

SHARPSBURG BIBLE CHURCH

ESTABLISHED 1872

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



5134 General Stuart Court

301-432-5309

Revised February 2018

SHARPSBURG

BIBLE CHURCH

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know
that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. I Corinthians 15:58*

This Book Features:

History
of Sharpsburg Bible Church

Section A
Sharpsburg Bible Church Constitution

Section B
Sharpsburg Bible School Constitution

Constitution revised: February 14, 2018

P.O. Box 216
5134 General Stuart Court
Corner of Potomac & Antietam Streets
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782

301-432-5309
www.sharpsburgbiblechurch.org

SHARPSBURG BIBLE CHURCH HISTORY

1872

**Church was organized and was located on
North Potomac Street, Sharpsburg, Maryland**

1938

**Congregation relocated to 125 West Main Street,
Sharpsburg, Maryland**

1981

**Congregation built a new church located at the corner
of Antietam/Potomac Streets, Sharpsburg, Maryland**

1984

New Fellowship Hall was built

2014

Church Addition

2015

Church Sanctuary

Roster of the Sharpsburg Bible Church

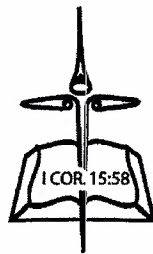
Pastors: 1872-Present (2018)

1873	C.L. Amy	1909	Rev. Reynolds
1876	A. W. Philhour	1910-1911	S. A. Kipe
1878-1880	S. W. Naille	1912-1913	J. L. Coffman
1881-1882	J. W. Kipe	1914-1917	P. D. Cunningham
1883-1885	A. W. Philhour	1918-1922	George Masser/ H. S. Churchey
1886	S. J. Montgomery		
1887-1888	A. S. Poisal	1923-1924	G. E. Masser
1889	J. W. Kipe	1925	S. A. Kipe
1890-1892	Rev. Lockinghill	1926-1941	C. W. Fink
1893-1894	S. J. Montgomery	1942	J. K. Stevens/ C. W. Fink
1895	John Johnson		
1896-1899	M. R. Cross	1943-1951	W. A. Herpich
1900	A. W. Philhour	1952-1958	David Ring
1901	W. H. Engler	1959-1961	Paul Hawbaker
1902-1903	V. K. Betts	1962-1965	John Gossert
1904	J. R. Carter	1965-1973	H. W. Churchey
1905	B. Craft	1973-1977	Paul Hawbaker
1906	S. J. Montgomery	1977-Present	Gene W. Renner
1907-1908	M. S. Shimp		

The

CONSTITUTION

and Bylaws of the
Sharpsburg Bible Church



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**POB 216 – 5134 General Stuart Court
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Sharpsburg Bible Church, Inc. of Sharpsburg, Maryland do hereby establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I - NAME

This company of believers shall be called the Sharpsburg Bible Church, Inc. We recognize that every "born again" person of all nations throughout the entire world make up the Church Universal, which is the Body and Bride of Jesus Christ. According to the teaching of the Word of God, there are many local assemblies within the Church Universal, with each local assembly being subjected to the direct headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. The believers who gather to worship the Living God at this Sharpsburg Bible Church, Inc. shall hereby make up the local assembly.

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The object of this Church is the edification of Christians through the teachings of God's Word, the salvation of souls, and the world-wide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of Godly worship, and the defense of "the faith once delivered", until He comes again.

ARTICLE III - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been born-again by the Word of God and the Spirit of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the provisions of the abounding grace of God and being forgiven on the basis of the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, and acknowledging our willingness to confess Him as our Saviour before men, we do now in the presence of God, the Holy Angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another as one Body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the power of the Holy Spirit to Walk together in Christian love to strive for the advancement of this local assembly, within the Body of Christ, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spiritually, to sustain its worship, ordinances, disciplines and doctrines, to contribute cheerfully, scripturally and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations by means of our missionaries and fundamental faith missions. We also engage to maintain family and private devotion, to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and to seek the salvation of our kindred, our acquaintances, our enemies, and all children and adults within the area of this Local Assembly. Through the provision that God has made victorious Christian Living, it shall be our desire to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul, and to live a life of separation from the world, from sinful and worldly practices, with a desire to grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the love of

ARTICLE III - CHURCH COVENANT cont.

Christ 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.

We recognize that one of the outstanding evidences of Christianity is love, according to the words of our Blessed Lord when He said: *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for another"*.

We further engage to watch over another in brotherly love, remember each other in prayer, to aid one another 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 to the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay. And this we do depending entirely upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, and of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who hath redeemed us with His own precious blood, and the indwelling Spirit, our Comforter, Teacher and Guide.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, His revelation to man, inerrant in the original writings and that it is therefore the supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

Section 2. THE TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD:

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. (Matthew 28:19)

Section 3. THE PRE-EXISTENCE, DEITY, AND INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe that Jesus Christ ever existed with the Father and Holy Spirit, and that in His incarnation was begotten by the Holy Spirit - Born of a Virgin Mary, and is true God and true Man. (John 1:1-19; I Timothy 3:16)

Section 4. THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved and for those who reach moral responsibility become sinners in thought, work and deed, and that they must be born-again to be accepted of God. (Romans 5:12; 3:10; 3:23; John 3:1-21)

Section 5. THE DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are saved on the grounds of His shed blood. We believe that He arose bodily from the dead on the third day in the same body in which He suffered and died. We also believe that our Lord ascended into

Heaven; that He is now seated on the right hand of the Father and is our High Priest and Divine Advocate with the Father. We believe that by His finished work on the cross, and His unceasing ministry of intercession in Glory, that Jesus Christ has procured for every believer Eternal Redemption, Eternal Salvation, and Everlasting Life. (I Cor. 15:3-4; Romans 5:9; John 2:1; 3:16; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 5:9; 8:1; 9:12)

Section 6. THE PERSONALITY AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, that He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgement, that He regenerates the sinner by the Word of God, that He permanently indwells the body of each believer, that he seals, enlightens, instructs and guides every born-again person and that He is sufficient power for Godly living, Christian service and spiritual worship. (John 3:5-7; 14:16,17,26; 16:7-17; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 4:30)

Section 7. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH:

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ was begun at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven and came into the Church; that it is composed solely of born-again people who have been called out from among the Jews and Gentiles to form the Body and Bride of our Lord. Christ glorified in Heaven is its Head and the Holy Spirit on earth is the active agent of the Godhead who ever seeks to bring within its ranks conformity and obedience to the Word of God and the Will of God. The one body unites believers to each other, and all to Christ; and its chief purpose of existence is to proclaim the Gospel to the world. (Acts 1:8; 2; 15:14; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 5:23, 24; I Cor. 12:12-13; Mark 16:15)

Section 8. ORDINANCES:

We believe that three ordinances are significant above any other that Christians are commanded to observe - namely: WATER BAPTISM, THE LORD'S SUPPER and the WASHING OF THE SAINTS FEET. While recognizing that Water Baptism has no saving merits, it is our conviction that after one is saved, Baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world that believers union with Christ in His Death, Burial, and Resurrection. It is our conviction that the scriptural method of Water Baptism is immersion. We further believe that Water Baptism by immersion is observed but once, and is a sign of identification, and a testimony to newness of life. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes. The Lord's Supper is to be observed as a memorial of the broken body and the shed blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The washing of the Saints feet portrays the deep humiliation of Jesus Christ and His great love to His followers. The characteristics portrayed by Christ in this act should be manifested in and through the life of every true believer. Happiness is promised to those who participate in this ordinance. (John 3:1-17, Matthew 28:19; I Cor. 11:22-23; Acts 8:31; Matthew 3:13-17)

Section 9. OUR LORD'S SECOND ADVENT:

We believe in the Blessed Hope, the personal premillennial, pretribulation, and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is known as the Rapture of the Church. We also believe in the personal, visible and glorious return of Christ to the earth with His Saints at the close of the Great Tribulation. This phase of His coming is known

as the "Revelation of Jesus Christ". When He returns to earth with His Saints, we believe that Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom and will reign for one thousand (1,000) years. (Titus 2:13; I Thes. 4:13-17; John 14:3; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-6)

Section 10. ISRAEL'S PLACE IN GOD'S PROGRAM:

We believe that the "gifts and calling of God are without repentance and therefore His covenanted people, Israel, now blind and scattered shall be redeemed and regathered to the Land of Promise known as Palestine; and under the personal and millennial reign of Christ upon David's Throne in Jerusalem, shall become the Head of the Nations and the Gentiles shall come to their light and kings to the brightness of their rising. (Romans 11:25-29; Psalm 72; Isaiah 60)

Section 11. THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD:

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Just at the Rapture; (I Thes. 4:15; I Cor.:15:51-57) and of the Unjust at the end of time. (Revelation 20:11-15)

Section 12. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE SAVED AND THE LOST:

We believe in a Heaven and a Hell. Heaven is one place of eternal consciousness and joy for all who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Hell is the place of conscious punishment for all who reject Jesus Christ and those dying in their sins until the final judgment at which time death and hell are cast into the Lake of Fire which is the place of eternal conscious punishment. (John 14:1-6; 8:24; Psalm 16:11; 9-17; Phil. 1:21-23; II Thes. 1:7-9; Revelation 20:10-15)

Section 13. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, and god of this age, the great enticer, the deceiver, the adversary of Christ, and His people, the accuser of the Brethren, whose end is the Lake of Fire. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19; II Cor. 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8; Rev. 12:9-10; 20:10; Matthew 25:41)

Section 14. SALVATION:

We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12, Eph. 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19)

Section 15. ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS:

We believe that it is the privilege of the believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

Section 16. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER:

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25; 3:10; Eph. 4:22-24; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9)

Section 17. LAW AND GRACE:

We believe the Grace of God to be sufficient for the maintenance of godly walk and that Christ and not Law, is the believers Rule of Life. (Gal. 2:16; 3:11; Romans 3:19, 20, 28; 11:6; I John 1:9)

Section 18. SEPARATION AND SANCTIFICATION:

We believe that the scripture clearly teaches nonconformity to the world for every believer, that born-again people should be separated from the world unto Christ that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and to be Holy as He is Holy. We believe that positional sanctification occurs at the moment of regeneration and that practical sanctification is to be progressive throughout the entire life span of the believer here on earth, God's provision for holy living is the believers identification with Christ in His death, resurrection and ascension; the indwelling person and power of the Holy Spirit and the believers yieldedness to Him; and by the powerful Word of God. (I Cor. 6:14-17; 6:19-20; 3:18; 7:1; Col. 3:1; 1:13; Titus 2:14; I Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 10:1,14; 4:1; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 1:15-26; 5:25-27; Gal. 5:16-23 and John 17:17)

Section 19. THE SANCTITY OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY:

We believe that the Covenant of Marriage and the institution of the Family have been designed by God, and is therefore to be maintained to the highest degree and preserved. The Sanctity of marriage is set forth in scripture. Scripture plainly states that a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife. A marriage between two individuals of the same sex, as determined by birth, is definitely not the design of God and therefore it is forbidden in scripture. (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-5)

Section 20. We believe that God has designed and evidenced the Scriptural Standards regarding moral sexual behavior in the original creation of Adam and Eve, and that it is to be obeyed or there will be dire consequences for violating the standards. We believe that the physical union is to be between a man and a woman who have been united in the covenant of marriage. We believe the following to be the moral sexual behavior standards we find in Scripture...

For a person to be involved or engaged in the practice of FORNICATION (I Cor. 5:9-13; I Thess. 4:3), ADULTERY (Ex. 20:14; Matt. 5:32; Matt. 19:9), HOMOSEXUALITY (Romans 1:27), LESBIANISM (Romans 1:26), INCEST (Lev. 18:6-18), and BEASTALITY (Lev. 18:23) is in violation of the moral standard of God, and is forbidden to those who name the Name of Christ.

Based on the above fore-named practices and scriptures, no one involved or engaged in the practice of any one of these sins, be it FORNICATION, ADULTERY, HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM, INCEST or BEASTALITY shall be permitted to hold any office or promote their personal lifestyle in Sharpsburg Bible Church.

ARTICLE V - ORDINATION AND LICENSE

Section 1. When in the judgment of the Board of Elders a man in the membership of this Church is called to the Christian Ministry, it shall be within the power of the Board of Elders to call and conduct a Council of Ordination. This Council may consist of the Board of Elders and other representatives of the Church or it may be a Council composed of ordained ministers and two representatives of the church served by each minister. The ordaining council shall examine all applicants for ordination as to; Christian experience, reputation, their call to the Christian ministry, their preparation character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated ability in Christian service.

Section 2. The following shall not be ordained to the Ministry:

- A) One who cannot convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.
- B) One who is addicted to the use of intoxicating beverages, drugs, or tobacco in any form, or one who has brought disrepute upon his Christian life through worldly practices and associations.
- C) No woman shall be ordained by this Church.
- D) No divorced person shall be ordained by this Church.
- E) No Homosexual person shall be ordained by this Church.

Section 3. It shall be within the power of the Church Council to call an Ordination Council for the purpose of ordaining a man who is not a member of this Church, but it shall not be a common practice.

Section 4. It shall be within the province of this Church Council to discipline even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under the stipulations of this constitution. If the said minister is found guilty of any of the practices named in subdivision (2B) of this Article, after an impartial trial has been conducted by a Trial Board made up of at least three fourths (3/4) of the membership of the Church Council, after a full hearing has been granted; the Trial Board shall express their decision by vote to either revoke the ordination credentials or to permit the ordination credentials to continue in effect. The decision of this Trial Board shall be final. If any minister who is found guilty by the Trial Board can produce within six months after his ordination credentials have been revoked, evidence that had not entered into his trial that may establish his innocence, he shall have the right to declare that evidence to the Church Council and if in their opinion it is a valid reason, they may order a re-trial for the one previously tried.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Church shall be composed of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and have promised to observe the ordinances of the Church, to contribute their time, talents and tithes as God prospers them.

Section 2. The active membership shall consist of members in Good Standing.

POINTS DETERMINING GOOD STANDING:

- Faithful attendance at Worship Services.
- Partaking Holy Communion at least twice each Calendar Year.
- General attitude concerning Spiritual matters.

ARTICLE VII - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The members of this Church shall meet once every four (4) years to elect the office for the coming four years. This meeting shall be held the second Wednesday of December. The Pastor shall make this announcement at least two weeks prior to the date of this meeting at all services. The newly elected officers will be installed in their offices on the last Sunday in December, following the Church Election and assume their duties the first of January. Installation of new officers will be on the 4th Sunday in December after the election.

Section 2. The members of this Church shall meet annually, on the third Wednesday of January for the purpose of giving the financial report of ALL treasurers. Also at this meeting, all such business as deemed necessary for the benefit of the Church will be transacted.

Section 3. Special Congregational Meetings may be called by the Church Council at the request of fifteen members of the Church, or by the Council at their own option. Such meetings shall not be held until two (2) weeks verbal and posted notices have been given to the Church. No business shall be transacted at such a special meeting other than that for which the special congregational meeting was called.

Section 4. At all such meetings, members in Good Standing, ONLY may have a voice and vote.

Section 5. Sunday Evening service shall begin at 6:00 PM, Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATION

Section 1. At all congregational meetings, the President of Council will be the presiding officer, or in his absence, an elder. In all elections, a majority of votes cast shall determine the election.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the presiding officer to act in an impartial manner, to preserve order, to appoint all committees unless otherwise provided.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct record of the minutes and discharge all duties pertaining to this office.

Section 4. In order to be nominated for an office of the Church, the person must be a member in Good Standing. The officers to be elected every four (4) years are as follows:

Elders	-Three (3)
Deacons	-Two (2)
Trustees	-Five (5)
Secretary	-One (1)
Asst. Secretary	-One (1)

The Church Council shall appoint the General Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, Missionary Coordinator, Deaconess, Ushers, Music Department which consists of: Music Director, Choir Director, Asst. Choir Director, Pianist and Organist and their Assistants. These positions shall be appointed by the newly elected members of the Church Council prior to installation of the new council before January.

Section 5. The same person shall not be eligible to hold more than two (2) offices in any four (4) year period on the Church Council.

Section 6. A person must be an active member of this Church one (1) year before being considered eligible for a Church office. However, an individual may be considered eligible by the Official Board, if he or she has been a Christian for more than a year and was faithful and active in their previous FUNDAMENTAL Church. Also, they should have a Letter of Recommendation from the previous Church confirming their faithfulness to God and the Church.

ARTICLE IX - THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. The Church Council shall be composed of:

Pastor	Elders
Deacons	Trustees
Church Secretary	Asst. Church Secretary
General Treasurer	Asst. General Treasurer
Music Director	Sunday School Superintendent

The Council shall meet regularly on the First Monday of each month and at such other times as may be required to transact Church Business.

Section 2. Council Members are required to frequently attend church services. Council Members are required to be faithful in attendance at all regular or called meetings. If a Member willfully absents himself and can give no valid reason for not attending over a period of three (3) consecutive months, he shall be notified to report and give reason for his absence. If he does not report and give reason, he or she will be requested to surrender their office. It is expected for all Council Members to live a separated life and to abstain from practices contrary to the Word of God – a life that would not bring reproach to the cause of Christ.

Section 3. By virtue of his position, the Pastor shall be the President of the Council, unless he desires otherwise. It shall be the duty of the President to appoint all committees, unless otherwise provided and to perform such duties as normally relates to this office. In his absence, one of the elders shall assume the duties of the President.

ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. THE PASTOR:

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to perform all duties relative to the Gospel Ministry, as the church may require. He shall be granted a least two (2) weeks vacation annually. If the Church desires services in his absence, he shall arrange for this with the approval of the Elders - the church bearing such expenses as may be involved. He shall be responsible for the organization of the various boards of the Church at the beginning of each Fiscal Year.

Section 2. ELDERS:

It shall be the duty of the Elders, in cooperation with the Pastor to attend to the Spiritual affairs of the Church and to render such assistance to him in discharge of his duties, as he may require, and strive to fill the requirements of an Elder according to Titus Chapter 1, and I Timothy 3: 1-7.

Section 3. SECRETARY'S DUTIES

Send a welcome card to all visitors.

Prepare minutes for each Board Meeting.

Keep records of members – baptism, converts, graduation, new births, rededication, new members, weddings and funerals.

Send flowers to the sick in the hospital and for bereavement.

Send thank you letters for memorial donations to the church.

Send letters for Pastor / Church correspondence.

End of the year totals and congregational meeting correspondence.

Update church files of all correspondence and file in cabinet in church.

Treasurer Duty – Assistant Treasurer.

Prepare Bulletins on a weekly basis. (Can be done by someone other than the Secretary).

Section 4. DEACONS:

It shall be the duty of the Deacons to attend to all the temporal needs of the Church. They shall make every necessary provision for the observances of the Ordinances. They shall take up all offerings unless other arrangements have been made, and shall perform the duty of the deacon as given in I Timothy 3:8-13.

Section 5. TRUSTEES:

The Trustees shall, in conformity to Law, control all property belonging to the congregation. The Trustees shall keep all property in good repair. They shall present all needs to the Church Council before contracting any debt of more than \$300.00 per project. A Trustee must be 21 years of age or older.

Section 6. THE GENERAL TREASURER:

The General Treasurer shall receive all monies collected or otherwise received by the Church, and pay all bills authorized by the Council and make a Monthly Report to the Council and a Yearly Report at the close of each fiscal year.

Section 7. DEACONESS:

There shall be two (2) Deaconess appointed by the Council every four (4) years. They shall prepare the Communion Table and assist in the Communion Service. They shall supply the Nursery with Attendants for all Worship Services.

Section 8. USHERS:

The Ushers will be appointed every four (4) years. They shall lift the offering, and will assist visitors to find a seat, and endeavor to make the guests welcome.

Section 9. MUSIC DIRECTOR:

The Music Director is appointed by the Church Council. The Music Director must be qualified in Music such as:

- Knowledge of Music
- Ability in Music Organization and duties will consist of:
- Organizing and Co-ordinating the Music Programs of the the Church.
- Maintaining order and discipline of the Choir.

ARTICLE XI - SELECTING A PASTOR

The procedure for selection of a Pastor will be as follows if the incumbent should resign, die or be dismissed:

Section 1. The Elders shall serve as a "pulpit committee" and will arrange for all of the service requirements until a successor to the office of Pastor has been selected. They shall prayerfully seek the leading of the Holy Spirit in their effort to contact the man (or men) who shall be a candidate for the office of Pastor. In the event of the Church being

without a Pastor, the Elders shall endeavor to hold the services of the Church until a Pastor can be secured. The name or names of the candidate or candidates shall be submitted to the Church Council for approval, after which, the name or names shall be submitted to the entire congregation who shall express their conviction by means of a secret ballot vote. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present must be received by any candidate before he shall be called as the Pastor of this congregation.

ARTICLE XII - DISMISSAL OF PASTOR

Section 1. The Pastor shall be free to resign as he feels led of the Holy Spirit, but out of Christian courtesy, he should give a sixty (60) day written notice to the Church Council.

Section 2. The Church Council through a two-thirds (2/3) vote, can request the Pastor to resign. Out of Christian courtesy the Council should give the Pastor sixty (60) days written notice.

Section 3. Whenever dismissal proceedings may be in order against a Pastor on the grounds of proven immorality, heresy in doctrine, spiritual declension or apostasy, or failure to properly attend to his duties as Pastor of the Church, the accused shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Church Council in his own defense. After a full hearing has been granted, the Church Council shall cast their vote to indicate whether they are, or are not in favor of the Pastor's dismissal. The matter shall then be placed before the congregation and by means of secret ballot, every member of the congregation in Good Standing from 18 years old and upward shall be given the opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of the decision of the Church Council on this matter. If two thirds (2/3) of the vote of the congregation favors the dismissal proceedings instigated by the Church Council, the Pastor shall immediately be removed from office. If the vote "in favor of dismissal" is less than two-thirds (2/3), the Pastor shall be retained, providing the charge in the proceedings was for failure to properly attend to the duties of the Church. However, if the charge in the proceedings was:

Immorality, (including same sex marriage) Heresy In Doctrine,
or Spiritual Declension or Apostasy -

the Church Council may still over-rule the negative vote of the congregation by a unanimous vote of at least 3/4 of the Church Council. In such an event, the Church Council by a majority vote may continue to pay the one dismissed for a period not to exceed Thirty (30) days.

ARTICLE XIII - VOTING PRIVILEGES

Section 1. All members eighteen (18) years of age and upward shall have a voice and vote in the business of the Church.

Section 2. The Church Council shall serve as NOMINATING COMMITTEE and shall have ballots prepared for BOTH CHURCH and SUNDAY SCHOOL Elections. Also Nominations from the floor will be accepted, providing person has been contacted by individual.

ARTICLE XIV - DISCIPLINE

Section 1. If any member offends another, it shall be the duty of the Pastor and Elders to act as the Law in God's Word according to Matthew 18:15-17. Then, if the person persists in the offense, he or she shall no longer be considered a member of this Church.

Section 2. All members in this body of believers shall dress in a manner that would not bring reproach upon the cause of Christ or that which is contrary to the Scriptures.

Section 2A. If this Article is abused-it is subject to action of the Official Board.

ARTICLE XV - VACANCIES

Section 1. Any Church Official resigning, shall do so in writing to the President of the Council and is to be acted upon by the Council. Officers with ANY Church Records in their possession at the time of their resignation, MUST turn ALL records over to the President of the Council.

Section 2. All vacancies shall be filled by the Council.

ARTICLE XVI - LETTERS OF TRANSFER

Letters of transfer or withdrawal from this Membership shall be granted only on written request, and shall be signed by the Pastor and Church Secretary.

ARTICLE XVII - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Section 1. Special collections, donations or money shall be solicited from the membership of this church only as authorized or sanctioned by the Church Council.

Section 2. There shall be no selling or buying for the purpose of making money by the Church or any of its auxiliaries at any time. God instructs us on the method of giving and receiving.

Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,... ..., and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

ARTICLE XVIII - ORDER OF BUSINESS AT ANY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The following shall be the order of business at any congregational meeting:

1. Devotions - by Pastor in Charge.
2. Minutes of last congregational meeting, reports of officers and committees.
3. Deferred Business.
4. New Business.
5. Suggestions for the Good of the Church.
6. Prayer and Adjournment.

ARTICLE XIX - CAMP FEES

A student MUST attend Sunday School forty-eight (48) Sundays (two Sundays for Visitation and two Sundays due to Sickness) which would equal one year, in order for the Church to pay one-half (1/2) for his or her camp fee.

ARTICLE XX - MISSIONARY COORDINATOR

This position will be appointed by the Church Board every four (4) years following the Church Election.

Duties of the Missionary Coordinator are:

1. Correspond with all Missionaries
2. Issue a quarterly Missionary News Letter
3. Plan Annual Missionary Conferences
4. Schedule Missionary Speakers for Sunday Services

All Missionary monies will be deposited into the General Treasury. Disbursement of designated amounts to Missionaries supported by the Sharpsburg Bible Church will be issued from the treasury.

ARTICLE XXI – MUSIC DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT

Section 1. Membership in the Sounds of Joy Choir is open to all persons, age 13 and up, who are interested in singing and leading the congregational songs.

Section 2. While the ability to read music is helpful, the main requirement for membership is having:

- A. accepted Jesus as personal Savior
- B. member of the Sharpsburg Bible Church
- C. a desire to serve God and the Church
- D. a willingness to faithfully attend rehearsals and services.

Section 3. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings following the evening worship service.

Section 4. Each member is assigned a Choir robe which is to be worn during designated worship services.

Section 5. Personal grooming should be a high priority and modest apparel.

BY-LAWS

1. The Ordinances of the Church shall be observed quarterly under the Direction of the Pastor and Elders.
2. The Government of this Church shall be vested in the Church Council.
3. All Voting shall be done by SECRET BALLOT.
4. This Constitution may be revised upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority of this voting membership present at any congregational meeting.

CONSTITUTION REVISED: February 14, 2018

PASTOR : Rev. Gene W. Renner

ELDERS : Mr. Ronald Bricker
Mr. Lawrence Hoffman
Mr. Gary Nunamaker

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The

CONSTITUTION

and Bylaws of the
Sharpsburg Bible Church
Bible School
Revised 2018

Section B

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The name shall be: The Bible School of the SHARPSBURG BIBLE CHURCH, INC. of Sharpsburg, Maryland.

ARTICLE II - DEPARTMENTS

The Membership of the above School shall be divided AS NECESSARY into:

Nursery	Kindergarten
Primary	Junior
Teens	Adults

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

The Executive Officers of said School must all be Christians and the offices are as follows:

- 1) Superintendent**
- 2) Assistant Superintendent**
- 3) Secretary**
- 4) Assistant Secretary**
- 5) Treasurer**
- 6) Assistant Treasurer**

These persons along with the Pastor and Teachers will have jurisdiction over selecting the literature and all necessary materials for said School, along with the approval of the Church Council.

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. Be on time to open the Sunday School at the appointed time.
- B. Conduct the services, both opening and closing.
- C. To give as much notice as possible to the Assistant Superintendent in event he is unable to be present.
- D. To be prepared to TEACH or to appoint a CAPABLE TEACHER, in case of emergency.
- E. To appoint various committees when needed with the approval of the Pastor.

Section 2. ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Superintendent to work in close harmony with the Superintendent in the leading of said School.
- B. In the event the Superintendent is absent - he shall conduct the School.
- C. He should be prepared to teach in case of the absence of a teacher.

Section 3. SECRETARY:

- A. The Secretary or Assistant Secretary shall keep a record of attendance and offerings of the Bible School and minutes of all Sunday School Board Meetings, thus being able to give a report at any called meeting of the Superintendent.
- B. Is expected to attend the Teacher's Meetings and be in attendance at the Services of the Church.

Section 4. TREASURER:

- A. The Treasurer shall receive all monies collected from the classes. It shall be re-counted and a written record kept.
- B. The Treasurer shall give a BI-ANNUAL report to the entire Bible School of all monies taken in and all expenditures for the years prior to the date of election.

ARTICLE V - TEACHERS AND OFFICERS**Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS AND TEACHERS**

- A. All officers and teachers must have received Christ as their personal Saviour and be a Baptized Member of said Church.
- B. Good Example in the Department.
- C. Subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement of said Church.
- D. Separated from the World and live a life that would not bring reproach to the cause of Christ.
- E. All teachers and officers must be in Good Standing with the Church.

POINTS DETERMINING GOOD STANDING:

- Faithful attendance at Worship Services.
- Partaking Holy Communion at least twice each Calendar Year.
- General attitude concerning Spiritual matters.

Section 2. SELECTION OF TEACHERS

- A. The Adult Classes shall elect their own teachers. The office of teacher and assistant teacher shall be voted upon on separate ballots. The date of the election shall be announced to the class three weeks in advance.
- B. All teachers for the other classes shall be appointed by the Superintendent, along with the Assistant Superintendent and shall be selected according to ABILITY, FAITHFULNESS, and WILLINGNESS TO SERVE in the teaching capacity. Each class shall have an Assistant Teacher.
- C. All Teachers shall be approved by the Pastor.

Section 3. DUTIES OF THE TEACHERS:

- A. Each Teacher shall come prepared to teach the lesson as efficiently as possible, giving equal consideration to the spiritual needs of each pupil.
- B. In the event of a teacher being absent, they should give as much notice as possible to the Assistant Teacher, so the class will not be without a teacher.
- C. All Teachers are expected to be at all meetings called by the Superintendent, being prepared to discuss their problems and needs.

ARTICLE VI- MEMBERSHIP IN SCHOOL

Section 1. ENROLLMENT:

- A. To become a New Member in the Bible School, a person must be present three (3) consecutive Sundays and on the fourth (4) be added to the School.
- B. A person being willfully absent for three (3) consecutive Sundays will be removed from the roll. In the event of accident or prolonged illness, the officials of the School shall make the decision as to removal.
- C. Any person visiting the School, will be given a Visitor's Card upon request.
- D. Any person who is a member of Sharpsburg Bible Church Bible School and is involved in an alternative lifestyle such as: FORNICATION, ADULTERY, HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM, INCEST, or BEASTALITY shall not be permitted to hold an office in the Bible School or promote their lifestyle, as all the above mentioned sins are forbidden in the Holy Scriptures (The Bible)!

ARTICLE VII - BIBLE SCHOOL ELECTION

Section 1. The election of officers for said School will be held every four (4) years on the First Sunday in December and newly elected officers will assume their duties on the First Sunday of the New Year.

Section 2. The Election shall consist of the following:

- A. Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.
- B. Secretary and Assistant Secretary.
- C. Pianist and Assistant Pianist.

Section 3. A Scholar must be eighteen (18) years of age and a member of Sharpsburg Bible Church to be eligible to vote in the Bi-Annual election or upon matters which need to be settled by voting.

ARTICLE VIII - SPECIAL DAYS

Section 1. ANNUAL PICNIC:

- A. The Bible School shall have an Annual Picnic.
- B. The Bible School shall furnish all awards given at the Picnic.
- C. The Date and Day of Picnic, also the Place will be decided by the officers and said School.
- D. The Place shall be selected as soon after the New Year as possible.

Section 2. Any Special Speaker for a Class or Special Occasion must meet the approval of the Pastor.

ARTICLE IX - GENERAL ITEMS

Section 1. COMMITTEES:

- A. All appointed committees must consist of at least three (3) members, while there may be more than three (3) - if necessary. The decision will be determined by the Superintendent.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of members of the Church Council.

Section 3. The Superintendent and Pastor will work together in an endeavor to maintain the highest possible quality of teaching and administration.

Section 4. BY-LAWS:

- A. These By-Laws once read and approved and accepted by the majority of members of the Church Council shall be in effect until amended or altered.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. To effect an Amendment or Alteration of these By-Laws, a posted notice must be given to the said School at least two (2) weeks in advance, setting forth the Amendment or Alteration as well as the Time which such changes are to be voted upon.

Section 2. When an Amendment or Alteration is so proposed, it shall require a majority vote of all voting age Scholars present to make the Amendment or Alteration legal and effective.

ARTICLE XI - BIBLE SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. Bible School Promotion will take place the First Sunday of September of each year.

Section 2. Bible School Departments will be as follows:

NURSERY Infants thru Age 2

BEGINNERS Ages 3 thru 6

PRIMARY Ages 7 thru 10

JUNIORS Ages 11 thru 13

TEENS Ages 14 thru 19

ADULTS Ages 20 and Up

ARTICLE XII - CHURCH CAMP

Section 1. CHURCH CAMP POLICY:

A. The Church will pay one-half (1/2) of the Camper's Fee if the individual is a member of the Sunday School and has attended a minimum of 48 Sundays during the Camp year.

B. Unusual circumstances will be taken into consideration by the Church Board.

EXAMPLE: New Converts, Sickness, Membership Transferred from another church, etc.)

These situations will be voted on by the Board.

PASTOR: Rev. Gene W. Renner
Rev. Gene W. Renner - Pastor

-ELDERS-

Ronald Bricker
Ronald Bricker - ELDER

Lawrence Hoffman
Lawrence Hoffman - ELDER

Gary Nuhamaker
Gary Nuhamaker - ELDER

-DEACONS-

Seibert Milburn
Seibert Milburn - DEACON

Dennis Broadwater
Dennis Broadwater - DEACON

-TRUSTEES-

Durrell Baker
Durrell Baker - TRUSTEE

Eric Dilley
Eric Dilley - TRUSTEE

Charles Early
Charles Early - TRUSTEE

Gary W. Smith Sr.
Gary Smith Sr. - TRUSTEE

Rodney Sowers
Rodney Sowers - TRUSTEE

-SECRETARY-

Marilyn Nuhamaker
Marilyn Nuhamaker - SECRETARY

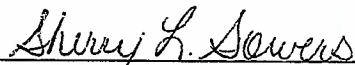
-ASSISTANT SECRETARY-

Tina Broadwater
Tina Broadwater - ASST. SECRETARY

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Erma Renner
Erma Renner

-TREASURER-



Sherry Sowers - TREASURER

-SUPERINTENDENT-



Gary Nunamaker - SUPERINTENDENT

The above officers of the Sharpsburg Bible Church hereby authorize the revised
Constitution/By-Laws of the Sharpsburg Bible Church - BIBLE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

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