

# **Constitution for The Huntington Chapel**

## **ARTICLE 1. NAME**

The name of this church is "The Huntington Chapel" of Shelton, Connecticut.

## **ARTICLE 2. THE OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE**

### Section 1- The Objective

The objective of The Huntington Chapel is: the glorification of God, the edification of Christians, the worldwide proclamation of God's saving grace, the promotion of godly worship, and cooperation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Word, the Bible, until Christ returns.

### Section 2- The Purpose

The Huntington Chapel exists to be a place where people can come to know Jesus, enjoy membership in His family, develop Christ-like maturity, and be equipped for the ministry in the church and for their life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name. That is, we gather, grow, do good works, go, and glorify God.

## **ARTICLE 3. DOCTRINAL BASIS**

### **I ABOUT GOD**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

### **II ABOUT MAN**

Man is made in the image of God to be united with Him and to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates man from God.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1 and 2

### **III ABOUT ETERNITY**

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is to live eternally in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 2:25; John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46

### **IV ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus descended from heaven and became fully man, who lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to

reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

#### **V ABOUT SALVATION**

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never pay for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

#### **VI ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:1

We also believe the Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.

Acts 1:5; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:2-4; Acts 19:2-6; Acts 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 3:5-7, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 5:18

#### **VII ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments comprise the full, inspired, and inerrant Word of God which is the final authority in doctrine and practice.

Is. 40:8; 2Timothy 3:16 and 17; Heb. 4:12; 2Peter 1:20 and 21

### **ARTICLE 4. GOVERNMENT**

#### **Section 1 - The Spiritual Control of the Church**

The Huntington Chapel acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Founder and Head, the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, discipline, and order; the Holy Spirit as its teacher; and sole spiritual guide.

#### **Section 2 - The Qualifications of the Pastor and Elder Board.**

The Pastor and Board of Elders shall consist of men of mature Christian character as defined by 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The Elder Board shall recommend to the Congregation such men who can and will conscientiously, and without mental reservation, ascribe to: the Statement of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws of The Huntington Chapel.

**Section 3 – The Function of the Elder Board.**

The government of the Church, the conduct of its business, the management and control of all its property, real and personal, the supervision of its general work and its organizations, shall, under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, be vested in the Elder Board.

**Section 4 - Delegation of Authority by the Elder Board**

The Elder Board shall have the ability to delegate to either individuals or Ministry Core Teams (Ministry Core Teams as defined in the by-laws) the right to transact any of its business or exercise any of its functions; the transaction of such business however, shall be at all times subject to the authority of the Elder Board who may choose to alter or recall that delegation.

**Section 5 - Restrictions Imposed Upon the Elder Board**

The Elder Board shall not encumber The Huntington Chapel with loan (except in the ordinary course), or transfer, or sell or purchase any real estate, of, or for The Huntington Chapel except by Majority vote of the Congregation.

**ARTICLE 5. FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE CHURCH**

This Church shall operate on a faith basis, depending solely on the Lord's provision for the support of His work, through the voluntary, free will offerings of His people as described in 2 Corinthians 8. Proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures, and we obligate ourselves to a systematic contribution for the support of the Church of such portion of our income as we believe God requires of us according to the principle laid down in I Corinthians 16:2

**ARTICLE 6. MARRIAGE**

The Huntington Chapel recognizes that Marriage is a Scriptural, therefore sacred, and holy institution. It is not to be considered lightly by this church, its ministers, or the parties to the marriage vows. The Huntington Chapel defines marriage as a God ordained covenant between one man and one woman.

**ARTICLE 7. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by a 3/4 majority of the members of the congregation voting at an Annual Meeting. The amendment shall be distributed in written form to the membership at least two weeks prior to the annual Meeting at which action on the matter will be taken.