

COVENANT
CONFESSION OF FAITH
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF VERNON, VERMONT



March 2011

*Looking for that blessed hope,
and the glorious appearing of the
great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Titus 2:13

Covenant
of the
Advent Christian Church
Vernon, Vermont

We whose names are here recorded, believing in God, the Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord — by whose grace we are saved—and in the Holy Spirit, and holding the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be of Divine inspiration and authority, do hereby covenant and agree by the help of the Lord to walk together as a Church of Christ in love and fellowship, agreeing to take the Bible as our rule of faith and practice, Church order and discipline, making Christian character our only test of fellowship and communion.

We further agree with Christian fidelity and meekness to exercise mutual watchcare, to counsel, admonish, and reprove, as duty may require, and to receive the same from each other as becometh the household of faith.

We also agree to contribute of our means as God hath prospered us for the support of this Church, the spread of the gospel, and the relief of the needy, especially those of our Church.

We further agree to attend the public services of this church, to seek the promotion of harmony among ourselves, to maintain private devotions, to train those under our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, to abstain from forms of worldliness which hinder our own spirituality and bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and to endeavor in purity of heart, newness of life, and good will toward all men, to exemplify and commend our holy faith and win souls for Christ.

Being mindful of our own weakness and insufficiency, and knowing that of ourselves we can do nothing, we humbly implore the Divine help and guidance in our earnest endeavor to keep inviolate this Covenant.

ARTICLE XI

Auxiliary Organizations

The Sunday School and all other organizations meeting in the Church or buildings belonging to the Church shall be auxiliary to the Church and subject to its direction and care.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

The By-Laws of this organization may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any annual business meeting of the Church, providing that notice of the proposed change shall have been read from the desk on the two preceding Sundays.

ARTICLE XIII

State Laws

The By-Laws are adopted as, and shall at all times be subject to, the Corporation Laws of the State of Vermont. No alteration, repeal of or addition to these By-Laws shall be inconsistent with the Corporation Laws of the State of Vermont.

ARTICLE XIII

The following shall be the usual order of business unless otherwise voted:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order
2. Prayer
3. Reading of Minutes
4. Clerk's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Auditor's report
7. Pastor(s)'s report(s)
8. Reports of other Officers
9. Reports of Committees
10. Unfinished business
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

Confession of Faith

Preamble

The following document is the Statement of Faith adopted by the Advent Christian Church of Vernon, Vermont.

The Statement consists of primary doctrines of the historic Christian church as well as some secondary doctrines distinctive to the Advent Christian denomination. Beyond these, however, its scope is not intended to address other secondary doctrines such as those pertaining to the end times, spiritual gifts or Creation accounts, to name a few.

Neither is this Statement of Faith a “creed” in the historic sense of the term, which is a set of beliefs to which adherence is required for participation in a defined group of Christians. Rather, it is a summary of what we believe scripture teaches on truths essential for faith and life, both individually and as a church—what the New Testament calls “the faith that was once for all handed down to God’s holy people” (Jude 3).

A further purpose of this Statement is to provide a “measuring stick” by which preaching and teaching are guided and kept consistent within the life and ministry of our church. It is understood that not all who participate in the life of the church may embrace every detail in the Statement. Therefore, with the exception of beliefs that are deemed clearly unbiblical, latitude will be granted to one another in matters of interpretation if it is the result of a humble search to come to terms with one or more of the Statement’s tenets. However, it is expected that those in positions of spiritual leadership will ascribe to its contents. It is also intended that those involved in the life of our church will not actively advocate teachings contrary to the Statement should they find themselves doubtful towards any of its tenets.

It must be noted that the doctrines in the Statement are not considered important for their own sake. Rather, their purpose is to lead us to a greater and clearer affection for the glory of God.

Preamble, cont'd

Sound teaching is not at odds with rich worship, and good theology is a key to great doxology (see Romans 11).

Last, this statement should neither excuse nor encourage neglect of the responsibility every believer has to study the scriptures for their own growth "... in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ." All who claim faith in Christ are urged to read and search the scriptures regularly for both their own edification and so that the church "may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God..." (Ephesians 4:12-13).

entered on the Church book, and he may receive the right hand of fellowship at the next communion service at which he is present.

Section VI Members in good standing may be dismissed at their request, by vote of the Church at any regular service or business meeting, and letters of recommendation shall be given to any other Christian Church, if they so desire. Persons receiving letters of recommendation to some other Church shall retain their membership with this Church until received by such other Church or otherwise excluded.

Section VII Members who have been found guilty of immoral conduct, or who have caused offense to the name of Christ or to His Church, may be suspended or excluded by two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Church. Such dismissal may take place only after the application of Biblical steps of discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1, under direct oversight of the Elders, with all attempts for restitution being exhausted without success.

Section VIII Members who have moved from town and others, who have not manifested any interest in the Church by their attendance or contribution for a period of one year or more may, by a vote of the Elders, be placed by the Clerk on an inactive list after careful attempts to motivate said members to renew their interest.. Members so placed on an inactive list shall not for general purposes be given the privileges of active membership such as acting and/or voting on matters of church business, until such time as they are reinstated to active membership. However, letters may be granted them if their conduct warrants, to other Churches upon their request, and in any case, the Elders will instruct the Clerk to automatically reinstate them upon their manifestation of interest by attendance, contribution or otherwise.

ARTICLE X

Finances

The finances of the Church shall be met by the freewill offerings, gifts and pledges of the people as we believe this method best maintains the spiritual life of the Church.

Presiding Elder, or on written request of three members of the Church, stating the object of the meeting.

Section V All active members of the Church in good and regular standing ages 16 and over, shall be entitled to vote at all Church meetings.

Section VI Meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the Presiding Elder or any three members of the Board by giving public notice at any regular Sunday morning or Sunday evening service or at any regular or special business meetings of the Church.

Section VII Meetings of regular or special committees may be called by the chairman of the committee or by any two members of the committee, by giving notice to other members of the committee. Meetings of committees may also be called by the Presiding Elder.

Section VIII Twelve percent of the active membership of the Church shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn. Five members shall constitute a quorum of the Trustees but a lesser number may adjourn.

ARTICLE IX

Membership

Section I Any person who maintains a consistent confession of faith in Christ, who has been baptized and who is willing to accept our Covenant, Confession of Faith and By-Laws, shall be eligible for membership.

Section II Immersion is the only mode of baptism to be practiced by this Church, but nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the Church admitting to its membership such believers as have been baptized by some other method which their conscience approves.

Section III Applications for membership may be presented to the Board of Trustees through any member of the same.

Section IV All applicants for membership shall meet with the pastor(s) to discuss his/her faith and commitment to Christ and the Church Covenant, Confession of Faith and By-Laws.

Section V A two-thirds vote of all members present at any meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be necessary to admit an applicant to membership, and when so accepted his name shall be

Confession of Faith

Desiring to set forth clearly that which we regard as scriptural and therefore true, we affirm the following:

Concerning God

We believe in one God,¹ eternally existent as Father,² Son,³ and Holy Spirit.⁴

We believe in God the Father² Almighty,⁵ creator,⁶ ruler,⁷ and restorer of His total creation.⁸

We believe in God the Son,³ fully divine⁹ and fully human,¹⁰ who carried out the will of the Father in the redemption of human beings.¹¹

We believe in God the Holy Spirit⁴ who in this age convicts of sin,¹² testifies to the things of Christ,¹³ and distributes gifts for building up the church.¹⁴

Concerning Scripture

We believe that God revealed Himself and His plans for His creation¹⁵ in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.

We believe that He superintended the process of revelation¹⁶ in such a way that the human authors recorded events and precepts without error.¹⁷

We believe that this inspired record is expressed in statements of fact which we can understand¹⁸ and which govern our theology and actions.¹⁹

Concerning human beings

We believe that people are rational beings²⁰ who are preeminent over the rest of creation as those who are created in the image of God.²¹

We believe that the physical and spiritual aspects of the person function together as a unit,²² neither the physical nor the spiritual capable of functioning apart from the whole.²³

We believe that humans were created good²⁴ with the prospect of living forever on the good earth,²⁵ that they forfeited that prospect by disobeying God.²⁶

We believe that all human beings are now by nature sinful,²⁷ subject to death as a consequence of sin,²⁸ and in need of salvation.²⁹

We believe that people are responsible to live holy and productive lives according to principles revealed clearly in Scripture.³⁰

We believe that the chief purpose of humans is to glorify God³¹ and to enjoy Him forever.

Concerning salvation

We believe that Adam's decision to disobey God resulted in God's displeasure, leaving humans subject to the curse of sin^{27a} and by nature objects of wrath^{27b}. The result is both spiritual and physical death²⁸ and an eternal destiny without hope apart from divine intervention on our behalf.³²

We believe that in keeping with the Father's plan,³³ Christ came to earth,³⁴ willingly accepted death³⁵ as a substitute for the punishment deserved by sinners³⁶, thereby satisfying divine justice^{36a}. All then, who by God's grace put their faith in the completed work of Christ on their behalf^{36b} are justified in God's sight^{36c} and credited with the righteousness of Christ^{36d}, nullifying any human effort or merit as grounds for salvation.^{36b}

We believe that the Holy Spirit in this age prompts the preaching of the good news about Christ,⁴⁰ convicts of sin,¹² regenerates those who then exercise the gift of faith,⁴¹ and enables them to live a holy life.⁴²

Concerning the church

We believe that the universal church is composed of all those who have put their trust in Christ alone for salvation.⁴³

Church when available, and also in co-operation with the Treasurer, provide flowers for the sick and deceased as the committee deems advisable.

Section II The Social Committee shall plan, promote and provide for special social activities of the Church (e.g. Harvest Supper, Fellowship Dinners, Receptions, etc.)

Section III The Finance Committee shall work with the Treasurer to prepare a budget for the Church to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting for approval, and to encourage generous financial support of the Church.

Section IV The Music Committee shall in general arrange for all music of the Church.

Section V The Christian Education Committee shall have general oversight of the Christian Education program of the Church, including Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, etc. They shall be responsible for the selection of teachers and curriculum. This committee will be best comprised of the Christian Education Chairperson and the directors of each of the Christian Education programs (Sunday School Superintendent, Youth Pastor/Director, Vacation Bible School Director, Adventure Club Director, Junior Church Director, Nursery Director, etc.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

Section I Meetings of the Church or its Board of Trustees shall be held in Vernon, Vermont.

Section II The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held on the third Tuesday in September or at such other date in September as may be agreed upon by vote of the Board of Trustees, and notice of same shall be given at the public services on the two Sundays preceding the meeting.

Section III Quarterly business meetings of the Church shall be held on the Tuesday following the second Sunday in the months of December, March and June, or at such other date(s) as may be agreed upon by the Board of Trustees. Notice of said meetings shall be given at the public services on the two Sundays preceding the meetings.

Section IV Special meetings of the Church may be held four days after public notice has been given at the call of the Clerk or

as shall be determined by the Board of Trustees and shall pay out only such moneys as voted by the Church or Board of Trustees. He shall make an annual report of the finances of the Church and shall make such special reports as the Trustees may direct.

Section V The Clerk shall keep a faithful record of all business meetings of the Church and Board of Trustees; maintain dated lists of members; their deaths or transfers; baptisms; and weddings held in affiliation with the Church; attend to all notices and correspondence; perform the duties imposed upon him by the laws of the state and the By-Laws of this Church; shall be responsible to the members for the faithful performance of such duties and shall make an annual report of such records of work.

Section VI The Diaconate (Deacons and Deaconesses) shall attend to the practical needs of the congregation, oversee the mercy ministries of the church, have direct responsibility for the management and distribution of the Benevolent (Bentley Memorial) Fund, serve in matters pertaining to the Lord's Supper, make preparations for and assist at baptisms, and visit the sick, poor or delinquent members.

Section VII The Auditor shall examine all accounts and see that they are correct; shall report thereon at each annual meeting, and at such other times as the trustees may direct.

Section VIII The Overseers shall, subject to the direction of the Trustees, have general supervision of the physical property of the Church.

Section IX The Organist shall in general preside at the organ or piano at the regular Church services and provide a substitute in his or her absence.

Section X The Chorister, in co-operation with the Pastor and other members of the music Committee, shall have general oversight of the music of the Church.

Section XI The Christian Education Chairperson/Director shall chair the Christian Education Committee and have general oversight of the Christian Education programs of the church.

ARTICLE VII

Duties of Committees

Section I The Flower Committee shall provide flowers for the

We believe that local congregations of believers are properly referred to as churches,⁴⁴ and that their chief responsibilities are to worship God,⁴⁵ to be instructed in the Scriptures,⁴⁶ to gather for fellowship,⁴⁷ to uphold one another in wholesome living,⁴⁸ and to testify to God's grace⁴⁹ in order to bring others to faith in Christ.⁵⁰

We believe that the only divinely instituted ordinances are the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)⁵¹ and the baptism by immersion of those who come to faith in Christ.⁵²

Concerning the future

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to earth⁵³ to raise the dead,³⁹ judge all people,⁵⁴ eliminate evil,⁵⁵ and establish God's eternal kingdom on the earth made new.⁵⁶

We believe that at the Second Coming of Christ, those without faith in Him will be resurrected,⁵⁷ judged,⁵⁴ and punished consciously with a degree of pain appropriate to their guilt, then deprived of life altogether.⁵⁸

We believe that, in the interim between Christ's first and second coming, those who die, believer and unbeliever alike, unaware of the passage of time, await the resurrection in an unconscious state.⁵⁹

We believe that those who have faith in Christ alone will live forever⁶⁰ in the new heavens and upon the new earth,⁵⁶ that is, in the physical creation restored to its original perfection.⁶¹

1 Deuteronomy 6:4; Deuteronomy 4:35; Psalm 96:5; Jeremiah 10:10a; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2.

2 Exodus 4:22; 2 Samuel 7:14a; Matthew 6:9; Romans 8:15; Romans 15:6.

3 Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35, 4:41; Matthew 14:33, 16:16, 26:63-64, 27:54; John 1:14, 49, 11:27, 20:31; Romans 1:4; Hebrews 1:2.

4 John 14:16-17; John 16:7; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:11-12; Ephesians 4:30.

5 Genesis 17:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Revelation 1:8.

6 Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11.
7 Exodus 15:18; 1 Chronicles 29:11-12a; 1 Timothy 1:17.
8 Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 21:1.
9 John 1:1; John 1:14; John 1:18; John 10:30; John 20:28;
Matthew 1:23; Romans 1:3-4;
Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-17;
Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:3a; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20.
10 Galatians 4:4-5; Genesis 3:15; Luke 2:40; Acts 17:30-31;
Philippians 2:6-7; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:14-18; Hebrews
4:14-15; 1 John 4:2-3.
11 Matthew 26:39; John 5:30; John 6:38; John 12:27; John 12:44-50;
Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10.
12 John 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3.
13 John 15:26; John 14:26; John 16:12-15.
14 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:11-16.
15 Hebrews 1:1; Amos 3:7.
16 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.
17 Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17; Titus 1:2.
18 1 Timothy 3:15; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Deuteronomy 30:11, 14;
Psalm 19:7b.
19 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:11; 2 Peter 1:10.
20 Deuteronomy 6:5.
21 Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:6-8.
22 Genesis 2:7; Job 33:4.
23 Ecclesiastes 12:7; James 2:26.
24 Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29.
25 Genesis 2:8-9.
26 Genesis 3:17, 19; Genesis 3:22-24.
27 Psalm 51:6; Ephesians 2:1-3. 27a Gen.3:14-19 27b Eph. 2:3
28 Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; James 1:15.
29 Job 4:17-19; Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 64:6.
30 Exodus 19:4-6; Leviticus 11:45; Micah 6:8; Romans 6; Romans
12:1; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1
Peter 2:9; 1 John 3:2-3.
31 Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 10:31. 31a Ps 37:4
32 Isaiah 59:2; Ephesians 2:12; Ephesians 5:5-6; Romans 5:6, 8, 10.
33 John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3-10.
34 John 3:13; John 6:38; 1 Corinthians 15:47.
35 John 10:17-18; John 5:30; Matthew 26:39, 53-54.

in Section V and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected.

The Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees. Vacancies may be filled by the Board of Trustees.

Section III Committees of this Church shall be as follows: Flower, Social, Finance, Music with the Chorister being Chairman and the organist a member, both ex-officio, and Christian Education.

Section IV Committees unless chosen as provided in Section 5, shall be elected at the annual business meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected. Vacancies may be filled by the Board of Trustees.

Section V If the membership so votes, any officers excepting the Elders and Clerk and any committees not elected at the Annual Meeting may be chosen by the Board of Trustees.

Section VI The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Janitor and Ushers.

ARTICLE VI Duties of Officers

Section I The Pastor(s) shall take oversight of the devotional and general spiritual interests of the Church and provide for the conduct of public services. He/they shall provide oversight to the youth director and/or youth minister of the Church.

Section II A Presiding Elder shall be appointed by the Eldership and shall preside at all business meetings of the Church and Board of Trustees. In the absence of the Presiding Elder, at any meeting another Elder shall preside until a temporary chairman is chosen. He may call special meetings of the members, Board of Trustees, or any of the committees when he deems it advisable. He may appoint special committees and shall perform such other duties as are required of him by the Board of Trustees or members. He shall, with the Treasurer, sign all contracts or notes of the Church and such other written instruments of the Church as he may be authorized or instructed by said Church or its Board of Trustees.

Section III The Elders, in the absence of the Senior Pastor, shall take charge of the religious services.

Section IV The Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys and securities of the Church and shall deposit them in a safe depository

the specific purpose of addressing that concern. The Trustees shall determine, by a 2/3 vote whether or not to bring the concern to a special meeting of the church.

If the Trustees vote favorably to call such a meeting, the meeting will be held at the next practicable date for the purpose of determining if the elder in question should continue, such determination being based on a 2/3 vote of the members attending the special meeting.

All concerns having to do with the functioning of an elder must be carried out in a manner fitting with Scriptural injunctions in I Timothy 5:17-21.

ARTICLE IV

Trustees

Section I The business affairs of this Church shall be managed by a board of not less than nine or more than twenty-five Trustees who shall be elected annually by the members at their annual meeting, and who shall serve for a period of one year and/or until their successors are elected.

Section II The Board of Trustees shall be comprised of the Senior Pastor, the Presiding Elder, Treasurer, Clerk, not less than one Deacon, not less than one Deaconess, not less than one Overseer, plus members elected at large.

Section III the Board of Trustees, acting in a representative capacity on behalf of the Church, shall transact all routine matters of business between the stated business meetings of the Church.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Committees

Section I The officers of this Church shall be in addition to the Senior Pastor, when one is in charge, the Assistant-Associate Pastor(s), when in place, The Elders, not less than two or more than ten Deacons, not less than two or more than ten Deaconesses, a Clerk who shall reside in Vermont, a Treasurer, an Auditor, not less than three Overseers, an Organist, a Chorister and a Christian Education Chair/Director.

Section II All officers, with the exception of the Elders (as provided for in Article III, Sections 2 and 3), shall be elected by ballot at the annual business meeting, unless chosen as provided

36 Isaiah 53:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:21. 36a Rom. 3:6 36b Eph.

2:8 36c Rom. 5:1 36d II Cor. 5:21

37 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Mark 8:31.

38 Acts 1:3; I Corinthians 15:5-8.

39 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16; John 6:40.

40 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 10-13.

41 John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5-6; I Peter 1:3

42 Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 8:2-4, 12-14; 1 John 5:4, 18.

43 Acts 2:38, 41, 47b; Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

44 Churches in cities Acts 8:1; 11:22, 26; 13:1; 14:23, 27; 15:3, 4, 22; 16:5; 18:22; 20:17; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2

Corinthians 1:1; Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2

Thessalonians 1:1; Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14;

Provinces Acts 9:31; 15:41; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 19; 2

Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 1:2, 22; and, Households or meeting

in homes Romans 16:5, 10, 11, 14, 15; 1 Corinthians 16:15, 19; Colossians 4:5; Philemon 2.

45 Ephesians 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 14:26.

46 Colossians 3:16. 1 Timothy 4:13.

47 Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:3, 5; 1 John 1:3.

48 Hebrews 10:23-25; Hebrews 3:13; 2 Timothy 4:2..

49 1 Peter 4:10; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:18.

50 Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15.

51 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

52 Mark 16:16a; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12.

53 John 14:2-3; Acts 1:10-11.

54 Acts 10:42; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:12.

55 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 21:8.

56 Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22-23; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-4

57 Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:14-15.

58 Isaiah 65:15; 66:16, 24; Malachi 4:1; Matthew 10:28; 2

Thessalonians 1:6-10.

59 Job 3:11, 13-15, 17-19; Job 14:10-12; Psalm 6:5; Psalm 146:4;

Ecclesiastes 9:1-6; New Testament references to death as

“sleep”: Matthew 9:24; Mark 5:39; Luke 8:52; Luke 27:52; John

11:11-14; Acts 7:60; 13:36; 1 Corinthians 7:39 (Greek); 11:30;

15:6, 18, 20, 51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 14, 15; 2 Peter 3:4; 1

Corinthians 15:17-18.

60 Romans 2:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57;

61 Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 22:1-5.

By-Laws
of the
ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
of
Vernon, Vermont
(Incorporated July 31, 1946)

ARTICLE I

Name

This Church shall hereafter be called the Advent Christian Church of Vernon, Vermont.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of this Church is to maintain the public worship of God, to preach and teach the whole word of God, with especial emphasis on the necessity of regeneration through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, and the promise of His second advent, and the doctrines therewith connected; to labor for the salvation of the lost; and to hold and keep in repair and rebuild if necessary a house or houses of public worship, a parsonage and other buildings incidental thereto; and to procure and hold lands for the same; and further to solicit and or receive free will offerings, gifts and bequests, including trust funds for the purpose of carrying out the above objective.

ARTICLE III

Elders

Section 1 - The affairs of this Church shall be overseen by an eldership of not less than two nor more than six elders, including the Senior Pastor, when in place, and Associate Pastor, when in place. The Elders shall be men who meet Scriptural qualifications found in I Timothy 3:4-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and who ascribe to Advent Christian doctrine.

Section 2 - The Elders will be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of those members present at the Annual Church Business Meeting, upon the nomination of the Senior Pastor and current

Elders. The Elders will serve for three year terms, and may succeed themselves if re-elected. The Senior Pastor will serve as Head Elder.

Section 3 - The Elders may serve in an ex-officio capacity on any boards and committees.

Section 4 - Removal of Elders.

Elders may resign from their role at any time their circumstances or desires persuade them to do so. In the event an elder demonstrates he is incapable or unwilling to conduct his role in a manner consistent with the by-laws and Position Description, he may be removed from office by any of the following processes:

1) The board of elders may identify difficulties demonstrated by an elder conducting his role, in which case they will seek to provide correction and assistance. If such efforts are unsuccessful, the elder in question will be offered the opportunity to resign. If he declines to do so, the elder board will make a recommendation, with supporting rationale, to the church membership for his removal. Removal will require a 2/3 vote of the membership attending a special meeting called for that purpose.

2. Two or more church members who deem that the legitimacy of a current elder's continuance is doubtful, either because of his personal circumstances or the manner in which he conducts his office, may petition the elder board with their concerns. This petition will be presented to the board personally with supporting rationale.

The board will consider this petition, and if deemed legitimate, will seek to provide correction and assistance. If such efforts are unsuccessful, the elder in question will be offered the opportunity to resign. If he declines to do so, the elder board will make a recommendation, with supporting rationale, to the church membership for his removal. Removal will require a 2/3 vote of the membership attending a special meeting called for that purpose.

3. If, after petition as described in #2 above, the board of elders does not deem as legitimate the concern of the petitioning members, those members may, if not satisfied with the elders' rationale, petition the Trustees to determine if their concern should be brought to a special meeting of the church called for