

# CONSTITUTION OF THE



## **Fowlers Mill Christian Church**

**10755 Mayfield Road  
Munson Township, Ohio 44024  
440 286-6653  
[www.fmcc.us](http://www.fmcc.us)**

**(Revised September 2006)**

## **SECTION 1: PREFACE**

The purpose of this document is to provide a framework to help Christians minister together in a coordinated fashion that they might maximize their efforts in discipling all people for Christ. The congregation selects members to lead in different areas and under their prayerful guidance work together to serve God and continue the ministry of reconciliation begun by Jesus and now entrusted to us.

## **SECTION 2: NAME AND PURPOSE**

The name of this congregation is “The Fowlers Mill Christian Church” located at 10755 Mayfield Road, Munson Township, Ohio 44024.

The purpose of the Fowlers Mill Christian Church, a scripturally governed body is to be God’s instrument to impact Geauga County and ultimately the whole world with the life changing message of Jesus Christ and thus advance God’s kingdom.

We are committed to leading people to faith in Jesus, teaching them the Biblical principles of the Christian life, and equipping them to serve using their God-given abilities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the church leadership.

Through inspirational worship, fervent prayer, Bible study, practical teaching, caring benevolence, loving fellowship, and consistent outreach, we anticipate God’s blessings in the salvation of the lost, growth of the Church, fulfillment of the believer, strengthening of the family, involvement of the membership, and participation in world missions.

## **SECTION 3: THE CREED**

Our creed is the New Testament. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Fowlers Mill Christian Church being a restoration church consists of a body of believers who are a nondenominational, “Christian Only” congregation. They call for the unity of believers on the basis of the Bible while striving to restore the church as it was given to the apostles on the Day of Pentecost. As a goal in achieving this unity as Christians, it does not wear a divisional name and does not teach contradictory false doctrine.

Division among those who love Christ is confusing to unbelievers and wasteful to believers.

#### **SECTION 4: THE MISSION STATEMENT**

The Fowlers Mill Christian Church exists to bring all people to salvation in Jesus Christ, to encourage and equip believers for service, to worship our Risen Savior, and to bring glory to God in all we do.

#### **SECTION 5: OUR CHURCH COVENANT**

We, as members of the Church, having experienced the grace of God, confessing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and accepting the Scriptures as the only rule of faith and practice, gladly and solemnly covenant that:

We will regularly participate in public worship and loyally support the total ministry of the Church.

Mindful of the teachings of our Lord, we will walk together in brotherly love; be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and seek it without delay; exercise Christian care and watchfulness over each other; participate in each other's joys and sorrows; with tender sympathy, bear one another's burdens; and so fulfill the Law of Christ.

We will be self controlled, just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and do unto others, as we would have them do unto us.

We will maintain personal and family devotions and provide Christian education for the children committed to our care, and to all others wishing biblical study.

We will willingly practice the stewardship of our substance, our time, and our lives for the support of the Church and the building of god's Kingdom.

In keeping Christ's Great Commission, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations . . . "we will give ourselves to the spreading of the Gospel over the earth; and will use every opportunity of work and example to bring our kindred and acquaintances to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

With humble faith in the help of God, we accept this covenant with the earnest prayer that we may hold fast to our Christian profession, keep the faith, and so live that all may be fitly prepared for eternal life, which is our hope in Christ Jesus.

*AMEN*

## **SECTION 6: THE ORDINANCES OF JESUS CHRIST**

We believe our Lord left two ordinances for His disciples to follow. Our church adheres to these ordinances.

### **BAPTISM**

Jesus taught by example and commandment that each repentant believer must submit to baptism. According to the teachings of the New Testament, Christian baptism is the immersion of a repentant believer for the remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:3-5, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:36-39).

The disciples were commanded that baptism was a part of their ministry. “Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

All believers are encouraged to be baptized by immersion. Those with a disability who desire to be baptized will be provided suitable and accessible accommodations.

### **THE LORD’S SUPPER**

The Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion is the memorial of Christ’s redeeming grace and the most sacred act of the worship of the Church. We approach His table with humble gratitude for all His mercies, desiring to exalt the One who gave His life for us, and to enjoy the fellowship of our Living Christ and His children. We observe this holy ordinance every first day of the week (Acts 20:7).

### **FAMILY DEDICATION SERVICE**

A dedication service is available to parents who desire to publicly accept the responsibility of guiding their children to full Christian commitment. At this time, parents shall dedicate themselves to lead their children to the Savior by example and Godly teaching.

### **INVITATION TIME**

At the end of each worship service, during the invitational hymn, families and individuals are welcome to come forward to make a first time commitment or rededicate their life to Jesus Christ.

## **SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this church shall consist of those persons who have obeyed the scriptural teaching on becoming a Christian; that having heard the scriptural testimony of Christ, believed such testimony to be true, believed without reservation that Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of the living god and that His blood purifies us from all sin (I John 1:7), repented toward Christ, confessed that Jesus is Lord and Savior (Matthew 16:16), have been buried with him by baptism (immersion), and thus resolved to abide by His teachings as presented in the New Testament.

\*See Invitation Time

Such persons may unite with this congregation by:

1. Obedience to these commands at the Fowlers Mill Christian Church and requesting membership.
2. Obedience to these commands at another Bible-believing church and transference of their membership to FMCC by letter or statement.

Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend all members' meetings and vote on such matters as may be submitted to a vote.

Voting privileges for congregational meetings shall be accorded as follows:

1. Members who are 18 years of age or older.
2. Individuals who have worshiped for at least three (3) months with the congregation and are members prior to the date of the election.
3. Those who have been present in church worship services at least 50% of the time during the preceding year or since they became members.
4. Absentee ballots will be provided to those who request them prior to the voting day, and must be returned prior to the election.
5. Absentee ballots will be provided to shut-ins.

## **SECTION 8: RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ of Fowlers Mill Christian Church:

- are responsible for seeking God's will for their own lives and for their role in Christ's Church.
- are responsible for electing qualified men and women to lead and serve, not judging qualifications by mere appearances (John 7:24), but by evaluation based on God's Word and the seeking of God's will and wisdom through prayer.

- should “test everything” that they are taught, both inside and outside the church, that they might grow in confidence in their faith and understanding of God’s Word (I Thessalonians 5:21).
- are responsible for evaluating all opinions heard among the congregation in accordance with God’s Word. Likewise, their opinions should be taken to the Word before being handed out. They should always speak the truth in love.
- are responsible for showing commitment and an active interest in church affairs. They should desire to worship, study, and fellowship with other members.
- should participate in the worship service for those that are physically able, as worship should be a significant part of their commitment. This participation can be as simple as just attending and glorifying God through song, prayer, and attentiveness.
- are encouraged to attend the monthly Board meetings.

## **SECTION 9: CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The Christian walk requires that members live in a manner worthy of Christ. Church members are expected to have a demeanor that is communicated in the following manner;

1. Have a true devotional walk with God.
2. Maintain a Christ-like demeanor to the other members in the Church.
3. Bring a willing, enthusiastic, and positive attitude in dealing with both spiritual and temporal support of the Church.

Should a member fall into behavior which is not consistent with the teachings of Scripture or adopt a pattern of action which is a detriment to the Church harmony it is the duty of the elders to try to bring him or her to repentance and a restored walk with the Lord, carefully and lovingly following the principles given in Mathew 18: 15-17 and Galatians 6: 1-2.

The confidentiality of the restoration process, whether it is in an informal setting or in a meeting setting, is sacred. Only those people involved in this process should be privy to the information discussed. Any attempt to communicate the content of these interactions outside of this venue is to be considered a serious breach in conduct. Should all restorative attempts fail, the Elders have the responsibility to discipline the individual(s) and to communicate the outcome of the decision process to the congregation.

Types of church discipline can include verbal warning(s), written warning(s), deposition from office and removal of church membership. The purpose of such discipline should be for the repentance, reconciliation and spiritual growth of the individual(s) and the protection of the church body.

## **SECTION 10: CHURCH OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

### **OFFICERS**

The following officers shall be elected by the congregation at its annual meeting for a designated term or until a successor is elected and assumes office. All officers shall assume their duties on April First. All officers shall be members of the congregation with voting privileges. Leaders to be elected as follows:

- a) ELDER: Not to exceed one for every eight church families. Elected for a three (3)-year term.
- b) DEACON: Not to exceed three times the maximum number of Elders possible. Elected for a three (3)-year term.
- c) DEACONESS: Not to exceed three times the maximum number of Elders possible. Elected for a three (3)-year term.
- d) TRUSTEE: Up to six in number. Elected for a three (3)-year term.
- e) TREASURER: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- f) ASSISTANT TREASURER: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- g) \*YOUTH DIRECTOR: Appointed by the Elders one (1)-year term.
- h) CLERK: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- i) ASSISTANT CLERK: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- j) SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- k) ASSISSTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.
- l) \*SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER: Volunteer one (1)-year term.
- m) BLUE ROCK CAMP REPRESENTATIVE: One person elected for a one (1)-year term.

**\* Not elected but still on the church board**

## **DUTIES OF THE CHURCH OFFICERS**

It is the responsibility of all officers of the church to display a desire to see the church accomplish its purpose and to act in a manner that will glorify God and spread forth His love.

### **a) ELDER**

The Elders are to be shepherds of God's flock that is under their care, serving as overseers, not because they must, but because they are willing, as God wants them to be; not greedy for reward, but eager to serve; not lording over, but being examples to the flock (1 Peter 5).

The Elders shall oversee the church's evangelism, its preaching, teaching and ministerial work, including its evaluation. They shall call on the sick and the shut-in, and must guard themselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made them overseers (Acts 20:28 and James 5:13-16).

Elders shall be responsible for an annual review and evaluation of the minister.

They shall also be responsible for securing an interim minister due to vacation or illness.

The Elders shall be responsible for shepherding and outreach programs to win souls to Jesus Christ, and to integrate all worshipers into the purpose of the church. They shall seek out the wandering ones and admonish the wayward, and apply Christian love to all grievances.

Elders shall not be spiritual novices; neither shall they be regarded as infallible. Their lives should reflect the spiritual maturity described by the apostle Paul in I Timothy 3:1-7 and in Titus 1:6-9. How and to whom they should practice their teaching ability is further detailed in the second and third chapters of the epistle to Titus. Their prayers of faith are emphasized in James 5:13-16.

### **b) DEACON – The qualifications for Deacon are as follows:**

- He must be a member of the church.
- He must desire to serve the Lord.
- He must strive to live up to the standards found in I Timothy 3:8-16.
- He should desire to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:2-3).



- He is expected to regularly attend meetings and participate in one or more of these areas:
  - The serving of communion and collection of offerings.
  - Assisting with baptisms.
  - Accomplishment of various church work projects.
  - The helping of those in need within the church, or those outside the church, as part of an outreach.
  - Personal study in the Word of God.
  
- He is encouraged to participate in these areas:
  - Communion meditations.
  - Teaching of Sunday School and/or Youth Fellowship.
  - Public reading of scripture.
  - Personal ministry to those in need.
  - Participation in Sunday School and/or Church Bible Study.

c) DEACONESS –The qualifications for Deaconess are as follows:

- She must be a member of the church
- She must desire to serve the Lord.
- She should model her dedication to the Lord after women such as Ruth, and Phoebe and Priscilla (Acts 18:26 and Romans 16:1-3).
- She is expected to regularly attend meetings and participate in one or more of these areas:
  - Preparation of Communion.
  - Assist with baptisms.
  - Accomplishment of various church work projects
  - Helping those in need within the church, or those outside the church as part of an outreach.
  - Personal study in the Word of God.
  
- She is encouraged to participate in these areas:
  - Teaching of Sunday School and/or Junior Church.
  - Public reading of scripture.
  - Personal ministry to those in need.
  - Participation in Sunday School and/or Church Bible Study.

**d) TRUSTEE**

The Trustees shall act as the legal agents of the church in business matters, working in concert with church officers and the congregation. All actions are subject to the approval of the church. Duties include the following:

- Hold legal title to all church property.
- Handle any business transactions related to church property.
- Have supervision over all endowment and trust funds, and the acceptance and use of designated gifts.
- Maintain church property.
- Perform additional duties as required by Ohio state laws.
- Report at the monthly Church Board Meeting.
- Meet monthly with the Treasurer to approve all expenditures consistent with the budget and normal operation of the church. (Unusual expenditures exceeding \$500.00 shall be presented to the church board and/or congregation for approval.)
- Serve in the Finance Ministry.

**e) TREASURER – The treasurer shall be responsible for the following:**

- Disburse all funds of the church and benevolent funds, according to the authority designated by the Church Board.
- Serve as director of the Finance Ministry.
- Make regular reports at each regular meeting of the Church Board and a yearly report to the congregation.
- Deposit and maintain records of the weekly and special offerings.
- Meet monthly with the Trustees for approval of monthly expenditures.

**f) ASSISTANT TREASURER – The assistant Treasurer shall provide assistance, as requested by the Treasurer, to fulfill all the duties of that ministry, and in the absence of the Treasurer, shall fulfill those duties. The Assistant Treasurer shall also serve in the Finance Ministry.**

**g) \*YOUTH DIRECTOR – The Youth Director shall be responsible for the following:**

- Appointed by and responsible to the Elders.
- Oversees the spiritual growth and activities for the youth.
- Report at the monthly board meeting.

- h) CLERK** – The duties of the Clerk shall include the following:
- Take minutes of all regular and special business meetings of the Church Board.
  - Keep record of the church membership, with such vital statistics as births, deaths, baptisms, and weddings.
  - Maintain files of all correspondence, official reports, and other valuable papers.
  - Keep a list of all Church Leaders with dates of election and terminations.
  - Notify all Church Leaders of their election, and keep them informed of all special meetings.
- i) ASSISTANT CLERK** – The Assistant Clerk shall provide assistance, as requested by the Clerk, to fulfill all the duties of that ministry, and during the absence of the clerk, will fulfill those duties.
- j) SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT** – The Superintendent is responsible to the Elders for the doctrine taught in the classes. Duties shall include the following:
- Coordinate all Sunday School activities.
  - Chair all teacher meetings.
  - Order necessary supplies.
  - Oversee day-to-day function and growth of the Sunday School program.
  - Report at the monthly Church Board Meeting.
  - Provide yearly projected expenses to the Finance Ministry in September.
- k) ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT** – The Assistant Superintendent shall provide assistance, as requested by the Superintendent, to fulfill all the duties of that ministry, and during the absence of the Superintendent, shall fulfill those duties.
- l) \*SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER** – Non elected volunteer
- Accountable for upholding and teaching scripture accurately.
- m) BLUE ROCK CAMP REPRESENTATIVE** – The Representative shall attend monthly meetings at Blue Rock Camp and report back at the monthly Church Board Meeting.

## **SECTION 12: THE CHURCH BOARD**

The Church Board shall consist of all officers of the church. The Church Board shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman at their first general meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Vice-Chairman shall fulfill the duties of the Chairman in his/her absence. The Chairman shall call and preside at all regular and special business meetings. The duties of the Chairman are as follows:

- Lead the board toward the accomplishment of its purpose, including preparing an agenda.
- Maintain order and, if necessary, admonish in a manner consistent with the Scriptures.
- Act as spokesperson for the Board to the Congregation.
- Provide a fair forum so that the ideas and needs of each member are adequately addressed.

It shall be the duty of the Church Officers to consider and recommend to the Congregation major projects, to transact the business of the church, and to receive the reports of the various ministries of the church at regular intervals.

The Church Board shall perform its duties according to the authority granted in this constitution and designated to it by the Congregation. Only officers of the church shall have voting privileges during Church Board meetings. Regular reports shall be made to the congregation.

## **SECTION 13: MINISTRIES**

- a) **FINANCE** – composed of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and the Trustees, who shall be responsible for an annual review in September of each Minister's salary, in coordination with the Elders' evaluation; and shall make recommendations relative to all salaried personnel to the Church Board. Any increases in salaries shall take effect January First. They shall annually propose a budget in November of church expenditures for the coming year to assure growth in all areas of the church's purpose. An annual auditor's report shall be prepared and submitted for adoption at the annual Congregational Meeting.
- b) **MISSIONS REVIEW** – shall be responsible for studying the missions work by the church. They shall annually evaluate mission needs and Church responsibilities, and report its findings and recommendations to the Church Board. They shall also keep the congregation advised of mission work performed. They shall provide yearly projected expenses to the Finance Ministry in September.

- c) **CONSTITUTION REVIEW** – shall consist of no fewer than two church officers and three congregation members. They shall annually review the Constitution in January and any recommendations are to be brought before the Church Board at the March meeting.

#### **SECTION 14: THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. A Nominating Committee shall be formed to nominate candidates for office. The committee shall consist of an Elder, who will act as a Chairman, and at least three members of the congregation. The Elder shall be appointed by the eldership. The other volunteer members shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board at the January Board Meeting.
2. The committee shall prepare and send to every member of voting age a form listing the offices to be filled at the general meeting. The form shall set forth the scriptural qualifications for all offices and should include job descriptions as defined in the constitution. The form shall be mailed to members three (3) weeks before the Annual Meeting at which the officers are to be elected. The form shall be accompanied by a letter of explanation, which shall list the names of the officers remaining in office, and shall list the names of all those whose terms are expiring.
3. The committee shall then consider the qualifications of all candidates, secure consent from the nominees, and prepare a slate.
4. The committee shall submit the slate to the Elders and the Minister for their review, approval and assurance as to the qualifications of the nominees. Questions regarding the qualifications of any nominee shall be referred to the Elders.
5. A copy of the official ballot shall be sent to each voting member at least seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting.
6. No write-in candidates or nominations from the floor will be accepted.
7. All nominees, who receive a simple majority of the votes cast, shall be declared elected, except for those nominees for the office of Elder. To be elected to the office of Elder, the nominee shall receive approval from at least three-fourths of the members voting.
8. Vacancies in any church office except Elder shall be filled for the balance of the term by appointment by the Chairman of the General Board in consultation with the Elders and the Minister. Vacancies in the office of Elder may be filled by appointment by the Chairman of the Elders subject to additional approvals of two-

- thirds of the current Elders and the congregation. The appointment of Elder shall stand only until the next general election.
9. The ballot count for officers of FMCC shall not be disclosed.
  10. An Installation Service for all board members will be held during the worship service within a month following the Annual Meeting.

## **SECTION 15: THE MINISTER**

### **DUTIES**

The minister shall be an ordained man, graduate of a recognized Christian Bible College or Seminary, and since he is expected to preach the gospel, should receive his living from the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14).

He shall set the church in order with respect to its organization, attitudes, character, and actions as specified in the Word of God. He shall be responsible for teaching and preaching the Christian purpose and principles of the New Testament to all and at every opportunity.

The Minister shall see to training the church leadership and its teachers, leading them toward maturity in Christ. In harmony with the church's Elders, he shall lead the assembled and individual worshipers in love and unity, equipping the saints for service to each other and for outreach to the community. He shall perform his ministry and practice church discipline in accordance with Paul's letters to timothy and Titus.

In concert with the Elders, the minister shall plan all worship services, worship programs, and their procedures. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, auxiliaries, and working groups with the church, advising and teaching them their purposes with respect to the Great Commission of Christ's church.

The Minister shall be accountable to the Elders of the church in matter of doctrine and ministry, as the Elders are accountable to the Lord (Hebrews 13:17). He shall annually receive a formal review and evaluation of his ministry, by these Elders.

For other paid ministry positions, a contract and job description will be prepared, at the time of hiring, by a ministry appointed at a Church Board meeting.

He shall report monthly at the Church Board meeting.

## **CALLING A MINISTER**

The Minister shall be chosen by the Church as follows:

1. A Pulpit Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Elders.
2. The committee consists of two (2) Elders, one (1) Deacon, one (1) Deaconess, and at least two (2) additional members of the congregation.
3. The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible for recommending several prospective ministers to the Elders.
4. The elders shall interview the prospective ministers and select a candidate to present to the congregation.
5. A special meeting of the congregation shall be called to vote on the candidate. To be accepted, a candidate must receive at least 75% of the votes cast. If he does not receive the congregation's approval, a new candidate shall be selected.
6. The term of ministry shall be for one (1) year or longer and may be terminated by either party upon 60 days notice or by mutual agreement of both parties. A contract, in accordance with the Constitution of Fowlers Mill Christian Church, setting forth the salary to be paid, as well as other conditions of the call, shall be written. One copy shall be given to the Minister and one copy shall be placed on file with the Clerk.

## **SECTION 16: MEETINGS**

### **MEETINGS TO BE HELD**

- a) An Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held every March at a time and place determined by the General Board. This meeting shall include the election of officers and any other pertinent business as required. A written agenda shall be developed prior to the meeting by the Chairman of the General Board. It shall be directed by the Chairman of the General Board with an Elder co-directing as required.
- b) The General Board will meet monthly on a day and time determined by a majority of board members. If a conflict arises, the meeting date will be announced in the Sunday service. A quorum at a General Board meeting shall constitute a minimum of eight (8) board members of which at least one (1) Elder and one (1) Trustee must be present.

- c) Special Meetings (as required) are to be called by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, or upon request by five (5) or more members of the General Board, or by written petition of 25% or more members of the congregation. At specially called meetings of the congregation, 25% of the members shall constitute a quorum.

## **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Notice of all regular and special business meetings of the congregation shall be given at two consecutive Sunday services prior to the meeting and/or by written notice one week in advance.

## **RULES OF ORDER**

God is not the author of disorder, but of peace (I Cor. 14:33). All business meetings of the congregation and General Board shall be governed by good Christian conduct. The Chairman of the Board and/or an Elder shall maintain order at all business meetings. The Church Board has voted to conduct church meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules.

## **SECTION 17: AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution may be amended, in whole or in part, at any business meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present. The process of bringing an amendment to a meeting will require a prior review by a Constitutional Committee, followed by approval of the Elders and the Minister. A written notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to the members of the Church one (1) week prior to the business meeting, or the proposed amendment has been read at the regular Sunday service for three (3) consecutive weeks before the vote is taken.

All previous orders of business adopted by the church in conflict with this revised constitution and bylaws are hereby repealed.

## **SECTION 18: INDEMNIFICATION**

Fowlers Mill Christian Church will indemnify and hold harmless any and all Officers, Elders, Ministers, and Church employees, acting together and/or individually, for any and all expenses actually and necessarily incurred in connection with any action, suit or proceeding against said Officers, Elders, Ministers, or Church employees acting together and/or individually. This indemnification shall include but is not limited to costs for attorney fees. The indemnification shall occur as the expenses are incurred



and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding, on receipt of the Officers, Elders, Ministers, and Church employees' acting together and/or individually. Officers, Elders, Ministers, and Church employee's acting together and/or individually promise to repay the amount advanced it if proven by clear and convincing evidence that the Officers', Elders', Ministers', and/or Church employee's acted with deliberate intent and, further promise to reasonably cooperate with the Church in connection with the action, suit or proceeding.

This indemnification shall be available to any Officer, Elder, Minister, and/or Church employee, acting together and/or individually, which is made or thereafter to be made a part to any action, suit or proceeding because of the person's relationship with the Church. Persons who are Officers, Elders, Ministers, and Church employees, acting together and/or individually, at the time of being made a party, or threatened with being made a party to any action, suit or proceeding, or were Officers, Elders, Ministers, and Church employees shall be allowed indemnification. Indemnification will also be available in criminal actions only if it is found that the Officer, Elder, Minister, or Church employee, acting together and/or individually, had no reasonable cause to believe that the subject acts were unlawful.

## **SECTION 19: PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

- a) The Church shall have the power to receive, either by gift or purchase, and so hold such real, personal, or mixed property as is authorized by the laws of the State of Ohio and is deemed necessary for the functioning of the Church, and shall have the power to dispose of such property by mortgage, bill of sale, deed, or otherwise. All property shall be held in the name of the Church.
- b) In case of division of the Church caused by conflict, all property and assets of the Church shall belong to those who abide by its Constitution.
- c) In case of dissolution of the Church organization, the property and all assets shall be sold, either through private or public sale. From the proceeds, firstly all current and long-term obligations of the Church shall be paid. Secondly, all remaining funds shall be directed to such one or more Christian organizations for the benefit of the Church's supported missionaries and/or such other Christian endeavors as the congregation shall determine. The Church shall be considered dissolved if so decided by the congregation, or when the Church has not held an annual meeting for three years, or when less than six members remain.
- d) No real property shall be purchased or disposed of without approval of the congregation except as noted in (c) listed above.

## **SECTION 20: POLICY STATEMENTS**

From time to time, clarification of issues raised in the congregation may be required. To handle all such issues, the Church, through its officers shall be responsible to maintain a Policy and Procedures Manual to give guidance.

## **SECTION 21: CONFIDENTIALITY OF CHURCH RECORDS**

No member shall have the right to inspect church records pertaining to;

- a) The financial contribution of any member(s).
- b) The problems, needs, or issues of any member or employee.
- c) The hiring or firing of any employee.
- d) Any document which the Elders may determine to be in the best interest of the Church to keep confidential.

All records and documents, with the exception of item (d) listed above, can be inspected by the congregation at any business meeting by a majority vote of the attending members.

## **SECTION 22: INCORPORATION**

Fowlers Mill Christian Church is incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, so that it may own, provide and/or maintain a place of worship (including suitable real estate and buildings), receive, hold and disburse gifts, bequests and funds, and/or do all things necessary to carry out its purpose.

## **SECTION 23: EFFECTUAL POWERS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its ratification and shall remain in force as presently formulated or as duly amended until this corporation is legally dissolved. This Constitution shall not be suspended or abrogated.