall come before the church only on recommendation of the Board of Deacons presented at any regular meeting of church worship service. Candidates for membership shall be received only by majority vote of members present at any stated meeting of the church; or church worship service; or if Students of any denomination attending Colleges or Universities within the area, request affiliation, may be accepted as Student members with no voting status, by the majority of members present; the tenure of this affiliation may continue as long as they remain as Students.

Section 2. Status

All members of this church who reside within an area admitting of regular attendance at church services and of pastoral visitation shall be deemed resident members; members too far removed for regular attendance and pastoral visitation shall be deemed non-resident members.

Section 3. Duties

Members, first of all are expected to be faithful in all spiritual duties essential to Christian life; and also attend regularly the services of this church, to give regularly for its support, and its charities, and to share in its organized work. Members who ignore these duties for six consecutive months, shall on recommendation of the Board of Deacons, be placed on the inactive list. The Board of Deacons is authorized to restore those whose names are on the inactive list to regular standing upon their compliance with the specified requirements concerning active membership.

Section 4. Rights

Such members as are in full and regular standing or who do not hold letters of dismissal and recommendation, or who are not Student members, and have attained the age of eighteen (18) years, such only may act and vote in the transaction of business of this church. By full and regular standing is meant those who are not on the inactive list or otherwise under discipline.

Section 5. Termination

The discontinuance of membership shall be subject to the principles and useage of Baptist Churches, and especial as follows:

- (a) Any person in good standing who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other BAPTIST Church is entitled to receive it on written request from its date, unless renewed, and this restriction shall be stated in the letter to that church.

- (b) If a member desires to join a religious body with which this church is not affiliated, the church may at his request grant a "CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING" and terminate his membership.
- (c) If a member of good standing requests to be released from his covenant obligations to this church for reasons which the church may finally deem satisfactory, after which it shall have patiently and kindly endeavored to secure his continuance in its fellowship, such request may be granted and his fellowship terminated.
- (d) The church may also, after due notice and hearing and kindly effort to make such action unnecessary, terminate the membership of such members who for the space of time not regularly worshipping with the church, or for the same space of time not contributing to its support according to the system prescribed by the church or in some way satisfactory thereto.
- (e) Should a member become an offense to this church and its good name by reason immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of covenant vows, the church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such a member to repentance and amendment.
- (f) Membership shall only be terminated (except by letter) at the meeting when the recommendation for such action is made.
- (g) All requests for termination of membership or action thereto, shall be presented in writing, and considered first, by the Board of Deacons who shall make recommendations to the church at any regular meeting or church service.
- (h) This church in accordance with the usages and regulations of American Baptist Convention and National Baptist Convention, Inc. Churches, looks with dis-

- (h) favor upon all social evils, and members are admonished to refrain from participation in all such acts of misconduct that are generally deemed unchristian.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Officers and Committees shall be as follows:

- (a) A Pastor to be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, notice of which shall have been given publicly for two successive Sundays. The election shall be by ballot, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present who are eligible to vote being necessary for a choice.
- (b) A Clerk, to be elected by a ballot at each annual meeting, to serve for one year.
- (c) A Board of Deacons, to be elected, at least one for every thirty (30) members, who when elected shall serve continually until removed by written recommendation of the Board and approved by the church or by his own written request.

Deacon and Deaconesses who have reached a state of partial incapacitation, shall be given the status of Deacon Emeritus or Deaconess Emeritus. There shall also be elected a number of Deaconesses corresponding in number to the number of Deacons, and in the same manner.
- (d) A Church Treasurer to be elected by ballot at each annual meeting to serve for one year.
- (e) A Treasurer of Benevolence, to be elected by ballot at each annual meeting to serve for one year.

- (f) A Financial Clerk, to be elected at each annual meeting to serve for one year.
- (g) A Board of Trustees, one third of whom shall be elected by ballot at each meeting to serve for 3 years.
- (h) A Superintendent of Sunday School, to be elected by ballot at each annual meeting to serve for one year.
- (i) A Church Council, consisting of the Pastor, Church Clerk, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and two (2) Deacons, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Financial Clerk, Treasurer of the Church, President of Church Choirs, Chairman of Music Committee, President of Youth Groups and Chairman of all other Auxiliaries of the Church. See Section 2, Paragraph (1) for Council Functions.
- (j) A Music Committee, consisting of five (5) members and president of each singing unit shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year.
- (k) A Finance Committee consisting of nine (9) members including Chairman of the Trustee Board, Financial Clerk, Treasurer of Church, Chairman of C.I. Drive, Treasurer of Benevolences and four (4) members of the Church at large, appointed by the Pastor.
- (l) A Nominating Committee, consisting of nine (9) members to be appointed at the Third Quarterly Business Meeting.
- (m) A Pulpit Committee representing all church organizations, including no less than three (3) Deacons for a total of fifteen (15) members. The Pastor shall appoint a Pulpit Committee following notice of his resignation.
- (n) A Women's Missionary Society consisting of all women members of the church. The Chairman to be elected by ballot annually.

- (o) A Men's Fellowship whose membership shall be enlisted from the membership of the church. The Chairman to be elected annually.
- (p) A Couples Club, whose members shall be married or engaged, and enlisted from the membership of the church. The Chairman Shall be elected by ballot annually.
- (q) A Young Adults Group, whose members shall be enlisted from the church membership. The Chairman to be elected annually.
- (r) Baptist Youth Fellowship, Junior and Senior Groups, whose members shall be enlisted from the church membership. The Advisor to be elected by ballot annually.
- (s) A Board of Christian Education consisting of thirteen (13) members, to be appointed annually by the Pastor, or by vote of the church on recommendation of the Nominating Committee.
- (t) Such other organizations and auxiliaries for the spiritual and social welfare of the membership.

Section 2. Duties

- (a) Pastor: The Pastor shall have charge of the spiritual welfare of the congregation; he shall preach the gospel, shall have in charge the stated services of public worship and shall administer the ordinances.

The "duties common to pastors of evangelical churches" are all inclusive. He shall conduct funerals, perform marriage ceremonies, teach, call, represent the church at the meetings of the association, the State Convention, and the National Convention and serve on all community projects where deemed advisable. The Pastor shall have the option of presiding at all meetings except when relating to himself, and on any occasion when the Pastor

- MSB*
- (a) does not preside, the Chairman of Deacon Board shall preside. In the event that the Chairman is absent he shall appoint the presiding officer from the membership. The Pastor shall have direct supervision of the Ministerial Students in cooperation with the various seminaries; all church staff and personnel shall come under his supervision; he shall also have general oversight of all Christian education activities of the Church. He shall be Ex-officio Chairman of all committees and auxiliaries.
- (b) The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all transactions at all the business meetings of the church, which shall be read for approval at the next following church business meeting. He shall keep a register of all members, with the date of admission, and how, dismissals, and death records, together with a record of baptisms. He shall notify all Officers, members of committees, and delegates, of their election and appointment. He shall issue letters of dismissal and recommendations voted by the church. He shall preserve on file all communications and written official reports. He shall have charge of the correspondence with non-resident members and other people or organizations outside of the church on behalf of the church. He, in conjunction with the Pastor shall have charge of the church seal.
- (c) The Board of Deacons shall with the Pastor, have general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. They shall direct all matters pertaining to membership in the church. The Deacons shall examine and recommend candidates for admission, shall provide for the supply for the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor; shall decide on objects for special collections when the church has not acted thereon, shall have general charge of matters of discipline, as provided in ARTICLE IV, and shall direct the distribution of the Fellowship Fund and other monies given for the relief of the poor.

- MSB*
- (c) The Deacons shall provide for the Lord's Supper and assist its administration. They shall make a report at the annual meeting of the church on all matters under their care. They shall hold monthly meetings, The Deaconesses, as far as is compatible, shall work in conjunction with the Deacons, in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the church.
- she* (d) The Financial Clerk shall keep a financial record of all monies received in the church treasury. He ~~or~~ shall keep a financial record of all members and contributions to the church. At the close of each Quarter, he shall send to each member and regular contributor a financial statement. By virtue of his office, he is a member of the Finance and Auditing Committees.
- (e) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all monies received by him for support of public worship or any department of church work. He shall bank all monies received from the church, in the name of the church, in an account distinct from all other accounts and make payment by check only. He shall make a written report in detail at each Quarterly meeting, of all receipts and expenditures for the year, properly audited by the Auditing Committee of the Church. The Treasurer shall be bonded.
- (f) The Treasurer of Benevolence shall keep an accurate record of all monies raised for object of Christian benevolences, to be paid by him to the several persons or societies entitled thereto. He shall keep these accounts separate and apart from other accounts, and all checks drawn shall be in the name of the church. He shall make a written report in detail at each Quarterly meeting of the church, of all receipts and expenditures, and at the Annual meeting shall bring in a written report properly audited by the Auditing Committee. He shall make a monthly report to the Board of Deacons.

(g) The Superintendent of Sunday School shall have general oversight of the work of the Sunday School and present in writing an annual report to the church on the condition of the Sunday School with recommendations for the ensuing year.

(h) The Trustees shall hold in trust all property of the church. They shall have actual care of the church building and all other property of the church, but shall have no power to buy-sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing such action. They shall hold regular meetings monthly at a time specified at the first of the fiscal year.

? (i) The Church Advisory Council shall meet the Thursday prior to the Quarterly meeting, for action on such business as may come before it or upon recommendations of the Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, or any other Board or Auxiliary of the Church. The council shall have the power to fill all vacancies until the next succeeding election except as otherwise provided by the constitution.

The Council shall have authority to formulate measures of general policy and to recommend such to the church for adoption.

The council shall have authority to take such matters as are deemed of pertinent or emergency nature, these actions to be endorsed by the church at the next business meeting thereafter.

(j) The Music Committee shall have general oversight of the church music, and Senior, Youth, Children and Gospel Chorus, and it shall have power to enter in contract with musicians in accordance with the policy and budget adopted by the church.

It shall be the duty of the Music Committee to submit to the church at each Quarterly meeting recommendations concerning the music for the ensuing

(j) quarter. The Music Committee will meet each Friday of the quarter prior to the quarterly business meeting.

(k) The Finance Committee shall devise and put in operation ways and means for raising the necessary funds for the support of the church. It shall supervise the disbursement of funds as appropriated by the church, and shall make such reports to the Church Council or to the Church Corporation, as shall be required by either or both of them.

In cases where Committees or Auxiliaries of the church desire to draw on the Church Treasurer, a draft drawn by the Financial Clerk, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or the Pastor of the Church.

The Finance Committee shall hold regular meetings on each Monday prior to the Quarterly business meeting. Special meetings may be called when necessary

(l) The Auditing Committee or professional auditors shall audit the books of all fiscal officers of the church, at the close of the fiscal year, and shall make a report upon the same at the Annual Meeting of the church, in January.

(m) The Board of Ushers shall serve as a reception committee at the public services of the church, and shall have charge of seating the congregation, the collection of offerings and the ventilation of the building.

(n) The Nominating Committee shall present to the church at the Special Meeting in December, a list of nominees for all offices and committees in the church for which an election shall be due under the terms of this constitution. This committee shall adopt such methods as may to it seem proper to obtain from the different members of this church a general impression as to their preferences for persons to fill various offices; such expressions being intended to aid the Committee in making its report.

- (n) In case any person nominated by the Committee shall refuse to serve, the Committee shall bring in other nominations at the January meeting when their election shall take place.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS AS A CORPORATION

Section 1. For Worship

- (a) Public services shall be held regularly, on the Lord's Day, special services afternoon and evenings on the Lord's Day. Prayer and worship services shall be held some evening of each week.
- (b) The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.
- (c) Occasional religious meetings may be assigned by the Pastor, or on vote of the church.

Section 2. For Business

- (a) At any regular meetings of the church for worship, the church may without special notice, act upon the reception of members, or upon the dismissal of members to other churches, and upon the appointment of delegates to councils or conventions, but not upon other business.
- (b) The Pastor may, and shall, when requested by the Deacons, Trustees, or any other Committee, call from the pulpit special business meetings, the particular object of which being clearly stated in the notice.

Special meetings of the church shall also be called by the Church Clerk upon written application of any five (5) adult members in full and regular standing, specifying the object thereof. This notice shall be read at the regular service of the Lord's Day next preceding the day fixed for such meeting. No special meeting shall be held on the same day on which the notice is given unless other-

- (b) wise stated in the Constitution.

- (c) On the Wednesday evening following the second Sunday in January, April, July and October, the church shall hold a regular Quarterly Business Meeting, at which time the Treasurer of the church and the Treasurer of Benevolence shall make an itemized report of all financial transactions for the Quarter which closed with the last preceding month. Their bank books should have been balanced to the satisfaction of the Finance Committee. Such other business may be transacted as the church may see fit.
- (d) A Special Meeting shall be called for the Wednesday following the first Sunday in December, at which time the budget for the coming year shall be adopted by the church. Also at this meeting the Nominating Committee shall make its first report. Such other business may be transacted as the church may see fit.
- (e) The Annual Meeting of the church as a corporation shall be held on the Wednesday evening following the second Sunday in January, at which time the annual report from all departments of the church shall be presented, and such Officers may be elected as may be brought in by the Nominating Committee. Such other business may be transacted at this meeting as may seem proper to the church. The Auditing and Nominating Committees shall be discharged at this meeting.
- (f) At the Annual, Quarterly and all Special meetings, twenty-five (25) members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII - CORPORATE SEAL

Pilgrim Baptist Church (Organized 1863) legally incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota adopts as its corporate seal, a circle containing the words, "Pilgrim Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minn., May 25, 1867*"

The Corporate Seal of the Church shall be administered only by the Pastor or the Church Clerk on all official church documents. In the absence of the Pastor and the Church Clerk, the church seal may be administered by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees or Deacons.

The Corporate Seal shall be kept in the vault of Pilgrim Baptist Church when not in use.

*Incorporated as the Trustee of the Colored Pilgrim Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minnesota, May 25, 1867.

Amended Articles date January 3, 1936.

Filed January 13, 1936 to Amend the Articles of the Aforesaid Church to read: PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of members and voting at any Annual Meeting of the church, or at a meeting specially called for the purpose, the proposed amendment being inserted in the call; but no change shall be made in ARTICLE II or III, entitled "COVENANT" and "CHARACTER" except at an Annual Meeting, and by two-thirds vote of all members entitled to vote, said proposed change having been laid before the church in writing at a business meeting not less than one month

before the Annual Meeting, and read from the pulpit on the Lord's Day next succeeding proposal.

The Church Council may draw up and add to this Constitution such By-Laws as it may see fit, the same to be presented to the church for adoption before becoming authoritative.

BY LAWS OF PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

ARTICLE I - RULES

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the Church in all cases to which they are applicable provided they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By Laws of the Church.

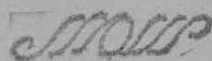
ARTICLE II - AFFILIATIONS

Pilgrim Baptist Church shall be affiliated with the American Baptist Convention, and may be dually aligned with the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. or such other Baptist Bodies that promote the religious tenets of the faith.

The Church shall be affiliated with all Christian Bodies such as the Baptist World Alliance, National Council of Churches, State Council of Churches and Area Council of Churches as well as Baptist State Conventions whose world view and practice may be considered to be Evangelism, Social Concern and Action, and World Outreach and Ecumenism.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

M. O. W.

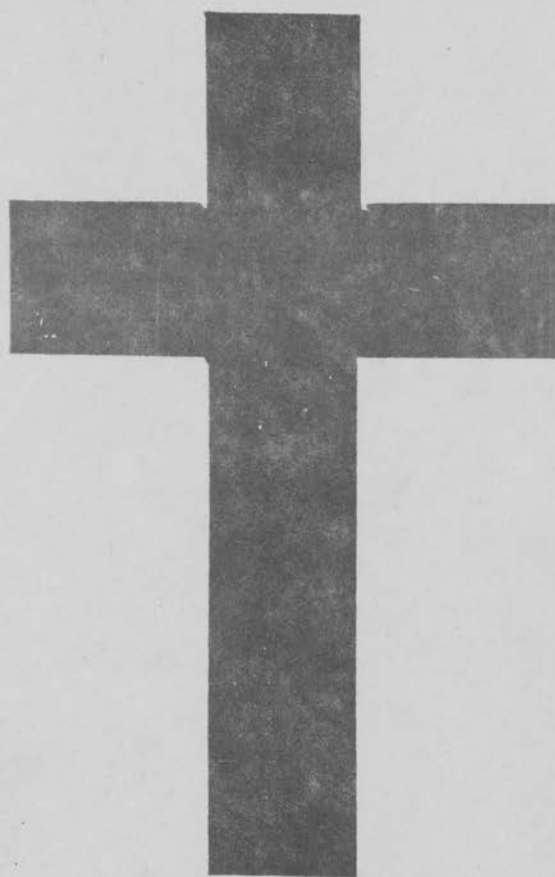


Our Mission Statement

The mission of this church shall be to spread and maintain the Gospel of Jesus through (a) worship, preaching and teaching, (b) support of Christian youth and development of its members and others, (c) administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, and (d) practice of Christian benevolence and service throughout the world.

WELCOME


ADDRESS



RESPONSES

Welcome Address

Minister of Celebration

As we travel on the long highway we never want
what pleasures await us. We are constantly
in the midst of the very great pleasure that is
the joy of the journey.

We are welcome to the great journey of
the journey of the journey.



REV. B. C. GREEN

816 Willis Street

Texarkana, Texas 75501

Pastor, St. Paul Baptist Church

CONTENTS

	Page
Welcome Address	2-3-4
Response	5
Resolutions	6-7-8
Obituaries	9
Church Covenant	10
Basis of Covenant	11
Church Anniversary	12

Welcome Address

Master of Ceremonies,

As we travel up the kings highway we never know what pleasures await us. Words are inadequate for me to express the very great pleasure that is mine to tell you that you are Welcome.

We are welcome because the word Welcome says something to us.

W — It is well for us that you come to us.

E — We know that you will entertain us.

L — We feel that you love and have shown it.

C — You show that you have the spirit of Cooperation.

O — You have shown us that much and are on the forward march.

M — You maintain the cause you represent.

E — You are willing to endure to the end.

Then to have you come to us in times like these, we could not but welcome you. There are other things that you could have done, or other places you could have been, but you put them aside and come to us. We appreciate your coming to us. To tell you that you are welcome is a pleasure. If I had ten thousand tongues we would gladly use them all to say Welcome to you.

Welcome Address

To the M. M. Ceremonies,—

Life gives us many golden opportunities of happy occasions and the signal honor to me to say word of welcome to you. Of course we should always feel that we are welcome to the house of the Lord and no doubt you have been greeted by friends and acquaintances since you came, and looking forward to your coming here at this time and it was agreed that I should speak their sentiment to you.

All gatherings need the atmosphere of welcome. We give you this welcome with a heart glowing.

All of us may never meet again, but we behold each other in the number that John saw, coming up through great tribulations with our robes of righteousness. Then when that roll is called may we hear our Saviour say: Welcome, Welcome, come ye blessed of my Father, enter into the joys of the Heaven, We welcome you.

If I were to stand here all day posing the grace of Venus and using the language of Plato I could not say any more than I have already said, you are Welcome.

"Welcome Address"

To the Ceremonies, Pastor, etc.
It has been said in this modern age one does not need

an welcome address, But we here at The
We feel different, because of some of the old customs are for better than some of the new things that we are using today. To say to people like you, that you are welcome will never grow out of date, you are friends, friends are always welcome.

I do not say this because I have been chosen to extend this welcome, because I may not be able to impress that fact as I desire and yet what I say to you will be sincere from my heart.

Welcome is a little word but implies a great deal because it matters not where you go and how beautiful the things around you may be but if the spirit of welcome does not seem to be there your stay will be an unpleasant one.

This Church does not boast of a costly, spacious, building to welcome you to but you will find here a Christian God sent man, the Pastor and deacons filled with the Holy Spirit, well organized membership and I speak for them all and say to you that you are Welcome, Welcome, Come again.

WELCOME ADDRESS

Master or Mistress of Ceremonies, Pastor, Officers, members and friends:

We have looked forward to this occasion with great anticipation, because we knew it would be one of pleasure and interest. We appreciate the part that we have been asked to play on this program, To say to you that you are Welcome here is a Pleasure.

We are always glad to have people come to us, especially people who are pressing forward to the mark of the high calling and we feel that you are such people. We have heard of your work and we know your worth, and we deem it an honor to have you here and we can truthfully say that you are welcome.

I am speaking for

We have nothing great to offer you but naturally it gives one ease and pleasure to know that they are welcome.

It matters not how costly the building nor how beautiful the furnishing, if the spirit of welcome is not there it is not a pleasant one. We want you to feel at ease here with us while you are here.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and arranged a special place for man but he made him welcome, hence all down the ages of time it has been thought that we should always impress those who come to us that they are welcome.

We welcome you here because of the contribution that you are making to the world and we want you to know that you are a part of us, and we are just one big family in the sight of God. We are working for one common cause in his name.

Welcome Address

(Special Day, Mother's, Children's Day)

To the M. C.:

We have been waiting for this opportunity for some time and the Master has seen fit for us to come together today. We feel highly honored to have the privilege and to be given the task to welcome you here. This is a privilege that a queen would envy; To welcome you here today.

We feel that your coming here today is approved in the sight of God because of your worth to the world, and as the spring winds blow their gentle breeze and the flowers nod their heads to and fro, they are gladly telling you that you are welcome here. Welcome is a little word, but it carries much weight and in days like these where so many things seem to call from every side of life. We feel it is befitting to tell those who have heard our call that they are welcome. The Pastor with his pleasing expression beaming forth on his brow, bespeaks his welcome to you and the deacons and members are united on the Golden Rule, Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you and course that says to you from them that you are welcome. The Choir is joyfully singing its welcome to you. The ushers take pride and it is a pleasure to them to make you comfortable while you are here; that means Welcome, We, the Membership individually and collectively have expressed our joy to know that we were coming, hence you can readily see that you are extended a cordial welcome by all of us. May these few words be as bank notes endorsed by every member and the Pastor of the church saying that you are just Welcome as can be, come again.

Response

Master of Ceremonies, etc.:

As Christians and workers for the Master, we always feel a deep sense of reverence when we enter the house of the Lord, and we do feel Welcome after having been given the warm hand clasp of the members here. It has brought joy to our souls we can say with the Psalmist I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord.

And today we enter this great Church wrapped in the loveliness of God's Holy Spirit and heard those words of welcome expressed from the depth of a sincere heart and listened to the sweet songs of Zion we realize fully that we are Welcome.

We assure you that we have come for the sole purpose of doing our bit to help to make your program what you desire it to be and we feel so welcome that we shall not wait for a special invitation but we shall come again when an opportunity presents itself.

While wars are raging and hatred deems to be in almost every place it is a blessed privilege to come where peace and pleasure reigns, and to be told that you are welcome.

Of course as Christians we should always feel welcome when we come to the house of the Lord but when someone has taken time to pick out choice words and impress you with the fact they are from the heart you feel much better.

I have been honored with the task to speak for the friends and visitors who have come and I am saying for them that we are ready to accept your welcome. And we have come for just one purpose to do whatever we can to help you to make your program a success.

Response to Welcome

To the M. C.:

We were thrilled as we listened to the eloquent words of welcome from a faithful worker and Christian, and we feel that we are in the midst of friends here today.

Your cordial welcome does not surprise us, We have felt the warm spirit of the members of this church.

In giving us such a hearty welcome and making us

feel free to have our say we feel that it is our duty to let you know how we receive it.

Your unstinted welcome inspires us to do more for the Master. We find ourselves very much refreshed when you are in the presence of friends like you. Feeling past thoughts, past opinions change, but what you do will last forever.

It is well to think well, but it is divine to act well, this is what you have done here today with your acts. There are those who have made sacrifices to come to you today, but we come to encourage you in your efforts for Christ.

You are Christians, so are we. Christianity has won the heart of the world because it has Jesus Christ as its sponsor, Love for its aim.

We accept your welcome and assure you that our presence here will enhance the splendid relation that already exists between your church and the other churches represented here today. We truly trust that our presence will prove to be satisfactory to all concerned.

We will always remember your kind words of Welcome, and in return for them we shall pray to God for your every continued success, We accept and thank you for inviting us.

Thank you for your welcome.

Resolutions

Whereas, God in his infinite wisdom has called from his earthly labors our dear beloved,
Member who passed from this earthly scene
and Whereas has served in
of this church He gave his life to the Master. He had an encouraging words and a friendly smile for all of those me along life's way.

We pause here to express our appreciation for the Christian service that rendered to this church and community.

In recognition of faithful service we offer this tribute to his family,

God came into his garden.
One he made with his own hands
The sun was shine on each plant

Young and old throughout all lands
In our Church He came looking for a
Pausing here He found one ready
To be taken at that hour.

Resolved further, That we bow in humble submission
to the will of our Heavenly Father who knows best, we
extend to the sorrowing family our heartfelt sympathy in
their loss and commend them to Him who is able and
willing to heal all sorrow.

Resolved further that we will strive to emulate.....
examples in gentleness, patience, love, and courage and
unwavering faith.

We desire that a copy of this resolution be sent to the
family and to paper and a copy placed on this church
record.

Sorrowful submitted,

.....

.....

.....Pastor

Resolutions

"A few more years shall roll, a few
more seasons come and we shall be
with those that rest sleep within the tomb"

Whereas Almighty God in his infinite wisdom has seen
fit to call from our midst our beloved co-worker
a worker who was crowned with noble deeds and a useful
life and attracted to himself many friends because of his
Or her straightforwardness and willingness to help his less
fortunate friend. He lived a cheerful life and it was always
joy and an inspiration to meet and to talk with him. He
was well informed in the Bible and he found pleasure in
discussing Bible lessons and his friends and acquaintances
frequently sought his advice. He supported it liberally with
his means. We feel that the uplifted Christian influence of
his life will ever live.

Whereas, He was so deeply interested in the welfare
of the church and was so careful to see to it that the work
was done satisfactory and that there would be no complaint
so far as was in his power and,

Whereas his passing is great loss to our

we being deprived of his pious council we shall ever cherish
his memory be it, Resolved (1) That we extend our heartfelt
sympathy to his family (2) That we the
thank God for his life and for having the pleasure to work
with this great person. (3) That we strive to emulate his
admirable traits; (4) That we deplore the loss but bow
in humble submission to the will of our heavenly Father
and console ourselves by remembering that the sky re-
mains parted and we can trace the passage and follow
him within the gate.

Sorrowful submitted,

.....

.....

.....Pastor

Resolutions

How sweet it is at evening after a long and well spent
day to close the eyes into slumber and rest from the toll
of the day.

It is doubly sweet at the close of a well spent life to
turn one's face toward the sunset and quietly sink into the
rest that knows no waking except in the presence of God.

Such was the passing of after a useful
life. This life came to an end Now has gone
to get their reward.

And to thank the heavenly Father for his Christian
life.

We recommend then to ever lean upon the everlasting
arm of Jesus who can and will heal all sorrows; if we will
submit to his will, remembering that we can go and must
to some day, to meet our loved ones who has gone on.

Sleep on and take your rest, we loved you but God
love you best.

.....

.....

.....Pastor

Obituary

We have come together today at the call of death and even that is constantly occurring around us every day.

Death stares us in the face on all sides. Death open every day. The fields that were green a few days ago are now brown. God teaches in His word, "All flesh is as grass and all the glory of man as flowers of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof fadeth away.

Death of a Christian is moving out of this cold friendless dark world into eternal home that is not made by hand but eternal into haven.

.....
 was born was converted
 joined the Church and was baptized was
 an earnest Christian worker always ready to do whatever
 need to be done for the Master.

Obituary

A busy life came to a close 19.... when
 was called to take his rest.

He was born to

Came

Was married to

To this union was born

Was converted Joined

and was baptized by the

He lives to mourn his passing

.....

.....

Sleep on and take your rest, we loved you but God loved
 you best.

The Church Covenant

The Church Covenant is a voluntary agreement by members of a Baptist Church whereby they promise to conduct their lives in such way as to glorify God and promote the ongoing of His Church. It clearly outlines the obligations of church membership.

Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort to promote its prosperity, and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, 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 spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

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

Basis of Covenant

The obligations as members are scriptural, as may be seen from the following study.

I. Salvation and Baptism (1:11-12; Matt. 28:19)

II. Duties to the Church

1. To walk together in Christian love (John 13:34-35)
2. To strive for the advancement of the Church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (Phil. 1:27; II Tim. 2:15; II Cor. 7:1)
3. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline (Heb. 10:25; Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 11:23-26)
4. To give it pre-eminence in my life (Matt. 6:33)
5. To contribute cheerfully and regularly (I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:6-7)
6. To carry my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live. (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28)

III. Duties in Personal Christian Living.

1. To maintain family and secret devotion, II Thess. 5:17-18)
2. To religiously educate the children (Tim. 3:15; Deut. 6:4-7)
3. To seek the salvation of the lost. (Acts 1:8; Matt. 4:19)
4. To walk circumspectly in the world and to be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment (Eph. 5:15; Phil. 2:14-15)
5. To avoid gossip and excessive anger (I Peter 2:21; Col. 3:8)
6. To abstain from sale or use of liquors. (Eph. 5:18; Heb. 2:15)
7. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (Titus 2:14)

IV. Duties to Fellow Members

- To watch over one another (I Peter 1:22)
- To pray for one another (James 5:16)
- To aid in sickness and distress (Gal. 6:2)
- To Cultivate sympathy and courtesy (Peter 3:8)
- To be slow to take offense always ready for reconciliation (Eph. 4:30-32)

* * * * *

Church Anniversary

For years this church has stood as a sentinel pointing men and women, boy and girls to the Heavenly way. In the midst of world turmoil, in the face of strife and war and at times when world ideals are crumbling this church has been marking forward carrying the banner high for Jesus Christ who is the captain. For he has said upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

This church has been pastored by such God like, devout Christian preachers as

..... who have preached the gospel so that every one could hear of Jesus Christ know of his goodness and see his works in the lives of men.

Persecution has not crushed the church. Power of Satan has not stopped marching. Time has not abated the Church's force. The abuses and treason of enemies have not shaken the Church's stability for the church is founded on a rock and that rock is Jesus.

This church stand in years come as it has stood these years a living monument of a Saviour who died that all men might live.

CHRISTMAS

If we would be happier this Christmas season, we should do well to remember, that it is not a matter of how much we will be able to get for ourselves, but rather how much we will be able to give others will be the thing that will determine our happiness.

We shall know the best gift to give when we take into account the immortal line of Ralph Waldo Emerson which says: "Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself."

It has been said by one: "There is nothing I can give you which you have not; but there is much that, while I cannot give, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take heaven. No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in the present instant. Take peace. The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within reach is joy. Take joy."

And so at this Christmas time, I greet you with the prayer that for you and yours, now and forevermore, the day breaks and the shadow will all flee away.

CHRISTMAS SONG

I'll give to mother the story to tell
Of the first Christmas, long ago;
She seems to know best how to tell it because
Her love brings her near Him, you know.
Christmas bells were ringing,
The stars shone in the sky,
And Mary fair was singing,
Our Saviour's lullaby
She sang a song of mother's love
All through that night so long:
That's why the song of Christmas time
Is always mother's song.

Origin unknown

THANKSGIVING

To The Presiding Officer, Other Officers, Fellow Christians, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It should now be our humble duty to pause before our God and just thank Him for the privilege of being alive and able to communicate, one with the other on this "Thanksgiving Day." It is a blessing more than I am able to express to have the high honor of addressing such an argus body as you, on such a significant occasion as this. As we stand here in the presence of the Almighty God, angels and this assembly, may we invite you to pitch your mental tents on the following Psalm:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; who satisfy thy mouth with good things." Ps. 103:2, 5.

From this passage of Scripture that comes to us drenched in the tears of a million contributions, steeped in the prayers of many a saint, stained with bloodshed in the sands of the Coliseum, expounded by the greatest intellects and worn with the fingers of agony and death. We finite creatures of a moment, we graveyard travelers, we the highest order of earth and the lowest order of heaven can readily see that God has done enough to employ and be rewarded with our thanks.

God has done so much for everyone of us in fact, that we should be able to write as Frederick Ozanam when told of his approaching death he said: "O God, if Thou shouldst chain me to the bed for the rest of my life, it would not suffice to thank Thee for the days I have already lived. If these words are the last I will ever write, let them be a hymn to Thy goodness.

We are assembled here today because we believe in God, and know that He is worthy to be praised. We are here because gratitude to the Almighty is a carry over from our fathers of old, and because it is our soul's sincere desire that this kind of celebration will be carried over to our children and our children's children.

In essence "Thanksgiving" is as old as the spirit of worship. There have for a long time been "Thanksgiving" celebrations among people, even the pagan races of mankind. The old Hebrew Feast of The Tabernacle goes back to the time when the first men started realizing their dependence on a higher power, and wanted to express thanks to that power for the fruits of the earth which kept them alive.

Our "Thanksgiving" is the oldest American holiday known and practiced. It dates as far back as 1620. "Thanksgiving started with the history of this great civilization. It was recognized and appreciated by the inhabitants of this country in the early morning of it's conception down to this present day.

The Pilgrim Fathers were thankful. If our nation has ever had a people that could be classified as being underprivileged people, the Pilgrim Fathers were those people. They had on homes, and all the transportation they had were their feet. They had but few clothing. Most of their food was secured from the forest and waters. They had no money that could be used here, they had no neighbors but savages. The only outside communication they had were letters which took months for delivery. But in spite of all the inconvenience, they were possessed with thankful hearts. We must be thankful for that courage. We are certainly a better people because of their faith.

They arrived too late the first year to make a crop, this caused them to have a doleful winter, they were forced to live on five grains of corn per day. We have come a long way from their richness in faith in the Almighty God despite their poverty in worldly good.

Before the first "Thanksgiving in this our America, the Pilgrim Fathers were among strangers and enemies. They had three thousand miles of ocean depths that separated them from their friends, familiarities, and the way of life. They were poor in things, but they were rich in the greatest of all human assets. They had the courage to think and the will to work, and an unshaken faith in the Almighty God. They had no governmental Social Security, but what they had was far better, they had glorious spiritual security.

The founding fathers of our country made so many noble contributions to our way of life until it is almost inconceivable to think of our even attempting to celebrate this day without them. May we too leave our footprints on the sands of time, that the generations that will follow us will not dare to call on their resources when giving gratitude to God and leave us off their program.

I think it rather befitting that we bear in mind that "Thanksgiving Day" is set aside only for the purpose of celebrating. "Thanksgiving" itself should be an unending attitude for all recipients of God's mercy. We all should assume the same attitude of one who said "I am desposed to say grace upon twenty other occasions in the course of a day beside my dinner. I want a form for setting out upon a very pleasant walk for a moon light ramble, for a friendly meeting or a solved problem. Why have none for books,

those spiritual reports, a grace before Milton, a devotional exercise proper to be said before reading.

On this matter of "Thanksgiving" says Burton Hilles "I don't think the Lord wants Pompous proclamation of thanks on one Thursday in November as much as He wants a little humble service from us every day in the year. If we give this service every day, then and only then are we able to completely celebrate the "Thanksgiving festival."

We are considered to be great Americans upon our ability to be a generous people. I think we should take care that we do not fail to be generous in our thanksgiving to God as we are so productive in sharing with others the gifts He has shared with us. Are we then called on to be thankful Thanksgiving Day? No, we are called upon to be thankful 365 days in the year.

And now, as we bring this message to a close, let us consider a lesson that is to be learned from an illustration of a little old lady whose pastor visited her on "Thanksgiving Day", wondering if she was well taken care of. Knowing that she was deaf, the pastor knocked at her door and then stepped into her living room where he saw her bowed in prayer over a very meager meal. Just before she concluded she said, "I thank thee God, for all this and for Thyself besides."

On a snowy day in the nation's capital city, Washington, D. C. a very fair minister of one of the great denominations of this country was nervous and upset because of his inability to crank his new Cadillac automobile. Enroute by foot to his pulpit that bleak Sunday morning mad with the world and almost everything in it he reports having met a bum who was scraping morsels of food from the garbage cans on the streets, he said to the minister: "Chief, isn't it wonderful for us to have such a good God to serve like we have? These thankful words from the tramp caused the minister to rid himself of his frowns, cheer up and go to his pulpit with a heart filled with praise. How can I be downcast with a Cadillac that will not start, and this tramp grateful to God with no food to eat?

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift, II Cor. 9:15.

For each new morning with its light
Father we thank Thee
For rest and shelter of the night
Father we thank Thee
For health and food, for love and friends
For everything Thy goodness sends
Father we thank Thee.

Ralph Wando Emerson

Presentation of a Guest Speaker

To the presiding officer; my fellow yokemen, Christian friends, ladies and gentlemen. It is with deepest sense of inadequacy and the proudest sense of gratitude that I have accepted the great task of presenting such a noble guest as we have today. I can say without the least degree of equivocation that he is one of the tallest oaks in the (gospel forest) (or teaching or executive or whatever the case may be). We can all congratulate ourselves for even having the honor or having such a personality in our midst and on our program. We know there are many communities just as great as we are that is not so blessed in this respect.

Our guest is a man of the highest magnitude, he is one of sublime character. He is a man of no mean repute, but one of characteristic distinction and of our higher joy. He is a man that is well prepared to do what he is called to do, when he is called upon to do on this occasion. He has been ably trained in the arts and science of his profession or calling, he holds the following degrees (A. B. etc. from) and has had extensive experience in his field, having served for the past years as and is now serving as

The accomplishments of our guest are too numerous to mention in this presentation, we will therefore name only a few, he has helped his community by having a broad outlook on life to such an extent he does not pass judgment until all the facts are in, he has succeeded in furnishing dynamic leadership to community youth. He has been instrumental in removing a deal of mass and class hatred that once existed and was a menace to social life.

Since we have had the intelligence that this would be the man that we should have for this hour and occasion, we have been looking forward with the deepest anxiety and the greatest anticipation for his arrival. We are proud of him because he represents a humanity uplifting organization, and because he shares our views on many problems. We are proud of him because he is our guest and our friend. So it gives me no small amount of pleasure to present and introduce to you our guest, (Give his name, position, etc.).

Presentation of a Community Leader

I am stricken with a woeful sense of inadequacy as I attempt to present or introduce this speaker tonight. For truly he is a man of outstanding leadership ability, he is a dynamic public speaker with a great deal of appreciation and personal appeal.

He is the kind of man who has seen the heights and the depths of our country. He is acquainted with the low and the high places morally and civically, for he is in the leadership of commercial and industrial life of our community.

He is the kind of man that Kipling spoke of, who can walk with Kings and Potentates and never lose the common touch, he has the ability to meet with triumph and disaster, and treat the two the same.

He is ours and we are proud of him because of his accomplishments and his love and interest for our people. He is taking time to stop on his journey and build a bridge over a wide and deep chasm that could be dangerous for the youth of tomorrow. He is engaged in the business of building a bigger and stronger bridge than the one he crossed over, strong enough that the generations who are to come after him will recognize the fact that a great builder has passed this way before them.

It is a great contribution to our city to have here, here, and it is a great pleasure for me to be allowed the privilege of presenting him to this august body tonight. I have looked forward with the greatest anticipation and the deepest anxiety for this moment to arrive.

He is a Moses in our wilderness of life, leading us to untold heights, he has lost and forgot himself and his disadvantages that surrounds his duty. He is now marching toward a greatness all men achieve through service to their fellowman and to their God. Ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you

"A Portrait of Our Pastor"

First of all, may I say, to know Rev. is to love him! I was not afforded the privilege of being a member of at its beginning, but for the years that I have been here, I have found him to be the very essence of the "Christian Love" about which he preaches, expressed in and through the many acts of kindness and concern directed toward me, the members of and the community of

Each of us ought to be grateful to God for granting unto us the ministry of such a wonderful man as our Pastor, one who has been born anew of the spirit of God, with the assurance that God has called him to be both: "Preacher of the Gospel and Shepherd to the Flock." We should express our deepest gratitude to him for his ministry as "Preacher of the Gospel," for as Paul has so well stated:

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"
(Rom. 10:14)

We should be equally grateful to him for his ministry as "Shepherd of the Flock," for as a "Spirit Filled" shepherd, he has borne witness to the fruits of the Spirit, which are: Love, he has shown ome through the many acts of kindness and corn for the Church, his friends and family; joy, he has found joy and satisfaction, serving humanity, which in his life and the source of happiness; peace, peace has been his watchword, for when the tempests blew upon the stormy

waters of Reverend speaks as did the Master of old spoke to the winds and the waves upon the Sea of Galilee, "Peace be still" . . . and after the storm, then the calm; longsuffering, he has demonstrated the ability to "suffer long" in the building of this Church from the "humble tent", to the grand and glorious structure of beauty in which we are now privileged to worship. Longsuffering was the guiding light which directed him in the pathway of knowledge as his family suffered along with him in his efforts to "study to show himself approved, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth; gentleness, he has been gentle in his dealings with many of our personal problems, his wise counsel in domestic difficulties to assuring those who mourn they shall be comforted: goodness, he is a good man. God in the sense

of his accepting the responsibility of the many challenges and tasks facing him, and doing them with a happy heart instead of a "disgruntled spirit!" Faith, he has not only kept the faith, but he has been faithful in all of his action . . . in all of his undertakings.

And so you see, my friends, tonight we do not paint a picture or portrait of our Pastor, but rather we "unveil the portrait" which he has painted with his life, along with the assistance of his charming and talented wife. A portrait that will not fade with time or become blemished with age, but rather will remain beautiful, for we will do our part to help keep it beautiful, so that the words of the poet will always ring true, as he says:

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever, its loveliness increases, and it will never fade into nothingness."

Reverend and Mrs., this is the portrait that we would want to keep among our most celebrated memories!

A Welcome to Our City

Believe me when I tell you that it is a great delight for me to have the privilege to greet and welcome such a grand and noble people as you to this benevolent and beautiful city of ours.

Since it was first announced that you were coming, we have been looking forward with the greatest anticipation and the deepest anxiety for your arrival. Now that you are here, it is like a dream come true; it is like fishing for game fish and landing; it is like hunting for squirrels until one is found, the excitement is so tense until we are almost too nervous to carry out the rest of our plans.

We welcome you because we want you here, we welcome you because we want you to walk on easy street; we welcome you because we feel like you will be one of the rarest inspirations our city has had for a long time; we welcome you here because we know you have left the place that is near and dear to you to come here for such a noble deliberation; we welcome you here because we believe in every humanity-uplifting organization.

I am here on the behalf of our city to give you a verbal welcome, but you can rest assured that our city has rolled out the carpet for your reception, whatever our city might do to make your stay here comfortable, I am delegated to tell you not to hesitate in calling on us.

This is a city that is big in construction but small in destruction; we are soft without being weak, strong without being coarse; we are lowly without being low, tall without tip-toeing. This is a city of modest people whose hearts are as valuable as lumps of gold, whose feet are swift in running errands of mercy and whose eyes are ever searching for the good.

Ours is a city of companionship and brotherhood. We love our lights, winding streets, and rolling hills; we cherish our parks, gardens and factories; we adore our municipalities, but the greatest thing we can offer you here is a people whose hearts are full of love and expressions for such a nice group as you. So on the behalf of this lovely city and all the officials it is with unbounded pleasure that I say unto you, you are welcome, welcome, welcome!

Welcome To Our Church

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we wish to welcome you to this Church, the earthly sanctuary of the Almighty. We welcome you here because God hath ordained that people should flow into Zion. He has given His right to the tree of life.

We welcome you to our Church because we are in the business of loving people and being loved by them. We believe love to be our greatest earthly possession, it is to be desired more than gold or silver. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." "God is love."

We welcome you to our Church because of the contributions both of our congregations will make to each other in such loving and harmonious fellowship. We are ever aware of the fact of the Savior pleading and praying that all might be one. It is our sincere belief that our coming together to worship in one solid note of praise, is part of the answer to the Master's prayer for unity.

We welcome you here because we want you to be at ease, we want you to live up to your highest and best, we want you to live up to the light that you have. We want you to serve God to the best of your ability. We want you to serve just as faithful as if you were at home. We want you to feel at home in our Church.

We welcome you to our Church because of the relations of our activities. We are here for the glory of God and the service of this community. We call on the same God, we read and teach the same Bible, we sing the same hymns, we preach the same gospel, and we are on our way to the same heaven. So we welcome you here, that we may know each other there. We want our welcome to put you on easy street.

And now after having said these words, it is with the greatest of pleasure that I on the behalf of our pastor, and for our Church and its board of officers and members do here and now extend to you a most hearty welcome!

A Welcome To The Community

It is the height of my delight to be so honored to extend to you words of welcome on the behalf of this community. Although words may fail to express the dictations of my heart, the entertainment we plan to give you while you are here will make up for whatever I might be unable to express. We are glad you are here, we have been looking and waiting for your arrival with great excitement and concern. We believe our community will be richer because of you, and we trust you will be richer because of our community.

Our community is composed of people of noble character. The very grassroots of the nation is embodied here. Our community is flanked with the greatest potentials of modern society. Among us are leaders of many fields of endeavor. Our social and service clubs are here and there, and religion is a must almost everywhere. We have a community of glittering culture where our boys and girls are surrounded with a thousand opportunities.

The people of this community believe in making their own sunshine and then standing in it. This is a community that is doing its part in helping to make this a greater city, state and nation. We love to think of this community as a place of opportunity, sometimes we look at it as a May day, as it blossoms between two lakes, where the beautiful trees unfurl their foliage and spread their green assail and where the carpet of the most beautiful green are thrown over her wide spreading floors. From this place where we are today may come some day the great leader of this great organization.

We welcome you here because we want you to relax while you carry on your deliberations. We welcome you because we believe a lot of good is coming from your visit with us. We welcome you because we want you with us.

When this welcome program is over, we plan to give you such a high entertainment until you will want to go back home and get the rest of your family and belongings and come and make this your home.

Lest I might bore you with a lengthy speech, I wish to express to you on behalf of this community in very simple language, you are welcome once, you are welcome twice, three times and forever you are welcome!

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

1. **The Authority of the Scripture**--Baptists believe that the Bible is the Word of God in the highest and fullest sense, and is the sole authority in determining the faith and practice of God's people; that the sixty-six books of the Bible are divinely and uniquely inspired, and that they have come down to us substantially as they were under inspiration written. These Scriptures reveal God's plan of redemption and human duty. We deny the statement that other books are similarly inspired, and exalt the Bible to an unchallenged throne in our confidence. These Scriptures do not require the authorized interpretation of any church, and or council, priesthood or pope; but are divinely intended for personal study and interpretation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 12:47-48).

2. **The Sovereignty of God**--Baptists believe in one true and living God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in every spiritual excellence, and who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit--three in one and one in three, as the essential mode of his existence (John 4:24; Revelation 4:11).

3. **The Deity of Jesus Christ**--Baptists believe that the Son of the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, given to reveal God, died to redeem man, rose from the dead to justify the believer, and is now at the right hand of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. He will return in visible, personal and bodily form for the final triumph of his people and judgement of the world (John 3:16; Philippians 2:6-7).

4. **The Personality of the Holy Spirit**--Baptists believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a mere influence, who has been sent from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, to regenerate and cleanse from sin, and to teach, guide, strengthen and perfect the believer, and that he is Christ's only representative on this earth (John 14:11--15:26).

5. **The Depravity of Man**--Baptists believe that man came into this world by direct creation of God and not by evolution, and that he was created innocent, but that being tempted by Satan, he sinned, and thereafter all men have been born in sin, and are by nature children

of wrath. The original tempter was Satan, the personal devil, who with his angels has been since carrying his work of iniquity among the nations of the earth. The essence of sin is non-conformity to the will of God, and its end is eternal separation from God (Roman 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-3).

6. **The Freeness of the Way of Salvation**--Baptists believe that a way has been provided whereby men and women born in sin may be reconciled to God. That way is in Jesus Christ, whose death atoned for our sin and through union with him we become partakers of his merits, and escape the condemnation of God's holy law. The atonement becomes personally effective through the foreordination and the grace of God, and the free choice and faith of man. *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6). *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8).

7. **The Evangelization of the World**--Baptists believe that it is the first and greatest duty of Christ's people to give the whole gospel to the whole world, without regard to race or color or creed. *"Go you, therefore, and teach all nations; baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; teaching them to put into practice all things whatsoever I have commanded you and behold I am with you always, even unto the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

"Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

"And he said unto them: Thus it is written, and thus it became necessary for Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations" (Luke 24:46-48).

8. **The Democracy and Independence of the Churches**--Baptists believe that a New Testament Church is an organized body of baptized believers in Christ; equal in rank and privilege; administering its own affairs under the headship of Christ; united together in the belief of what Christ has taught; covenanting together to do what Christ has commanded; and voluntarily cooperating with other churches of like faith in carrying out the great commission of Christ; that it has Christ, and not the pope or some ecclesiastical body,

as its Head; that it had for its officers, pastors (also called bishops and elders) and deacons and not priests and prelates; that it has for its teacher and guide the true representative of Christ, the Holy Spirit; and that it is not only independent of all other churches, councils and conventions, but is separate from the state (Matthew 23:8-11).

9. **The Integrity of the Ordinances**--Baptists believe there are only two church ordinances--Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptists believe that personal believers are the only Scriptural subjects of baptism, and that immersion, or dipping, or burial in water, and resurrection there from is the only Scriptural act of baptism. They believe that the Lord's Supper is the partaking by the church of bread and wine, as a memorial of the Lord's death, and our expectation of his return. This bread typifies his body; the fruit of the vine typifies his blood. Baptists deny the actual presence of his body and blood in the bread and fruit of the vine, called wine (Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

10. **The Progress of the Saints**--Baptists believe that the Christian life begins with conversion. Conversion has several aspects, including repentance, faith, regeneration and justification. Repentance implies a deep and sincere change of thinking, feeling and willingness toward sin and God, and faith is the surrender of the entire personality, of thought, feeling and volition to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Regeneration is the act of the Holy Spirit by which the sinner is born again, and his whole being is radically changed, so that the believer becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus. Justification is the judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared forgiven and freed from the condemnation of his sin, on the ground of the perfect righteousness of Christ, imputed by grace and power of God. The new life begun in regeneration is never lost but, by the grace and power of God and the faith in cooperation of the believer, is constantly brought nearer to that state of perfect holiness which we shall experience in heaven (1 John 2:19; Philippians 1:6).

11. **Liberty of Conscience**--Baptists believe that every human should have the inalienable right to approach and worship God for himself, and of his own free will and choice, and without any priestly meditation or parental proxy; that complete religious liberty and full self-determination, without any civil or ecclesiastical compulsion or

restraint, is the absolute right of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ and every individual worshiper of a Supreme Being, whether it be a child or an adult (Romans 14:12).

12. **The Lord's Day**--Baptists believe that the Lord's Day (under the old Jewish law called the Sabbath) is a Christian institution appointed for conscientious observance, and should be devoted to the nurture, development and training of the spiritual life, being freed as far as possible from worldly pursuits and amusements, the works of mercy and necessity only having the right-of-way on this day (Exodus 20:8; Hebrew 10:24-25).

13. **The Destiny of Man**--Baptists believe in the final resurrection of all men, both the just and the unjust; and that those who here believe unto salvation shall be raised to everlasting life in heaven, those who here disbelieve shall be raised to everlasting condemnation in hell (Malachi 3:18; Proverbs 14:32).

14. **The Supremacy of Loyalty**--Baptists stand for vital and distinctive truths, to many of which other denominations do not adhere, and that we cannot compromise these truths without disloyalty to the Scriptures and our Lord. They believe that they should cooperate with other denominations, in so far as such cooperation does not affect these truths, but no union with them is possible, except on the basis of acceptance in full of the plain teaching of the Word of God (Matthew 15:9; 1 John 2:20-21, 27).

DISCIPLINE

The church will discipline its members by the following rules and principles:

In Private Offenses

Private offenses, or such as one member may commit against another member, occasioning a grievance which does not affect any other person or persons, the course prescribed by our Saviour, in Matthew, 18th chapter, should be strictly followed.

1. **First Step**--The member who considers himself/herself injured must go to the offender, tell his/her grief, and between

themselves alone, if possible, adjust and settle the difficulty. *"If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone."* This must be done, not to charge, upbraid, or condemn the offender, but to win him. *"If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother"* (Matthew 18:15).

2. **Second Step**--If this shall fail, then the offended member must take one or two others with him, seek an interview with the offender, and, if possible, by their united wisdom and piety, remove the offense and harmonize the difficulty. *"But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established"* (Matthew 18:16).

3. **Third Step**--If this step should prove unavailing, then the offended member must tell the whole matter to the church, and leave it in their hands to be disposed of, as to them may seem wisest and best. *"And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church; and if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man, and a publican"* (Matthew 18:17).

While this divine rule makes it obligatory on the offended member to go to the offender and seek a reconciliation, yet much more is it obligatory on any member who knows that a brother is grieved with him, to seek such at once, and try to remove the difficulty.

"If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23).

In Public Offenses

Public offenses are such as are supposed to be a reproach or an injury to the church as a body, or to the reputation of religion. They are not against any one person, more than another.

The more common causes of public offense are the following; false doctrine, Galatians 1:9; 2 John 10; disregard of authority, Matthew 18:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; contention and strife, Romans 16:17; immoral conduct, 1 Corinthians 5:11; disorderly walk, 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 9; covetous spirit, Ephesians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 5:11; arrogant conduct, 3 John 9; going to law, 1 Corinthians 6:6.

The following is generally accepted as the proper course of treatment for public offenses.

1. The first member who has knowledge of the offense, should, as in the case of private offenses, seek the offender, ascertain the facts, and attempt to reconcile or remove the difficulty. Not until he/she has done this should he make it public, or bring it before the church.

2. But if no one will, or can, pursue this course of personal effort, or if such a course proves unsuccessful, then any member having knowledge of the facts should confer with the Pastor and Deacons, as to the best course to be pursued.

3. The pastor and deacons should, by the best method they are capable of devising, labor to adjust the matter, without bringing it in the church, or otherwise making it public.

4. But if their efforts fail, or if the case be already public, and a reproach and scandal to religion, then they should bring it to the church, and direct the course of discipline as seems wisest.

5. The church, thus having the case before them, should either appoint a committee to visit the offender, or cite him/ her before the body to answer the charge. He/she should be allowed to hear the evidence against him/her, know the witnesses and be permitted to answer for himself/herself.

6. If the accused disproves the charges, or if he/she confesses the wrong, makes suitable acknowledgment, and so far as possible reparation, with promise of amendment, in all ordinary cases, this should be deemed satisfactory, and the case be dismissed.

7. But if, after patient, deliberate, and prayerful labor, all efforts fail to reclaim the offender, then, however painful the necessity, the church must withdraw its fellowship from him/her and dismiss him

/her away from them.

8. If the case be one of flagrant immorality, by which the reputation of the body is comprised, and the Christian name scandalized, the hand of fellowship should be withdrawn from the offender notwithstanding any confessions and promises of amendment.

The church's good name, and the honor of religion demand this testimony against evil. He/she may be subsequently restored if suitably penitent.

(a) all discipline must be conducted the spirit of Christian meekness and love, with a desire to remove offenses, and win offenders. It must also be done under a deep sense of responsibility to maintain the honor of Christ's name, the purity of his church, and integrity of his truth.

(b) If any member shall attempt to bring a private grievance before the church, or other wise make it public before he has pursued the course prescribed in Matthew, 18th chapter, he/she becomes himself/herself and offender, and subject to the discipline of the body.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Constitution of the church establishes the basic membership policy at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The following guidelines are intended to further clarify membership status and to update the membership rolls of the church.

1. Members are removed from the rolls at their death.
2. Members are removed from the church rolls on written request from the member for transfer, resignation, or the joining of another church.
3. If a member verbally indicated his or her intent to withdraw

from membership, a letter will be sent along with a return postcard asking whether they would like to remain members or be removed from the rolls. They will be removed if no response is received within 30 days of mailing.

4. No one shall be removed from the membership rolls until the removal is reviewed by the Pastor and approved by the Board of Deacons.

5. The Church Clerk shall, as necessary, recommend to the Board of Deacons a list of names of members to be removed (along with the reason for removal) in accordance with the church membership policy.

6. Any one whose name has been removed from the membership rolls without their knowledge:

- (a) Will be reinstated to active membership whenever they or a member of their family requests it in writing provided such reinstatement is not otherwise inconsistent with the church Membership Policy.
- (b) Will be issued a letter of transfer upon request.

If a church mailing is returned with a forwarding address and the church staff cannot obtain the members current address. The member will be removed from the rolls. Any such removal however, is subject to both the Pastor's and Board of Deacons's review and to the reinstatement rules outlined above.

HELPS FOR BIBLE READING

The Bible is the Message of God to man.

2 Timothy 3:14-17.

When in trouble or sorrow,

read John 14:1-3, 27; Hebrews 12:6-7; Psalm 46.

When you worry,

read Matthew 6:19-34.

When you have the blues,

read Psalm 91.

When God seems far away,

read Psalm 139.

When you want rest and peace,

read Matthew 11:25-30.

When in sickness,

read James 5:14-15; Psalm 41:2-4.

When in danger,

read Luke 8:22-25; Psalm 91.

When men fail you,

read 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 23.

When lonely or fearful,

read Matthew 6:25-34; 11:28-30.

When discouraged or tempted,

read 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12;
Isaiah 40:28-31.

When you have sinned,

read 1 John 1:8-9; Hebrews 7:25; Psalm 51:1-12.

When you forget your blessing,

read Psalm 103.

When your faith seems failing,

read Hebrews 11; Psalm 34:17-22.

When you want courage,

read 2 Corinthians 12:9.

When looking for happiness,

read Colossians 3:1-17; Psalm 1.

When leaving home for travel,

read Psalm 121.

When you grow bitter or critical,

read 1 Corinthians 13

If you are not a Christian,

read John 3:16; Matthew 10:32-33; 22:35-40;

25:31-46; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-9.

If you are a Christian soldier,

read 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3;

Ephesians 6:11-17.

You have a divine Saviour,

read John 6:47; 20:31; Acts 10:43.

Assurance of God's mercy,

read John 5:24; Psalm 40:1-5.

Assurance of God's protection,

read Matthew 10:29-31; 28:20; Romans 8:31-39;

Philippians 4:6; 19; Psalm 62:139; 1-12.

Rewards of a righteous life,

read Matthew 5:1-12; 10:42; 2 Timothy 4:7-8;

1 Corinthians 15:41-58; Psalm 37.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

(Name)

on his/her confession of faith, was baptized into the

Baptist Church

at _____

on the _____ day of _____

Pastor

Church Clerk

As A Member Of

Pilgrim Baptist Church

I pledge my support

in giving my presence and also my earnings as the Lord
may prosper me.

I further pledge to abstain from all worldly pleasure that
will corrupt my life as a Christian or the church of which I
am a member.

I will live such life as will be profitable to my church and
helpful to me as a Christian.

Signed _____

1 **ARTICLE I - NAME**

2

3 This church shall be called PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH of St.
4 Paul, Minnesota.

5

6 **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

7

8 The mission of this church shall be to spread and maintain the Gospel
9 of Jesus through [a] worship, preaching and teaching, [b] support of
10 Christian youth and development of its members and others, [c]
11 administration of the ordinances of the New Testament, and [d]
12 practice of Christian benevolence and service throughout the world.

13

14 **ARTICLE II - COVENANT**

15

16 Having been led as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the
17 Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith,
18 having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of
19 the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly,

20 most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with one another
21 as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy
22 Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the
23 advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and in comfort;
24 to promote its prosperity and spiritually; to sustain its worship,
25 ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute regularly and
26 cheerfully to the support of the ministry, the expense of the church,
27 the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all
28 nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to
29 seek the salvation of kindred and acquaintances; to walk
30 circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithfully in our
31 engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling,
32 backbiting, and excessive anger; to be zealous in our efforts to
33 advance the kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over
34 one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to
35 aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian
36 sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take
37 offense; but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules
38 of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We moreover, engage that

39 when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite
40 with some other church where we may carry out the spirit of this
41 covenant and the principles of God's word.

42

43

44

45 **ARTICLE III - CHARACTER**

46

47 **Section I - Policy**

48

49 The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who
50 comprise it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical
51 body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel
52 and cooperation which are among American Baptist, National
53 Baptist, Inc. Convention Churches.

54

55 **Section 2.**

56

57 The Church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith
58 and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein
59 is in essential accord with Baptist beliefs.

60

61

62 ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

63

64 Section 1 Status

65

66 [a] Members shall be received upon confession of faith, and on
67 statement of Christian Experience and Baptism. They shall be
68 received by letter from any church of like principles and spirit,
69 provided they shall previously have been baptized in the Christian
70 faith.

71

72 [b] Requests for membership shall come before the church only on
73 recommendation of the Board of Deacons presented at any church
74 worship service. Candidates for membership shall be received only
75 by majority vote of members present. An individual of any Christian

76 denomination, within the area temporarily, may request affiliation as
77 a watch care member with no voting status.

78

79

80

81

82 **Section 2. DUTIES**

83

84 Members, are expected to be faithful in all spiritual duties essential to
85 Christian life and also attend regularly the services of this church, to
86 give regularly for its support and its charities, and to share in its
87 organized work.

88

89

90

91 **Section 3. RIGHTS**

92

93 Members who are not under watch care and have attained the age of
94 eighteen (18) years, may vote in the transaction of business of this
95 church.

96

97

98 **Section 4. TERMINATION**

99

100 The discontinuance of membership shall be as follows:

101

102 [a] A person who desires a letter of dismissal and recommendation to
103 any other Christian Church is entitled to receive it on written request.

104

105

106 [b] A member who becomes an offense to this church and its good
107 name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent
108 breach of covenant vows, after due notice and hearing, and after
109 faithful efforts to bring such a member to repentance have failed, this
110 member shall have his/her membership terminated.

111

112 [c] Membership shall only be terminated [except by letter] at the
113 meeting when the recommendation for such action is made.

114

115 [d] All requests for termination of membership or action thereto,
116 shall be presented in writing, and considered first, by the Board of
117 Deacons who shall make recommendations to the church at any
118 regular meeting or church service.

119

120 [e] This church in accordance with the principles of the American
121 Baptist Convention and National Baptist Convention, Inc. Churches,
122 looks with disfavor upon all social evils, and members are
123 admonished to refrain from participation in all such acts of
124 misconduct that are generally deemed unchristian.

125

126

127

128 ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

129

130

131 Section 1. The Officers and Committees shall be as follows:

132

133 [a] A Pastor to be chosen and called by the church whenever a
134 vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a meeting called for
135 that purpose, notice of which shall have been given for two
136 successive Sundays. The election shall be by ballot, an affirmative
137 vote of two thirds of those present who are eligible to vote being
138 necessary for a choice.

139

140 The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church, having
141 responsibility for the pulpit and its ministrations, the sacraments, all
142 public worship, the care and counsel of every member of the church
143 and the general administration of the programs of the church. The
144 Pastor shall be deemed to be a member of the church by virtue of
145 his\her installation as pastor.

146

147 The Pastor, when available, shall preside at all business meetings of
148 the church, except when the subject being discussed relates to the

149 Pastor. On any occasion when the Pastor does not preside, the Chair
150 of the Deacon Board or a designee of that Board shall preside.

151

152 The Pastor's term of office shall be specified in his/her employment
153 agreement and shall be subject to the mutual satisfaction of the Pastor
154 and the church membership. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio
155 member of all auxiliaries and committees of the church.

156

157

158

159 [b] A Board of Deacons (not less than 15 in number) who, when
160 elected, shall have been members of Pilgrim Baptist Church no less
161 than three (3) years, shall serve continually until removed by written
162 recommendation of the Deacon Board and approved by the church or
163 by his own written request.

164

165 There shall also be elected a number of Deaconesses corresponding in
166 number to the number of Deacons and in the same manner.

167

168 Deacons and Deaconesses who have reached a state of partial
169 incapacitation, shall be given the status of Deacon or Deaconess
170 Emeritus.

171

172 The Board of Deacons shall, with the Pastor, have general oversight
173 of the spiritual welfare of the church. They shall direct all matters
174 pertaining to membership in the church. The Deacons shall examine
175 and recommend candidates for admission and shall supply the pulpit
176 in the absence of the Pastor. They shall decide on objects for special
177 collections when the church has not acted thereon ,and shall have
178 general charge of matters of discipline, as provided in ARTICLE IV.

179 The Deacon Board shall direct the distribution of the Mission and
180 Benevolence Fund and other money given for the relief of the needy.

181

182 The Deacon Board shall, at least annually, review the compensation
183 and benefits paid to the clergy and shall make adjustments, as
184 appropriate, consistent with the guidelines established by the
185 Personnel and Finance committees.

186

187 The Deacons and Deaconesses shall provide for the Lord's Supper
188 and assist its administration . They shall make a report at the annual
189 meeting of the church on all matters under their care. They shall hold
190 monthly meetings. The Deaconesses shall work in conjunction with
191 the Deacons in all matters pertaining to the spiritual welfare of the
192 church.

193

194

195 [c] A Church Clerk, to be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, to
196 serve a one year term.

197

198 The Clerk shall keep a complete record of all transactions at all the
199 business meetings of the church, which shall be read for approval at
200 the next following church business meeting. The Clerk shall keep a
201 record of all members, with the date and method of admission, a
202 record of baptisms, the date of dismissal, and death records. The
203 Clerk shall notify all Officers, Members of Committees and Delegates
204 of their election and \ or appointment and shall issue letters of

205 dismissal and recommendations voted by the church. The Clerk shall
206 preserve on file all communications and written official reports.

207

208 [d] A Church Treasurer to be elected by ballot at each annual
209 meeting to serve for one year. A Treasurer shall serve no more than
210 three (3) one year terms and shall not be eligible for re-election to
211 this position until he/she has been out of that office at least one year.

212

213 The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all Money received
214 by him\her for support of public worship or any department of church
215 work. The Treasurer shall bank all Money received from the church,
216 in the name of the church, in an account distinct from all other
217 accounts and make payment by check only. The Treasurer shall make
218 a written report, in detail, at each Quarterly meeting, of all receipts
219 and expenditures for the year, properly audited by the Auditing
220 Committee of the Church. The Treasurer shall be bonded. The
221 Treasurer shall serve no more than (three) one year terms, and shall
222 not be eligible for re-election to this position until he/she has been out
223 of this office at least one year.

242 eligible for re-election to this position until he/she has been out of
243 office at least one year.

244

245

246

247 [f] A Financial Secretary, to be elected at each annual meeting to
248 serve for one year.

249

250 The Financial Secretary shall keep a financial record of all money
251 received in the church treasury along with a record of all members'
252 contributions to the church . By the end of January of each year, the
253 Financial Secretary shall send to each member and each regular
254 contributor a statement of their financial contributions for the
255 previous year.

256

257 The Financial Secretary shall serve no more than three (3) one year
258 terms and shall not be eligible for re-election until he \ she has been
259 out of this office at least one year.

260

224

225 [e] A Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence, to be elected by ballot
226 at each annual meeting to serve for one year.

227

228 The Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence shall keep an accurate
229 record of all money raised for Christian benevolence, to be paid to
230 persons or societies entitled thereto.

231

232 The Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence shall keep these accounts
233 separate and apart from other accounts, and all checks drawn shall be
234 in the name of the church.

235

236 The Treasurer shall make a written report in detail at each Quarterly
237 meeting of the church, of all receipts and expenditures, and at the
238 Annual meeting shall bring in a written report properly audited by the
239 Auditing Committee. The Treasurer shall make a monthly report to
240 the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence
241 shall serve no more than three (3) one year terms and shall not be

261

262

263

264 Financial Assistants

265

266 The Church may also elect one or more assistants for Church Clerk,

267 Church Treasurer, Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence and

268 Financial Secretary.

269

270

271 [g] A Board of Trustees, whose number shall not exceed 21, one

272 third of whom shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting to

273 serve for 3 years. Any person elected to the Board of Trustees shall

274 have been a member of the church no less than two years.

275

276 The Trustees shall hold in trust all property of the church. They shall

277 have actual care of the church building and all other property of the

278 church, but shall have no power to buy-sell, mortgage, lease, or

279 transfer any property without specific vote of the church authorizing
280 such action. They shall hold regular monthly meetings.

281

282 Trustees shall serve no more than two (2) three year terms and shall
283 not be eligible for re-election until they have been off the Board at
284 least one year.

285

286 [h] A Finance Committee consisting of nine [9] members including
287 Chair of the Trustee Board, Financial Secretary, Treasurer of Church,
288 Treasurer of Mission and Benevolence, Chair of the Deacon Board,
289 Chair of the Deaconess Board and three (3) members of the Church
290 at large, elected annually by the Church. The Finance Committee
291 shall hold regular business meetings and shall call special meetings as
292 the need arises.

293

294 The Finance Committee shall, after consultation with committees and
295 auxiliaries of the church , present to the church a proposed annual
296 budget for approval. The Finance Committee shall devise and put in
297 place ways and means of raising the necessary funds for the support

298 of the church. It shall supervise the disbursement of funds as
299 appropriated by the church and shall make quarterly reports to the
300 church.

301 The Finance Committee shall coordinate the activities of any
302 committee created for the fiscal support of the church. Any checks
303 drawn on the general account of the church must be approved and
304 signed by two of the following officers; the Church Treasurer, the
305 Financial Secretary, the Chair of the Trustee Board.

306

307 The Finance Committee shall, at least annually, review the
308 compensation paid to non-clergy staff and, along with the Personnel
309 Committee, make recommendations to the church for changes in the
310 compensation guidelines.

311

312

313

314

315 [i] The Auditing Committee or a professional auditing firm,
316 appointed by the Trustee Board, shall audit the books of all fiscal

317 officers of the church, at the close of the fiscal year, and shall make a
318 report upon the same at the Annual Meeting of the Church .

319 Beginning with fiscal year 1998, the financial records of the church
320 shall be audited by a professional auditing firm at least once every
321 third year.

322

323 [j] A Superintendent of Sunday School, to be elected by ballot at
324 each annual meeting to serve for one year.

325

326 The Superintendent of Sunday School shall have general oversight of
327 the work of the Sunday School and present in writing an annual
328 report to the church on the condition of the Sunday School with
329 recommendations for the ensuing year.

330

331

332 [k] A Music Committee consisting of five (5) members at large and
333 the President of each singing unit shall have general oversight of the
334 Church music and all of the Church choirs.

335

336

337 The "at large" members of the Music Committee shall be elected by
338 the Church each year at the annual business meeting.

339 Members of the Music committee shall elect a chairperson each year
340 to serve a one (1) year term.

341

342

343 The Church may contract for the services of a Minister of Music as
344 the need arises. The responsibility of the Minister of Music shall be to
345 coordinate the music ministry of the church in consultation with the
346 Music Committee and the Senior Pastor.

347

348 The Senior Pastor, after consultation with the Music committee, may
349 recommend a person to the Board of Deacons and upon approval by
350 this Board, the Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall jointly present
351 the recommendation to the Church at any regularly scheduled Church
352 business meeting.

353

354

355

356

357

358 [1] A Nominating Committee, consisting of nine [9] members to be
359 elected at the Third Quarterly Business Meeting. No less than five of
360 the members elected shall have been members of Pilgrim Baptist
361 Church at least two (2) years at the time they are elected to serve on
362 the committee.

363

364 The Nominating Committee shall present to the church at the Special
365 Meeting in December, a list of nominees for all offices and
366 committees in the church for which an election shall be due under the
367 terms of this constitution. This committee shall adopt such methods
368 as may to it seem proper to obtain from the different members of this
369 church a general impression as to their preferences for persons to fill
370 various offices.

371

372 In case any person nominated by the Committee shall refuse to serve,
373 the Committee shall bring in other nominations at a subsequent
374 meeting , when such nominees shall be considered by the church.

375

376

377 [m] A Board of Christian Education consisting of thirteen [13]
378 members, to be elected annually by vote of the church on
379 recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

380

381 The Board of Christian Education shall provide for programs which
382 introduce and promote spiritual growth of persons into the life and
383 mission of Christian faith.

384

385

386 (n) A Pulpit Committee of fifteen (15) members, representative of a
387 cross section of church membership, including no less than three (3)
388 Deacons and three (3) Deaconesses shall be appointed by the Deacon
389 Board upon notice of the resignation or termination of the Senior
390 Pastor.

391

392

393 [o] A Board of Ushers shall serve as a reception committee at the
394 public services of the church, and shall have charge of seating the
395 congregation, the collection of offerings and the ventilation of the
396 building

397

398 [p] Such other organizations and auxiliaries as the Church may
399 deem necessary for the spiritual and social welfare of the
400 membership, so long as the purpose of the organization is not
401 inconsistent with the constitution of the Church .

402

403

404

405 **ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS AS A CORPORATION**

406

407

408 **Section 1. For Worship**

409

410 [a] Public services shall be held regularly, on the Lord's Day, special
411 services afternoon and evenings on the Lord's Day. Prayer and
412 worship services shall be held some evening of each week.

413

414 [b] The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the first Sunday of each
415 month.

416

417

418

419

420 **Section 2. For Business**

421

422 [a] At any regular worship service, the church may, without special
423 notice, act upon the reception of members, or upon the dismissal of
424 members to other churches, and upon the appointment of delegates to
425 councils or conventions, but not upon other business.

426

427 [b] The Pastor may, and shall, when requested by either the Deacon,
428 Deaconess or Trustee board , call from the pulpit special business

429 meetings, the particular subject of which shall be clearly stated in the
430 notice.

431

432 Special meetings of the church shall also be called by the Church
433 Clerk upon written application of any twenty five (25) adult
434 members. The written request shall specify the subject of the meeting.
435 This notice shall be read at the regular service of the Sunday next
436 preceding the day fixed for such meeting. No special meeting shall
437 be held less than 72 hours from the time the notice is given.

438

439 [c] The church shall hold a regular Quarterly Business Meeting, at
440 which time the Treasurer of the church and the Treasurer of Mission
441 and Benevolence shall make an itemized report of all financial
442 transactions for that Quarter which closed with the last preceding
443 month. Their bank books should have been balanced to the
444 satisfaction of the Finance Committee. Such other business may be
445 transacted as the church may see fit.

446

447 [d] A Special Meeting shall be called in December, at which time the
448 budget for the coming year shall be acted upon by the church. Also at
449 this meeting the Nominating Committee shall make its report. Such
450 other business may be transacted as the church may see fit.

451

452

453 [e] The Annual Meeting of Pilgrim Baptist Church shall be held in
454 January, at which time the annual report from all departments of the
455 church shall be presented. At this meeting, Church Officers shall be
456 elected from the list of nominees presented by the Nominating
457 Committee, or from members nominated from the floor by the
458 congregation, at the special meeting in December. Such other
459 business may be transacted at this meeting as may seem proper to the
460 church. The Auditing and Nominating Committees shall be
461 discharged at this meeting.

462

463 The annual meeting in January shall also serve as the first quarterly
464 meeting.

465

466

467 [f] At the Annual, Quarterly and all Special meetings, fifty (50)
468 members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction
469 of business.

470

471

472

473

474

ARTICLE VII - CORPORATE SEAL

475

476 Pilgrim Baptist Church [Organized 1863] legally incorporated under
477 the laws of the State of Minnesota adopts as its corporate seal, a circle
478 containing the words. "Pilgrim Baptist Church of St. Paul, Minn.,
479 May 25, 1867*

480

481 The Corporate Seal of the Church shall be administered only by the
482 Church Clerk or the Chair of the Trustee board on all official church
483 documents. In the absence of the Chair of the Trustee board and the

484 Church Clerk, the church seal may be administered by the Chair of
485 the Board of Deacons.

486

487 The Corporate Seal shall be kept in a secure location in Pilgrim
488 Baptist Church when not in use.

489

490

491 *Incorporated as the Trustee of the Colored Pilgrim Baptist Church of
492 St. Paul, Minnesota, May 25, 1867.

493

494 Amended Articles date January 3, 1936. Filed January 13, 1936 to
495 Amend the Articles of the Aforesaid Church to read: PILGRIM
496 BAPTIST CHURCH.

497

498

499 **ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS**

500

501

502 This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of eligible
503 members present at any Annual Meeting of the church, or at a
504 meeting specially called for the purpose, the proposed amendment
505 being inserted in the call; but no change shall be made in ARTICLE
506 II or III, entitled "COVENANT" and "CHARACTER" except at an
507 Annual Meeting, and by two-thirds vote of all members entitled to
508 vote, said proposed change having been laid before the church in
509 writing at a business meeting not less than one month before the
510 Annual Meeting, and read from the pulpit on the Sunday next
511 succeeding proposal.

512

513 The Church may appoint a committee to recommend changes to the
514 Constitution. Such recommendations shall be presented to the church
515 for consideration and adoption before becoming effective.

516

517

518

519

BY LAWS OF PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

520

521

522

ARTICLE I - RULES

523

524

525 The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern
526 the Church in all cases to which they are applicable provided they are
527 not inconsistent with the Constitution and By Laws of the Church..

528

529

530

ARTICLE II - AFFILIATIONS

531

532 Pilgrim Baptist Church shall be affiliated with the American Baptist
533 Convention, and may be dually aligned with the National Baptist
534 Convention. U.S.A., Inc. or such other Baptist Bodies that promote
535 the religious tenets of the faith.

536

537 The Church shall be affiliated with Christian Bodies such as the
538 Baptist World Alliance, National Council of Churches, State Council
539 of Churches and Area Council of Churches as well as Baptist State

- 540 Conventions whose world view and practice may be considered to the
- 541 Evangelism, Social Concern and Action, and World Outreach and
- 542 Ecumenism