

## **Articles of Association Sure Word Baptist Church**

This being the articles of association for "Sure Word Baptist Church" of Saint Augustine Florida we give all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and adjure him by His mercy and promises that he would bless and lead the creation of this body by His Holy Spirit and precious words. That from the beginning to the ending of this work the church would have him as our true leader and king. I Mark John Bennett JR ( wretched sinner who has found salvation in Jesus Christ by grace through faith in his finished work of the cross and resurrection.) being ordained by God and by men and by His Holy Church to the ministry do hereby create this church in the name of the sure Word of God Jesus Christ ( john 1:1) and the more sure word of prophecy that he has given to us the King James Bible. For the purposes of the worshiping of God the Father in Spirit and in truth, seeking of lost souls in this community through the gospel, the dicipling of those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, in doctrine and in practice, the preservation of the faith that was once delivered unto the Saints and has been handed down to us by our Apostle Paul and our spiritual forefathers, the execution of the two sacred ordinances committed unto to the church, the breaking of bread and wine in communion and the baptism of believers by immersion into water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost , and the works of diverse charity.

The church meeting at a place agreed upon being all they of elected membership in accordance with the Scriptures and of voluntary submission to its precepts. The first meeting place to be held upon the 15th of March 2015 at the pier pavilion on the island of Vilano. Thereafter we shall continue to meet there until the church finds a more suitable place of assembly. We will have services every sunday morning and then once a month in the evening to observe the Lords table and once on Wednesday in the evening for prayer and study . Also upon any other special days whereby the church may meet.

The church being a non taxable entity shall provide at the end of its fiscal year during a service receipts of all donations to all donors present to claim upon their taxes. The Church being a nonprofit and charitable organization of free baptized believers does not and will not incorporate into A Fiat existence but rather maintain all rights and privileges of the individuals themselves meeting in free assembly and as a church. ( ecclesia- called out assembly).

The church with Mark Bennett Jr as Bishop/pastor shall for legal purposes acknowledge him as president of the body, and his wife as a treasurer and secretary being a biblical help meet to his work of the ministry. Until such time that the church gains enough qualified members to hold said positions and execute a more democratic system of church governance. With that noted the church only acknowledges two offices within its presence. The office of a bishop /pastor and deacons and accordance with the Apostle Paul's edicts found in the scriptures.

Sure Word Baptist Church does establish- within this document of association parameters whereby all members agree to the doctrinal statement and position of the church which primarily

is the Bible in and of itself. But to more accurately render a proper understanding of this principle a doctrinal statement entails the thus.

--- Doctrinal statement-----

Our Beliefs:

Concerning the Bible, we believe the King James Bible to be the perfect and infallible word of God. We believe the Bible was inspired by God in its original documents and then was divinely preserved throughout succeeding generations and languages until it reached us in its final perfected form. (Psalm 12:6-7) We believe the Authorized Version (KJB) preserves the very words of God. IT IS OUR SUPREME AUTHORITY AND ULTIMATE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT.

Concerning the Trinity, we believe that the Godhead is Father, Son and Holy Ghost and that these three are one. Therefore we believe that Jesus Christ is both the Son of God and God Himself. He is God manifest in the flesh. We also believe that the Holy Spirit is Himself God, as well.

Concerning salvation, we believe that a person is saved only by grace through faith in the blood and finished atonement of Jesus Christ at Calvary. Outside of Christ there is no salvation. We further believe that salvation now is an eternal gift and that the believer is secure forever in Christ.

Concerning the will of man as it relates to his salvation, we believe that the natural man has a depraved and sinful nature and is “dead” in trespasses and sins but that this does not hinder him from being a free moral agent, capable and responsible to respond to the admonitions of the Gospel. Men are free to reject God’s graciousness in providing a free salvation. Further, Jesus Christ died for “all” without exception.

Concerning the local church, we believe that the New Testament church is the assembly of baptized believers, members of the body of Christ, gathered together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose of preaching and teaching God’s Word, observing the ordinances, ministering spiritually to one another and worshipping the Lord. The church is under the leadership and care of pastors, who are assisted by the deacons. We believe that every Christian has a responsibility to abstain from sinful behavior and can be excluded from fellowship for conduct unbecoming a Christian.

Concerning the ordinances, we believe that there are two ordinances for the New Testament Church: the believers’ baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is by immersion in water after salvation. Such baptism is not a means of grace but is an expression that one is saved and willing

to follow the Lord. Also, the Lord's Supper is to be observed regularly as a memorial and, again, not as a means of grace.

Concerning the charismatic movement, we believe that this movement is built on multiple heresies and is therefore not of God. The miracle sign gifts spoken of in Mark chapter sixteen and in Acts must be understood dispensationally, and belong primarily to Israel. These sign gifts passed away when Israel was blinded to the truth of Jesus Christ. (Romans 11:7, 25) Certain other gifts given to the apostles before the Bible was completed became unnecessary once the Bible was completed. (1Cor. 13:8-10). Wherever these practices continue today (speaking in "tongues", being slain in the spirit, so-called "faith" healings, visions and revelations, etc.) we judge them to be fleshly, often fraudulent, and sometimes demonic and devilish in nature.

Concerning evangelism and missions, we believe in the active and vigorous pursuit of lost sinners by street preaching, tract distribution, door-to-door witnessing and any other reasonable and appropriate methods of sowing the seed of the word of God, both here at home and abroad.

Concerning the return of Jesus Christ, we believe that Jesus Christ will physically return for his Church before the Tribulation begins. The dead in Christ will rise with new bodies and living believers will be changed. Then all of the saved will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. This event is followed in Heaven by the Judgment seat of Christ (for the saved) and on Earth by the Tribulation. After the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return to the earth with His saints to destroy the antichrist, set up an everlasting Kingdom and reign over the earth.

Concerning the eternal punishment of the lost, we believe in a literal, burning Hell and that all those who are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. (Rev. 20:10-15, 21:8)

Concerning human sexuality, we believe the Bible teaches that no sexual intimacy should be engaged in outside of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are ungodly perversions of God's gift of human sex. We believe the Bible teaches against and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Concerning family relationships, we believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained separate spiritual roles for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to spiritually lead (pastor) his home, and men are to be the leaders (Pastors and Deacons) of the local church. God has ordained the family as the foundation of human society. The husband (man) is to love his wife (woman) as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the biblical leadership of her husband, as the church submits to the headship of Christ.

--- Futhermore we acknowledge the stance of our historic theological forefathers and stand in solidarity with them.

---Waldensian Confessions of Faith  
(Reproduced from Jone's Church History)  
Waldenses Confession of 1120 AD

1. We believe and firmly maintain all that is contained in the twelve articles of the symbol, commonly called the apostles' creed, as originally writ, and we regard as heretical whatever is inconsistent with the said twelve articles.
2. We believe that there is one God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We acknowledge for sacred canonical scriptures the books of the Holy Bible. (Here follows the title of each, exactly conformable to our received canon, but which it is deemed, on that account, quite unnecessary to particularize.) THE 66.
4. The books above-mentioned teach us: That there is one GOD, almighty, unbounded in wisdom, and infinite in goodness, and who, in His goodness, has made all things. For He created Adam after His own image and likeness. But through the enmity of the Devil, and his own disobedience, Adam fell, sin entered into the world, and we became transgressors in and by Adam.
5. That Christ had been promised to the fathers who received the law, to the end that, knowing their sin by the law, and their unrighteousness and insufficiency, they might desire the coming of Christ to make satisfaction for their sins, and to accomplish the law by Himself.
6. That at the time appointed of the Father, Christ was born - a time when iniquity everywhere abounded, to make it manifest that it was not for the sake of any good in ourselves, for all were sinners, but that He, who is true, might display His grace and mercy towards us.
7. That Christ is our life, and truth, and peace, and righteousness - our shepherd and advocate, our sacrifice and priest, who died for the salvation of all who should believe, and rose again for their justification.
8. And we also firmly believe, that there is no other mediator, or advocate with God the Father, but Jesus Christ. And as to the Virgin Mary, she was holy, humble, and full of grace; and this we also believe concerning all other saints, namely, that they are waiting in heaven for the resurrection of their bodies at the day of judgment.
9. We also believe, that, after this life, there are but two places - one for those that are saved, the other for the damned, which [two] we call paradise and hell, wholly denying that imaginary purgatory of Antichrist, invented in opposition to the truth.

10. Moreover, we have ever regarded all the inventions of men [in the affairs of religion] as an unspeakable abomination before God; such as the festival days and vigils of saints, and what is called holy-water, the abstaining from flesh on certain days, and such like things, but above all, the masses.

11. We hold in abhorrence all human inventions, as proceeding from Antichrist, which produce distress (Alluding probably to the voluntary penances and mortification imposed by the Catholics on themselves), and are prejudicial to the liberty of the mind.

12. We consider the Sacraments as signs of holy things, or as the visible emblems of invisible blessings. We regard it as proper and even necessary that believers use these symbols or visible forms when it can be done. Notwithstanding which, we maintain that believers may be saved without these signs, when they have neither place nor opportunity of observing them.

13. We acknowledge no sacraments [as of divine appointment] but baptism and the Lord's supper.

14. We honour the secular powers, with subjection, obedience, promptitude, and payment.

This Articles of Association of Sure Word Baptist Church is hereby set forth and established this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and has been agreed on and witnessed

by the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)  
(President/Bishop - Sure Word Baptist Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)  
(Secretary - Sure Word Baptist Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)  
(Treasurer - Sure Word Baptist Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ (print) \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)  
(Witness - Notary Public)