



the chapel

*for every man, woman and child*

*The Constitution of  
The Chapel at CrossPoint*

# **ARTICLE 1**

## **NAME, INCORPORATION, VISION AND MISSION**

### **NAME**

The legal name of this church shall be The Chapel at CrossPoint. For the purposes of public communication, the organization will be referred to simply as "The Chapel".

### **INCORPORATION**

Founded on January 22, 1961, this church is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as a Not-For-Profit, Religious Corporation.

### **MISSION & VISION**

To ensure every man, woman, and child have repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 22:37-39, Ephesians 4:12-13).

In so doing, The Chapel will love and worship God; introduce people to the Lord Jesus Christ; encourage them to grow and mature in their faith with an uncompromising commitment to the Holy Bible, the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God; and equip them for service through the power of the Spirit.

This mission will be accomplished through the mobilization of God's people and resources as we plant churches, create new expressions and partner with like-minded ministries/organizations in geographies where we have spiritual responsibility and unique influence.

## **MANDATE**

At The Chapel, we have identified the following overarching ministry thresholds and firmly believe they align with Scripture and the heart of Christ for His Church. (Matthew 28:19-20)

### ***Geographic Intentionality***

*Our circle of accountability (locally, regionally and globally)*

### ***Partnership in the Greater Body of Christ***

*Both internally and externally*

### ***Focus on Spiritual Formation***

*Embracing intimacy with God*

*Experiencing Christ-like relationships*

*Engaging spiritual gifts*

*Extending our grace story*

### ***Interdependent Leadership***

*Equipping and empowering leaders while appreciating and valuing diversity in gifting, talent and abilities*

## **ARTICLE II**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We accept the Scriptures as our sole authority in all matters of faith and practice, and adopt the following Statement of Faith as our interpretation of Bible Doctrine:

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority. II Timothy 3:16, John 5:39, Matthew 4:4, Psalm 119:160.
2. We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three in one, coequal, which is the Trinity. Hebrews 9:14, Matthew 3:16, 17, II Corinthians 3:14, I Corinthians 8:6.

3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. Philippians 2:6-11, John 1:1, 14, John 3:13, 16, John 14:6.
4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, third person of the Trinity, who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the life of the believer, and He empowers the preaching, teaching and understanding of the Gospel. John 16:4-7, Acts 2:1-4, Genesis 1:2, II Peter 1:21.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and those who reach moral responsibility are sinners in thought, word, and deed. I Corinthians 15:22, Romans 5:12, 14, 17, I Corinthians 2:14, Romans 6:23.
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. I John 4:10, Romans 6:3, Matthew 20:28, I John 2:2, I Peter 1:18, 19.
7. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into Heaven and His present life there as High Priest and Advocate for us. I Peter 2:5, Hebrews 1:3, I Corinthians 15:4, Acts 1:9.
8. We believe in the blessed hope, the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Matthew 24:27-31, 36, Matthew 25:31, Colossians 3:4, I Thessalonians 3:13, Jude 14, Zechariah 14:4, 5.

9. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby they become children of God and heirs of eternal life. Ephesians 4:30, Romans 8:31-39, I John 5:6, Philipians 1:6; I Peter 1:5, John 10:28.
10. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost, and the blissful joy of the saved, which demand a literal Heaven and Hell. Acts 24:15, I Corinthians 15:12-58, II Corinthians 4:14, I Thessalonians 4:15, 16.
11. We believe in the existence of a personal devil, the old deceiver, a liar from the beginning, who is still working in the world to destroy the souls of men and that he and all his angels and all who do not receive Christ as their Savior will eternally perish in the lake of fire. Isaiah 14:12-14, Luke 4:6, 7, John 8:44, I John 3:8.
12. We believe in the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, whose mission it is to preach the Gospel to all the world, with all of its endeavors being supported by God's financial plan of the tithe and freewill offerings and gifts of the people. Ephesians 5:23-32, Ephesians 4:11-13, Ephesians 1:22, 23, Colossians 1:24, Colossians 1:18, I Timothy 3:15, Acts 20:28.
13. We believe that the ordinances of the Church, given by our Lord, are Baptism (by immersion) and the Lord's Table (Communion). Matthew 26:26-30, I Corinthians 11:18-32, Matthew 3:13-15, Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12, 1 Peter 3:21.
14. We believe that all the foregoing are Bible doctrines; therefore, we stand firm upon this Declaration of Faith which cannot be amended.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any person may be received into membership of this local congregation upon professing saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Persons desiring membership shall acknowledge their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and their acceptance of the Doctrinal Statement of Faith (see Article II) and the Missional Membership Commitment (see Article IV). They shall complete required instruction sessions for prospective members.
2. Church membership shall be required for all pastors, staff, employees, and Board of Deacons.
3. Every member 18 years and older, and in good standing, shall have the right to vote at a called meeting of the congregation. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
4. On becoming a member of this church, each one covenants to love and honor one another; to pray for the church leadership, and to recognize their authority in spiritual affairs of this church.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT**

Having received the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, persons desiring membership shall willingly enter into the following commitment:

*Having received the requirements and explanation of Missional Membership at The Chapel, I make the following commitment as I join this local expression of Christ's Church:*

- 1. I will pursue Jesus Christ wholeheartedly and follow Him in every area of my life.*
- 2. I will submit to God's Word as my final authority.*
- 3. I will regularly participate in the life of The Chapel and be an active contributor with my time, gifts and resources.*
- 4. I will take ownership of my own spiritual formation and seek consistent growth in embracing intimacy with God, experiencing Christ-like relationships, engaging my spiritual gifts and sharing my story of grace.*
- 5. I will walk in holiness, putting to death the habits and attitudes of my old life.*
- 6. I will pursue unity with other believers locally (at The Chapel), regionally (the Church at Buffalo) and globally (the worldwide Body of Christ).*
- 7. I will participate in the mission of reaching every man, woman and child in any way that God leads me - even at the expense of my comfort.*
- 8. I have been baptized by immersion as a public profession of my faith in Jesus Christ.*

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

All members of this congregation are expected to conduct their lives according to the standard set forth in the Scriptures. Such conduct includes moral purity (I Corinthians 6:18-20; I Thessalonians 4:1-7), personal honesty (Ephesians 4:25) and Biblical fidelity (Jude 20, 21, II Timothy 3:14-17). Our lives are to be consistent examples of authentic Christianity as we walk in the light (1 John 1:6-7), emulating the character of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:15-21; II Peter 1:5-8).

Should any member willfully depart from this Scriptural standard and engage in conduct which conflicts with Biblical principles of holiness, the procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-16 shall be followed for the purpose of leading the erring individual to repentance and ultimately to full restoration. This shall be done in a spirit of humility and gentleness (Galatians 6:1) as well as loving honesty (Ephesians 4:25). If after these steps of reproof are taken and there is no repentance, one of the Pastors, with at least one Deacon, shall confront, counsel, and pray with the person. Should there still be no evidence of repentance, the person shall be removed from the membership and fellowship of this church (Matthew 18:17, 1 Corinthians 5:11, II Thessalonians 3:14-15).

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **1. LEAD PASTOR**

##### **A. Duties**

The Lead Pastor is the under-shepherd of Jesus Christ and the primary public representative for The Chapel. His charge shall be the spiritual welfare of the congregation. He is primarily responsible for the life and work of the church. He is the spokesman for the Board of Deacons and serves as moderator for Board meetings. In his absence, the Board may select one of its members to moderate Board meetings.

The Lead Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Deacons and all Committees. He shall act as moderator in the business meetings of the church.

##### **B. Qualifications**

I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9. The Lead Pastor, as a born-again believer in Jesus Christ as his Savior



and Lord, must believe that it is God who has led him to accept this office with evidence of the qualifications of his calling. He shall persevere as a student of the Scriptures and defend the Scriptures, and the full doctrinal positions of this Constitution. He shall show proficiency in the Word of God, and he shall be one whose character is above reproach. If married, he will be the husband of one wife.

The Lead Pastor shall continue in this office until such time of his resignation, his death or his removal from office.

### **C. Call**

Upon the Lead Pastor's resignation, death or removal from office, the Board shall either serve as, or appoint a pastoral search team. The search team shall prayerfully search for a Lead Pastor and must be unanimous in its recommendations of a candidate to the Board.

The Board shall then interview and examine the candidate and his family. If desired, the Board will then schedule a time for the candidate to preach at designated church services. A forum will convene with the membership for the candidate to answer questions. Within fourteen (14) days, the Board will seek the wisdom and spiritual discernment from various members of The Chapel membership relative to the candidate. Thereafter, the Board will decide whether or not to recommend the candidate to the membership to call him as Lead Pastor of The Chapel. A special meeting of the membership shall be called to vote on this recommendation. A three-quarters (3/4) affirmative vote is required in order to extend a call to the candidate.

### ***D. Dismissal***

The Lead Pastor may be removed from office by the Board of Deacons only after proper steps of church discipline (Article V) have been followed. Causes for dismissal shall include doctrinal infidelity, immorality, criminal activity, financial misconduct or general lack of leadership or interest in the church. Should dismissal of the Lead Pastor become necessary, the Board will exercise utmost care, sensitivity, and caution. The teachings of Matthew 18 and Galatians 6 serve as proper guidelines.

## **2. GOVERNING THE CHURCH**

Jesus Christ, as King and head of the Church, has established through Scriptures, direction and authority for worship, doctrine, discipline and ecclesiastical government. No policy or procedure regarding the governance of The Chapel shall conflict with or be contrary to Biblical authority.

### ***A. Board of Deacons***

The congregation is represented by church officers collectively known as the Board of Deacons.

The affairs of the church and all campuses shall be governed by the Board of Deacons. Nevertheless, the daily operations of the church shall be the responsibility of the Lead Pastor, Executive Leadership and Staff with oversight and accountability to the Board of Deacons.

The Board of Deacons shall consist of six (6) Deacons and one (1) Board Secretary.

Three (3) Deacons shall also bear the designation "Deacon-Trustee." These Deacon-Trustees are the Board's designated representatives to execute any legal documents required by law to be signed by a "Trustee."

In accordance with New York Not-For-Profit law, at least three (3) Deacons shall qualify as "Independent Directors". Independent Directors will have the specific responsibility for decisionable matters involving conflicts of interest, reporting of concerns (whistleblower policy), certain audit matters and compensation decisions. Where possible, three (3) of these same Independent Directors shall carry the "Trustee" designation and responsibility.

A quorum of the Board of Deacons shall be at least four (4) members of the Board.

### ***B. Term of Service***

Each Deacon's term of service shall be three (3) years. Each Deacon is eligible for re-election to one (1) additional consecutive three (3) year term.

At least one (1) year must elapse before they are eligible for additional terms of service after completing six (6) years of consecutive service. Qualifications—I Timothy 3:1-13.

The Board Secretary shall serve a one (1) year term. The Board Secretary may succeed themselves without restriction and shall be elected in the same manner and meet the same qualifications as Deacons. The Board Secretary shall have the same voting rights as a Deacon.

The Board of Deacons shall prayerfully seek unanimity in all decisions. Thus, each member of the Board believes the Holy Spirit has one will for all matters discussed, and the Board will seek to find and obey His will. If unanimity is not reached on an item, said matter will be tabled for future consideration.

Each Board member will be appointed by the Lead Pastor as a liaison with specific ministries within the church assuring communication between different

parts of the body, thus maintaining healthy functioning of the church.

This church shall not be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body and shall be, in respect to its affairs, fully autonomous and self-governing.

### ***C. Selection of Deacons***

Deacons of the church are to be selected by the current Deacons by a unanimous vote. The selection process commences with prayerful consideration of members of the church and can be nominated for consideration of the Board by the Lead Pastor, current Deacons, former Deacons or members of the church. Nominations shall be submitted to the Board of Deacons in writing. Once nominated, the person may be invited to attend regularly scheduled Deacon meetings as an observer until such time as they, or the Board, may terminate their consideration or be voted into office by the Board and affirmed by the membership to serve no more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms without a year of absence. Affirmation of Deacons shall be done within ninety (90) days following the close of the church fiscal year at the annual meeting of the membership.

### ***D. Removal of a Deacon***

A Deacon may be removed from their office by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of Deacons. Causes for dismissal shall include doctrinal infidelity, immorality, criminal activity, financial misconduct or general lack of leadership or interest in the church.

### ***E. Former Deacon***

A Former Deacon is a member who has served two (2), three (3) year terms as Deacon or Deacon-Trustee of the church and may be called into a form of service where needed.

It is the expectation of the church that once a Deacon, always a Deacon, as long as the individual's conduct and spiritual life is consistent with that of a Deacon, and they continue to be supportive of the church. Therefore, all former Deacons in good standing in the church, who so desire, shall be considered as such and in an advisory capacity to current leadership where needed.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### ***ORDINATION & LICENSING***

Any Biblically qualified member of this congregation who, having completed their academic training, gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry outside of the congregation and possesses Biblical qualifications may be considered and affirmed by the Board of Deacons for ordination as a Minister of the Gospel. Employees of The Chapel who qualify as a minister and conduct ceremonial activities requiring licensure on behalf of The Chapel shall also be considered and affirmed by the Board of Deacons for licensing.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### ***FISCAL YEAR AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING***

The church fiscal year shall be May 1 through April 30.

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The annual business meeting of the congregation shall be held within ninety (90) days following the close of the church fiscal year. At this meeting, Deacons shall be affirmed, the annual financial

report shall be presented, and necessary business shall be transacted.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***RECORDS AND REPORTS***

The church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records);
2. Written minutes of all annual meetings and Deacon meetings (to be taken by the Secretary of the Board);
3. A record of the members of the church, setting forth members' names and addresses; and
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

All such records shall be kept at the church's principal office.

## **ARTICLE X**

### ***INDEMNIFICATION OF DEACONS, PASTORAL STAFF, EMPLOYEES AND OTHER AGENTS***

#### **1. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Chapel may indemnify each of its Deacons, Deacon-Trustees, officers, Pastors, and staff as aforesaid, from and against any and all judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement, and reasonable expenses including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred or imposed as a result of such action or proceeding, or any appeal therein, imposed upon or asserted against him or her by

reason of being or having been such a Deacon, Deacon-Trustee, officer, Pastor, or staff member and acting within the scope of his or her official duties, but only when the determination shall have been made judicially or in the manner hereinafter provided that he or she acted in good faith for a purpose which he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the church and, in the case of a criminal action or proceeding, in addition, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. This indemnification shall be made only if the church shall be advised by its Board of Deacons acting (a) by a quorum consisting of Deacons and Deacon-Trustees who are not parties to such action or proceeding upon a finding that, or (b) if a quorum under (a) is not obtainable with due diligence, upon the opinion in writing of an independent legal counsel that, the Deacon and Deacon-Trustees have met the foregoing applicable standard of conduct. If the foregoing determination is to be made by the Board of Deacons, it may rely, as to all questions of law, on the advice of independent legal counsel.

Every reference herein to a member of the Board of Deacons, Deacon, Deacon-Trustee, officers, Pastors, and staff members of the church shall include every Deacon, Deacon-Trustee, officer, Pastor and staff member thereof or former Deacon, Deacon-Trustee, officer, Pastor and staff member thereof. This indemnification shall apply to all the judgments, fines, amounts in settlement, and reasonable expenses described above whenever arising, allowable as above stated. The right of indemnification herein provided shall be in addition to any and all rights to which any Deacon, Deacon-Trustee, officer, Pastor, or staff member of the church might otherwise be entitled and the provisions hereof shall neither impair or adversely affect such rights.

## **2. ADVANCE OF EXPENSES**

Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by the church before the final disposition of the proceeding on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the agent to repay the amount of the advance unless it is determined ultimately that the agent is entitled to be indemnified as authorized in this Article X.

## **3. INSURANCE**

The Deacons may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the church against any liability asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status such as, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify the agent.

# **ARTICLE XI**

## **BYLAWS**

This Constitution shall be deemed to be the Bylaws of this corporation.

# **ARTICLE XII**

## **SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the congregation may be called for specific purposes at the initiation of the Board of Deacons or the Lead Pastor. A vote of five (5) members of the Board of Deacons will be required to call such a congregational meeting. Notice of a Special Meeting shall be given to the congregation at least one (1) week in advance by publication.



## **ARTICLE XIII**

### ***AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION***

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the members present, eligible to vote, except Article II (Doctrinal Statement) which cannot be amended. Notice shall be given publicly at least two (2) Sundays previous to the meeting in which amendments shall be considered.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### ***POLICY PAPERS***

The policy and position papers of The Chapel are the written, specific procedures for ministries which must be in compliance with this Constitution, and must be approved by the Executive Leadership and Board of Deacons.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### ***DISBANDMENT***

In the case of disbandment pursuant to Section 18 of the Religious Corporation Law, the property or the net proceeds thereof in case of sale shall be used for evangelical Christian missionary, benevolent and charitable efforts whose doctrinal statement is in compliance with The Chapel, and remembering insofar as possible the Christian organizations that have rendered to The Chapel financial assistance.



on *mission* to

**ENSURE**

*that*

{ **EVERY** MAN, woman **& CHILD** }  
HAVE *repeated* **OPPORTUNITIES**  
..... TO HEAR *and* SEE .....

*the*

**GOSPEL**

*of* JESUS CHRIST

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