

Church of the Open Door – Articles of Faith

ARTICLE I

THE NAME

The Name of the organization shall be THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR, of Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania. (formerly of Philadelphia)

ARTICLE II

THE OBJECT

The object of this Church is to glorify God in the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians, through the teaching of God's Word, the worldwide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of "The Faith Once Delivered," and cooperation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Holy Word - the Bible - until He comes.

SECTION 1. This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, and nursing homes.

SECTION 2. The church shall also ordain and license men to the gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and maintain missionary activities in the united States and **any foreign** country.

ARTICLE III

THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANT

SECTION I. Articles of Faith. Each and every person, in order to become or remain a member of this Church, shall subscribe to the following Articles of Faith.

A. I believe in one God, Creator of heaven and earth; Spirit, Light, Love, and Truth; eternal, almighty, infallible, and unchangeable, infinitely wise, just, and holy, and that God eternally exists and manifests Himself to us in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

B. I believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the eternal Word manifested in flesh. I believe that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He

is true God and true man. I believe in His vicarious, substitutionary and redeeming death, Christ receiving in Himself the penalty of man's sin. I believe in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension and in His personal, imminent and premillennial return for his redeemed ones, followed by his coming in glory to judge the rebellious and to establish His millennial reign.

C. I believe in the Holy Spirit, in His personality, that He is God; and I believe that His work is to convict men of sin; to regenerate, indwell and set the believer apart to a holy life; to keep and empower the believer day by day. I believe that He is the teacher of God's Word and the Guide for the daily life.

D. I believe that the whole Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired of God and inerrant in the original writings, and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life.

E. I believe that man, having been created pure and in the image of God, is by his own sin fallen from grace, and I believe that in consequence, all have sinned, are guilty and lost, and absolutely incapable of saving themselves by their own works, being dead in their trespasses and sins.

F. I believe that we are saved solely by grace, through faith in the blood sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

G. I believe in the eternal security and everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the eternal judgment and punishment of all who reject our Lord Jesus Christ: "This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the Lake of Fire." (Rev. 20:14,15)

H. I believe that Satan is a person, the author of the fall, and that he shall be eternally punished.

I. I believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the lost to judgment and everlasting punishment.

J. I believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death till He come. I believe that Water Baptism is a symbol of the believer's union with Christ in His death and in His resurrection.

K. I believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is composed solely of those who have been redeemed and washed in His Blood, and regenerated and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and that they are saved to serve; and that it is the responsibility and privilege of all who are saved to seek to win others to Christ, to the "uttermost part of the earth"; that they must seek to live a holy life, to separate themselves from and forsake all that might dishonor God or cast discredit on His cause, or weaken their testimony.

SECTION 2. In subscribing to these Articles of Faith, we by no means set aside, or undervalue, any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, all of which we believe to be God's own written Word, given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but the knowledge and belief of the truth as stated in our Articles of Faith we deem necessary to sound doctrine, and therefore requisite for Christian fellowship.

SECTION 3. Covenant. The following Covenant shall be used for the purpose of publicly welcoming new members into the Congregation:

We, then, the members of this Church do affectionately welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessing of the Gospel, and covenant together, God helping us, that as strangers and pilgrims we will abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul (1); that we will put away from us all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, and be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us (2); that as we have opportunity, we will do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (3); that we will remember them which have the rule over us, who speak unto us the Word of God (4); and that we will give as God has prospered us (5); not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver (6).

(1) I Peter 2:11 (2) Ephesians 4:31,32 (3) Gal. 3:10 (4) Heb. 13:7 (5) I Cor. 16:2 (6) II Cor. 9:7

(Then shall be given the right hand of fellowship to the new members by the Pastor and Elders.)

"Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Heb. 13:20,21)

SECTION 4. The provisions of this entire Article are to be considered as fundamental, the basis upon which this Church is founded, and none of the provisions of this Article shall ever be amended.