

Charmco House Of Prayer

Articles of Faith and Bylaws



Charmco, West Virginia

Articles of Faith
House of Prayer
Revised as of 3/11/2025

1. This Assembly believes in the one true living God, Maker of all creation; the all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere-present, eternal Father; the source of all goodness, truth, and love; who has manifested Himself in His son, Jesus Christ, for the purpose of redemption and as the Holy Ghost for the purpose of intervening in the lives of people. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Timothy 1:17; 3:16; 6:13-16)
2. This Assembly believes in the divine inspiration of the Scriptures, and that the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testament of the Bible are the Word of God given through people, and that the Scriptures we possess today are the sufficient rule of faith and practice and the final authority for truth and salvation. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
3. This Assembly believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which declared Him to be the only begotten Son of God, who was born of a virgin and who lived to show us the words and works of God. As the savior, He was crucified and died on the cross in our place to be the supreme sacrifice for sin. He was buried in a tomb but rose again on the third day, as the Scriptures foretold, and is now exalted as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, as God manifested in the flesh. He is true God and true man, in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Acts 10:38-40; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Colossians 2:9)
4. This Assembly believes in the original apostolic plan of salvation, proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost on the birthday of the New Testament church, which includes faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, sincere repentance, water baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, and receiving the Holy Ghost with the joyous experience of speaking supernaturally in other tongues just as the believers did in the first century. (Acts 2:1- 39; 10:44- 48)
5. This Assembly believes in living a life of holiness, both inwardly and outwardly, as a result of the working of grace in us, for the work of the Lord declares that all who name the name of Christ should depart from sin and separate themselves from the evil practices of this present age. (Ephesians, 4:21-24; 2 Timothy 2:19; Hebrews 12:14)
6. This Assembly believes in the practicing of genuine Christianity, through love for God and people, prayer, obedience to the Work of God, heartfelt worship and expressive praise, sharing our faith, commitment to our

marriage companions and families, availability to help one another in time of need, honesty and diligence in our employment, honor and respect for our government as it submits to divine plan for human society, and the dedication of our times, talent, and treasure to advance of the Kingdom of God on earth. (Romans 12-13; Colossians 3-4)

7. This Assembly believes in the local worldwide church, established by our Lord as a unique and special fellowship for all who believe. It is the spiritual community ordained for worship, stewardship, and service to God and people, of which every believer become a part, for it is the body of Christ in the world today, displaying the same miraculous power and spiritual gifts experienced by the early church. Through the local assembly, the (5) fivefold ministry the body can function to meet all spiritual needs of our life. (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:4-16)
8. This Assembly believes in the return of Jesus Christ, that glorious appearing when our lord shall come with the sound of a trumpet, when both those who have died in Christ and those who now live in Christ will rise to meet Him in the air to be with Him forever. (1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
9. This Assembly believes in the judgment of all people, when the wicked shall receive their punishment and the righteous shall receive their reward. This Assembly believes in the ultimate triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. (Romans 14: 10-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 20:12; 21:8)
10. This Assembly believes that homosexuality is a sin and an abomination in the eyes of God, according to the Bible (Deuteronomy 23:7. Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:27, 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10). Therefore, believing that homosexuality is a sin and abomination in the eyes of God, we will not perform same sex marriages, nor allow them to be performed in our local assembly. We also will not allow anyone who is a homosexual to hold office, or any position in our local assembly.

Revised as of 3/19/2009

Preamble

In order to establish our work on a more efficient and permanent basis, we, the members of the local House of Prayer assembly at Charmco, West Virginia, affirm our belief that God's people should be scrupulously set in order, and that it is needful for them to be efficiently organized to successfully carry on the gospel work and properly handle their business affairs in a discrete and timely fashion.

It is recognized that this assembly, The House of Prayer, be sovereign in handling affairs, spiritual and-natural under the confines made and set forth by this document.

Purpose

A house divided against itself cannot stand. The main purpose of this constitution of by-laws is to govern the assembly, according to scriptures, so that we may advance in the will of God. Furthermore, the main goal of this church shall be that of reaching the lost of the world, the harvest, as set forth in: Titus 1:5; I Corinthians 12:28; John 4:35.

Article 1 The Assembly

Section 1: The Name

The name of this assembly shall be known as the, "The House of Prayer."

Section 2: The Purpose

1. To establish and maintain a place of worship.
2. To unite a people of like faith in the bonds of brotherly love and fellowship, in the fear and admonition of the Lord, according to Hebrews 13:1.
3. To meet together to truly worship God in spirit and in truth, and to receive spiritual teaching. (John 4:24; Ephesians 4:11-15)
4. To point the way of life by publishing at home and abroad the true plan of salvation, exhorting believers to be filled with the Holy Ghost. (John 1:29; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8 and 2:38)
5. To provide rules of Christian conduct, and the manner of which they are to be dealt with, based upon the word of God. (Titus 2)

Article 2 Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Anyone believing and accepting the Apostolic doctrine that has been put forth in the Articles of Faith is eligible to become a member.

Section 2: Obligations

1. To cleanse oneself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
2. To conduct oneself everywhere as becometh a Christian.
3. To endeavor to manifest a spirit of brotherly love and fellowship toward all of God's people of the local church as well as other churches.
4. To forsake not attending services, as the manner of some is. (Hebrews 10:25)
5. To support the work of God of the local assembly with one's prayers and financial aid, tithes and offerings, as God prospers. (Mal. 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2)
6. To maintain family and private devotion. To avoid all ungodly and worldly amusements (all amusements and recreation are not harmful) that one may be blameless and harmless amidst an evil generation and thus bring no reproach upon the name of Christ.
7. To abide by the by-laws of this assembly as prescribed in this form of local church government. (Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 13:17)
8. If moving to this church, it is recommended one secure a letter of reference from the former pastor or if moving from this church to another church it is recommended one secure a letter of reference from this local church and unite with another church of like faith as soon as possible.

Section 3: Admission

1. Anyone who is eligible and accepts the foregoing obligations shall become a member of the assembly by registering his name and address with the pastor or secretary or receiving the right hand of fellowship from the church.
2. No person who is a member of another local assembly shall be also a member of this church, but must receive a letter of reference from the other assembly and presented to this local church to be a member.

3. No person desiring to withdraw their membership shall be refused a letter of membership unless proven guilty of misconduct by confession or conviction. When said person has made satisfactory restitution to the church that they are leaving they shall be cleared of foregoing matters and will be given a letter of church membership and be accepted into the fellowship of another local assembly of like faith.

Section 4: Church Discipline

1. Any member failing or refusing after the first and second admonitions to keep the obligations and abide by the rules of the assembly may be automatically suspended (2 Thess. 3:6) or dealt with according to the following methods:
 - a. If any member of this church be overtaken in a fault, he or she shall be dealt with according to Galatians 6:1; 1 John 5:16-17 and James 5:19-20.
 - b. Any grievance arising between any two members of this church shall be dealt with according to Matthew 18:15-58. Should the accused be found guilty by the church, he or she may be dis-fellowshipped from the membership roll unless he or she truly repents and makes public confession.
 - c. During the dispute and until it is settled neither member shall participate in any spiritual part of the meeting nor preside in an office if he or she is in an office, until such differences are settled in a satisfactory way of the church.
 - d. There shall be no accusation brought against an elder but before two or three witnesses, of such integrity that would be acknowledgeable by Elder. (1 Timothy 5:19)
2. Must obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourself to them that watch for your souls. (Hebrews 13:17)
 - a. Obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22)
 - b. If any member has a stubborn or rebellious spirit and sowing discord and fails to attend regular church services a reasonable amount of time without acceptable excuses, shall be suspended automatically from church membership, for it shall be considered he or she has withdrawn his cooperation from the church.

Article 3 Officers

Section 1: Names of Officers

The officers of this church shall be as follows: a Pastor; an assistant Pastor (when deemed necessary by the Pastor) three trustees; Deacon of members of a church board which shall be at least one and not more than seven; and a Secretary-Treasurer. All officers relating to the church shall be appointed to office by the Pastor and ratified by the members present at the annual business meeting for the term of (1) one year.

Section 2: Eligibility

1. Pastor: Must have a good report within and out from his constituents and meet qualifications of 1 Tm.3:1-7.
2. Other officers must have been members in good standing at least 6 months prior to serving any office.
3. All officers shall be appointed by the Pastor of the church and ratified by majority of members present at a duly called business meeting.
4. The term of office for all officers other than the Pastor shall be for (1) one year.

Section 3: Pastor

1. The Pastor shall be chosen by the entire body of the church by a 2/3 majority vote.
2. In case of misconduct, it shall be dealt with by the church officers (that are themselves in good standing) who will in turn notify the quorum of ministers, who together will take the necessary action as they deem scripturally proper and make recommendations to the congregation for approval.
3. Resignation or dismissal of Pastor and rules relating to:
 - a. A pastor desiring to leave the church must give the church 30 days notice. By mutual agreement the time may be changed.
 - b. It will be the churches responsibility to pay the continued income of support for the 30 days as long as the Pastor remains as Pastor those 30 days and takes care of the services after his resignation.
 - c. It will not be the responsibility of the church to pay the continued support of the Pastor following his resignation if the Pastor leaves.
 - d. In the case that the Pastor leaves before his 30 day notice is up he automatically suspends his support and the church will hold their support until a new Pastor has been voted in.

4. A church desiring to change Pastor shall express this desire according to the following procedure:
 - a. The church officers shall inform the Pastor in writing of this desire.
 - b. The Pastor and the church shall meet within 30 days to discuss the situation and if possible resolve the matter.
 - c. In the event that the differences or problems cannot be solved by this meeting then the Pastor and/ or church officers shall notify the quorum of ministers.
 - d. The group shall arrange a meeting with the Pastor and the church to assist in mediation.
 - e. The matter shall be brought to the church congregation at a duly called meeting, presided over by the leader of the quorum of ministers, in which a vote of confidence on the Pastor may be taken.
 - f. In the event the Pastor does not receive the confidence of the people and the majority vote he is dismissed as Pastor and shall have 30 days from the date of the meeting. By mutual agreement the time may be changed.
 - g. In the event the Pastor received the confidence of the people and is retained as Pastor, the Pastor shall have the right to appoint new church officers at this time.
5. After the Pastor is duly notified that the church desires to change Pastors, or the Pastor notifies the church that he desires to change pastorates, there shall be no change made in the by-laws, membership, or officers.

Section 4: Support of Pastor

The support of the Pastor should be with tithing of which all will be deposited to a special ministerial fund. Pastor shall have stewardship of fund to be used for the natural as well as spiritual needs of the church. (Luke 10: 7; 1 Cor. 9: 7-14)

Section 5: Duties of Pastor

1. The duties of the Pastor shall be as follows:
 - a. To preach and teach the Word as God gives him ability.
 - b. To visit and pray for the sick.
 - c. To encourage the weak.
 - d. To reprove and warn the unruly. (1 Thess. 5: 14; 2 Tim. 4:12)

- e. To give advice as needed and be ready for every good work.
 - f. Be responsible for the spiritual edification of the church- It is not required for the Pastor to take care of the natural things of the church, such as treasuries, property, and serving tables.; (Acts 6:14). This is the responsibility of the Deacons, Trustees, and Treasurer of the church. The oversight of all the affairs and interest of the church, both spiritual and temporal. shall rest upon the Pastor.
2. The Pastor's authority shall be as follows:
- a. He shall have the oversight of all the affairs and interests of the church, both spiritual and temporal.
 - b. He shall have the superintendence of all departments and its functions, both spiritual and temporal.
 - c. He should be consulted in regard to all business of any importance pertaining to the spiritual, moral, and material affairs of the church.
 - d. He shall call for and preside over business and church board meetings and shall, with the approval of the church, appoint committees.

Section 6: Duties of Trustees

- 1. The trustees shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the church. Those who occupy this office need to meet the qualifications for the offices of Deacon as outlined in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- 2. They shall hold all property belonging to the assembly in trust for the assembly.
- 3. All funds must be disbursed with checks having the (2) signatures of those authorized to sign checks for the particular account involved.
- 4. They shall make all legal acquirements and transactions which the assembly shall dictate, and look after all repairs as directed by the assembly, all general responsibilities such as cleaning and heating supplies shall be under their supervision.
- 5. Term of office shall be for one year or wavered by Pastor at general elections.

Sections 7: Duties of Church Officers

- 1. The Deacons or members of the church offices shall be appointed by the Pastor and shall be ratified by the church

2. They, together with the Pastor, shall care for the business affairs of the church and matters of importance shall be taken to the assembly for approval or disapproval, but only on matters pertaining to the church in which the Pastor needs or requires such assistance.

Section 8: Duties of Secretary-Treasurer

1. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the church. This office is at the discretion of the Pastor to be handled by two (2) individuals.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take minutes and preserve records of business proceedings and all other papers belonging to the church.
3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive and care for all money received from offerings and/or other departments within the assembly to be deposited into a General Fund. All disbursements as well as accurate records of all such transactions will be maintained.
4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall formulate a reporting period as to the financial status of the assembly. A written form is required on a quarterly as well as yearly basis.

Section 9: Sunday School Superintendent

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the church. His responsibility will be to work in conjunction with teachers in selection of proper curriculum and arrange to order all materials and supplies used by his department. He must conduct at least one meeting per quarter with teachers to communicate various functions of his department. The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Section 10: Young Peoples' Leader

The Young Peoples' Leader shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the church. His responsibility is to encourage the youth of the church as God gives the ability.

Section 11: Foreign Missions Director

The Foreign Missions Director shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the church. His duties shall be to correspond with and handle all financial aid to various missionaries. Listings of reputable missionaries will be arranged by Director and Pastor. It shall be his or her responsibility to report as well as receive offerings once every month. The first Sunday of every month shall be observed as Missionary Sunday.

Section 12: Dismissal of Officers

Any officer manifesting a lack of interest and failing to attend services for a reasonable amount of time will be formally removed.

Article 4 Property

Section 1

1. If at any time the church decides to purchase or sell properties, the Pastor and church officers shall look after the business matters and present their views to the assembly. Then, when a majority decides upon a purchase or sale of a site the trustees with the Pastor shall attend to the matter.

2. The title of property shall be in the name of the church where the assembly is located, recorded in the Court House on the deed, and held in trust by the trustees until their successors are duly elected by the assembly.
3. The property shall never become the property of an organization, but shall remain the property of the members of the House of Prayer.
4. All church properties must be the property of the local church, and not individually owned; no part of income may incur to the benefit of any private individual or member that is devoted to church work. In every event of dissolution, the following provisions have been made.
 - a. Under no circumstance will the assets of the church be accrued to the personal property of any individual.
 - b. In the event of dissolution, material, and financial assets of the church shall be assigned to a religious church believing in the Apostolic Doctrine, which is recognized by the Treasury Department as having a tax-exempt status.

Article 5 Business Meetings

Section 1

1. A business meeting of the church may be called at any time by the Pastor, but must be announced in at least two (2) regular services prior to the meeting. All business meetings shall be in accordance and subject to the Robert's Rule of Order of Parliamentary Procedures.
2. A business meeting may not be held by any other members of the church.
3. A majority vote of the members present and voting at any business session shall be the deciding factor.
4. Only members in good standing of the church who are fully committed and recipient of the Apostolic Doctrine and Articles of Faith! attending services on a regular basis shall be permitted to vote.
5. Any members must have been a member for at least (6) six months in good standing to be eligible to vote.
6. The minimum age of a member voting in a local church business meeting shall be eighteen (18) years old.

****Amendment Adopted July 2025: Article 5, Section 1 amended to include procedure for electing an Interim Pastor in the absence of an acting pastor.–
Interim Pastor in the Absence of an Acting Pastor**

In the event that the church does not have an acting pastor, the congregation shall, by majority vote, elect a qualified member to serve as the Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor shall be responsible for calling and presiding over meetings, facilitating church business, and providing spiritual leadership as necessary until a permanent pastor is appointed.

This individual shall not have the full authority afforded to a full-time pastor and shall not have the authority to alter church leadership or amend the bylaws without a majority vote of the church body. The Interim Pastor shall work in collaboration with church leadership and ministries to ensure continuity and order.

Article 6 Ordinances

Section 1

1. We the assemble as a whole, believe in the ordinances directed in the scripture and they shall be observed.
 - a. The Lord's Supper (Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 6:24; Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)
 - b. Foot Washing (John 13:4-17)

Article 7 Amendments

Section 1

This constitution of By-laws may be amended at any time when such amendments have been brought before a business meeting, received a majority vote, and approved by the Pastor. By-laws may only be amended at the annual business meeting, unless special circumstances warrant such action. At the general election a new list of

ministers to serve as a quorum for the following year will be voted and accepted by the general assembly.