

**Constitution**  
of  
**Rozetta Baptist Church**  
Approved August 5, 2018

## **PREAMBLE**

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and that this body may be governed in an orderly manner.

## **ARTICLE I - Name**

The name of this church shall be Rozetta Baptist Church, 1770 Township Road 2125N, Little York, Illinois, 61453.

## **ARTICLE II - Affiliation**

While Baptist in name, character, and doctrine, Rozetta Baptist Church is unaffiliated with any Baptist denomination and is, therefore, an independent body of believers.

## **ARTICLE III - Purpose**

The purpose of this church shall be to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, thus, God the Father through obedience to the Word of God and the worship of the triune Godhead. To that end, the church will execute the Great Commission in the preaching of the Gospel for the purpose of making disciples, baptizing the same in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all things the Lord has commanded by proclaiming the whole counsel of God. By these means, the church will endeavor to be used instrumentally to perpetuate the faith once delivered to the saints. (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:14; Romans 12:10; Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 John 3:11; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)

## **ARTICLE IV – Faith and Practice**

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church, this congregation shall seek to find and obey God's will for this church. It receives the Scriptures as its authority on all matters regarding its faith and practice. Its government is vested in the body of believers composing the local congregation and is subject to the control of no other organization. The congregation is to follow Christ first and the church's earthly leaders second, as those leaders emulate Christ. (Colossians 1:17-18a; Ephesians 5:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 5:3-4; Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 13:17)

## **ARTICLE V – Doctrine**

### **Section 1: The Scriptures**

We believe the 66 books of the Bible are inspired by God in every part so that they are, in fact, His very words, and as such, they are our only sufficient rule of faith and practice. We believe the Bible is, without error, in the original manuscripts in matters of fact as well as faith and is our final authority in matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

### **Section 2: The Trinity**

We believe the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections. (Genesis 1:1, 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

### **Section 3: Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God; that He was conceived miraculously when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, a virgin, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her. We believe that Jesus Christ was sinless in His life and is fully God and fully man. (Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1; John 1:18; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 5:20)

### **Section 4: Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, convicts men of sin, regenerates, indwells, seals, and sets believers apart unto a holy life; that He keeps and empowers believers day by day; that He is the teacher of the Word of God and guide for our daily life. Anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit living in him is not a child of God. (John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9)

### **Section 5: Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively. (Genesis 1-2; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3)

### **Section 6: Satan**

We believe in the existence and personhood of Satan and that he and his demonic forces consisting of fallen angels are busily engaged in opposing the work of Christ. We believe, however, that he and his angels, at the last judgment, will be forever confined to eternal fire. (Luke 10:18; Matthew 4:1; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

### **Section 7: Man**

We believe that God created the first man, Adam, in God's image and that sin entered the world through that man and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is conscious and eternal separation from God in Hell. We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, evidenced by sinful acts, that human beings are totally depraved, and that if a person is not

born again, he is eternally lost. (Genesis. 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Luke 16:23; Romans. 3:10-23; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:8)

### **Section 8: Salvation**

- A. By Grace Alone, Not by Works – We believe that salvation is solely by grace through faith alone in the blood sacrifice, atoning death, burial, and miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God alone. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)
- B. The Second Birth – We believe that all who personally receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith are indwelt by and regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are born again, becoming children of God. (John 1:12; John 3:1-7; Romans 8:14; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:2)
- C. Repentance and Faith – We believe that salvation is an utterly and completely free gift of grace and cannot be earned; it is only received. It is received only through repentance of sin toward God and faith in Jesus Christ alone. Once convinced of our guilt and helplessness and trusting in the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God for mercy and forgiveness; and at the same time, we heartily receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and rely on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior. (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38, 11:18; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8)
- D. Justification – We believe that justification is God's declaration that the believer is righteous, based on the free (gracious) imputation of Christ's perfect righteousness to everyone who trusts the Gospel message. Justification includes the pardon of sin, the promise of eternal life, and peace with God. (John 1:16; Acts 13:39; Romans 4:4-5, 5:1-2, 9)
- E. Regeneration – We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists of a change of attitude toward sin; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. (John 3:3, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 5:9; 1 Peter 1:22-25)
- F. Sanctification – We believe that sanctification refers to the believer as being set apart or made holy by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. At the moment of salvation, the believer is sanctified positionally through the death of Christ; throughout his life, the believer is to be sanctified progressively (by Godly living and obedience to the Word of God), and at death, the believer will be sanctified perfectly (completely) when he goes to be with Christ. (Romans 8:5; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 John 2:29)
- G. Perseverance of the Saints – We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering faithfulness to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors and false converts; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that

they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (those who are saved are eternally secure). (John 10:27-28; Philipians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:4-5; 1 John 2:19, 25; 1 John 5:11-13)

### **Section 9: Church**

- A. We believe that the local church is composed of regenerated, baptized believers who voluntarily united together for the purpose of worship, edification, fellowship of believers, spiritual growth, and service.
- B. We believe that it has been commissioned by Christ to propagate the Gospel unto the uttermost parts of the earth.
- C. We believe that the local church has the absolute right of self-government (autonomy) and independence (free from interferences of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations) and that the one and only Head is Christ, through the Holy Spirit.
- D. We believe that on all matters of membership, policy, government, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41-47, 4:33-37, 5:1-20)

### **Section 10: Church Ordinances**

We believe that the ordinances of the Church are two (2) in number and that these offer no special grace or merit; they are simple acts of obedience. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- A. Baptism – We believe that immersion pictures the believer's union into Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and is the only form of baptism revealed and commanded in the Scriptures, that it has no power to wash away sin—no saving power whatsoever—but is only for those who are already saved. We believe that the new birth, which comes through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Scriptural prerequisite to baptism; therefore, only those who are capable of believing for themselves should be baptized. (Matthew 3:16; Acts 2:28, 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-7)
- B. Lord's Supper – We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death of Christ. The unleavened bread and cup are pictures or symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ when He died once for all men on the cross. The Lord's Supper has no saving power and is only for believers walking in obedience to God's Word. We practice open communion (open to believers who are in fellowship with the Lord). We reject the unbiblical teaching that the elements transubstantiate into the literal, physical blood and body of Jesus when ingested. (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

### **Section 11: Marriage**

Rozetta Baptist Church unwaveringly affirms and submits to the definition of marriage as set forth by the creator of the institution—God Himself—in the person of Jesus Christ, who said, “Haven’t you read...that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason, a man will leave his

father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" (Matthew 19:4-6). This is an unambiguous truth: God Himself defines marriage as the holy union of one man and one woman for life. Therefore, Rozetta Baptist Church cannot and will not participate, sanction, perform, or bless any service, ceremony, or ritual that in any way deviates from the biblical definition of marriage. We cannot and will not allow the church or her pastor to be involved in any way in the solemnization or recognition of any union other than that of one man and one woman; this includes polygamous relationships, homosexual relationships, and any other attempts to counterfeit the previously stated biblical definition of marriage. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Romans 1:18-32; Galatians 5:19)

### **Section 12: The Last Things**

We believe that, according to the Word of God, the next great fulfillment of biblical prophecy, known as the Rapture of the Church, will be the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive to Himself into Heaven both His own who are alive and remain until His coming, and also all who have fallen asleep in Jesus, and that this event is the blessed hope before us in the Scripture, and for this we should be constantly looking.

We believe that the Rapture of the Church will be followed by seven years of Tribulation, during which the church, the body of Christ, will be in Heaven. The entire period of Tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth.

We believe that the climax of this period of Tribulation will be the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth with power and great glory to introduce the 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth known as the Millennium.

At the end of the Millennium will be the resurrection and judgment of the lost of all ages. They shall then be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord. Following this will be the creation of a new Heaven and a new earth in which the saved of all ages shall live forever with the Lord. (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 7:13-14; 19:11-22; Matthew 24:29-31; John 5:28-29; Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

## **ARTICLE VI – Membership**

### **Section 1: Admission of Members**

Members shall be admitted to this congregation by any of the following methods, subject in each case to the recommendation of the Diaconate and the Pastor of the church.

- A. By baptism – Any person who confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior and who is in essential agreement with the doctrine and practice of this church may be received into the fellowship of this church following his

baptism by immersion.

- B. By letter – A person who is in substantial agreement with the doctrine and practice of this church may be received into membership by letter of commendation from any other church, stating that he or she is a member in good standing and that he or she has been baptized by immersion.
- C. By experience – A believer of worthy character who has formerly been a member of another church and would meet the requirements of the above section (B) but, for some legitimate reason, cannot provide a letter of commendation, may be admitted upon a declaration of their testimony of saving faith in Jesus Christ.
- D. By restoration – Any member who has his or her membership terminated due to church discipline in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17 may be restored as a full member upon recommendation of the Pastor and the Diaconate.

## **Section 2: Dismissal of Members**

Members of this church may be dismissed from this congregation by any of the following methods:

- A. By death.
- B. By letter: Any member in good standing may request a letter of dismissal and recommendation to any other church upon request to the Clerk, with a letter being sent to the Pastor or Clerk of the requesting church. This letter shall be valid for six months and shall be so stipulated thereon. The Clerk shall, at the next congregational meeting, announce or report this transfer to the congregation.
- C. By discipline: Any member who has refused restoration after church discipline in accordance with the steps in Matthew 18:15-17 shall be dismissed from membership (until such time as they repent and seek restoration).

## **ARTICLE VII – The Pastor and Officers**

### **Section 1: The Pastor**

The Pastor shall be the leader of the church in all of its activities and shall preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, have charge of the stated public worship services, and act as a representative of the church in both local community and state activities. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees and boards of the church.

The Pastor shall be called to the church by a vote of the congregation. The Pastor shall terminate his term as Pastor upon written resignation to the Diaconate, giving sixty days' notice or as many days' notice as is mutually agreed upon with the Diaconate. In keeping with 1 Timothy 2:12-14, the Pastor shall be male.

### **Section 2: The Moderator**

The Moderator shall be selected by the Diaconate. He shall preside at all business meetings. In his absence, the Pastor shall function in his capacity.

### **Section 3: The Church Clerk**

The Church Clerk shall be confirmed annually at the Annual Meeting, shall keep records of all business transacted at the church business meetings, shall keep an up-to-date record of all members, and shall perform other duties usual to this office.

### **Section 4: The Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be confirmed annually and shall have custody of all church funds for local expenses, making all deposits for this office and keeping adequate records. The Treasurer shall give an annual statement to the church concerning its financial status, presented at the Annual Meeting. The following positions assist the Treasurer:

#### **A. The Missions Treasurer**

A Missions Treasurer shall be confirmed annually and shall pay over, monthly, all monies designated for the missions supported by the church. These payments shall be in accord with the budgetary agreement made at the Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual report of all monies spent at the Annual Meeting.

#### **B. The Youth Treasurer**

A Youth Treasurer shall be confirmed annually. The Youth Treasurer shall pay over, monthly, all monies designated for the youth ministry of the church. These payments shall be in accord with the budgetary agreement made at the Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual report of all monies spent at the Annual Meeting.

### **Section 5: The Financial Secretary**

A Financial Secretary shall be confirmed at each Annual Meeting and shall keep an accurate record of all contributions to church expense and benevolences; keep an accurate record of each family's contribution and make available this record only to the family involved. The Financial Secretary shall prepare a detailed annual report of all contributions, which shall be given at the Annual Meeting of the congregation and shall perform any other duties usual to this office.

### **Section 6: Director of Youth Ministries**

The Director of Youth Ministries shall be responsible for evangelizing and edifying young people of the church and the surrounding communities through activities, programming, and outreach efforts dedicated to youth. All ministry duties of the Director of Youth Ministries are subject to coordination with the Pastor and may be, at their agreement, separate or shared between them. He shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Christian Education.

The Director of Youth Ministries shall be called to the church by a vote of the congregation. The Director of Youth Ministries shall terminate his term as Director



of Youth Ministries upon written resignation to the Diaconate, giving sixty days' notice or as many days' notice as is mutually agreed upon with the Diaconate. In keeping with 1 Timothy 2:12-14, the Director of Youth Ministries shall be male.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Boards**

### **Section 1: Definition and Procedure**

- A. The Boards of the church shall be the Diaconate, the Board of Trustees, the Board of Christian Education, and the Board of Missions.
- B. Each board shall meet monthly, with special meetings called upon request or as needed.
- C. Each board shall choose annually a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.

### **Section 2: The Diaconate**

This board shall consist of up to six male church members, two of whom are selected yearly to serve a three-year term. The selection process will be conducted as follows:

First, the congregation, the Pastor, and the Diaconate will commit to a time of ongoing prayer, reflection, and observation concerning the matter of board members, asking the Lord to raise up qualified men for the office.

Second, the Diaconate will meet and compile a list of potential candidates. Third, each candidate will be invited to meet with the Diaconate. Fourth, two candidates who are both spiritually qualified and personally committed to the office will be installed for the new term.

- A. Members of the Diaconate will be selected according to the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- B. The members of the Diaconate shall conduct themselves in accordance with 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- C. The duties of this board shall be to help in the administering of the Lord's Supper; help care for the sick and the needy of the community; assist the candidates for baptism; maintain communication with the Pastor regarding problems and needs of the members; help the Pastor in finding pulpit supply in the Pastor's absence; and appoint a special ad hoc committee as needed to help encourage and maintain the spiritual life of the congregation.

### **Section 3: Board of Trustees**

This board shall consist of at least five members, at least one of which shall be selected each year by the Nominating Committee. It shall hold in trust all church property and see to the maintenance of this property, making necessary repairs and seeing to the proper care and treatment of this property.

The board shall not have the authority to sell, lease, or mortgage any property without specific congregational authorization. It shall call for the authorization of

the church for any non-budgeted expenditure in excess of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars. In cases where the spending limitation adversely affects essential functions of the church, the limitation may be waived with the joint approval of the Pastor, the Diaconate, the Trustees, and the Treasurer. In such cases, the congregation must be notified of the action within seven days of the waiver.

#### **Section 4: Board of Christian Education**

This board shall consist of at least six members, two of which shall be selected by the Nominating Committee. All duties carried out by this board are to be executed in cooperation with the Director of Youth Ministries. The responsibilities of this board shall be as follows:

- A. It shall develop and interpret the Christian Education goals of the church.
- B. It shall be responsible for organizing and administering an adequate educational program in the church.
- C. It shall appoint and work with all teaching personnel and all youth sponsors of the church.
- D. It shall present to the Finance Committee the expected financial needs of the next fiscal year in connection with the educational mission of the church.
- E. It shall appoint a director for and work with the Vacation Bible School.
- F. It shall encourage and oversee youth ministry.

#### **Section 5: Board of Missions**

This board shall consist of at least five members, two of which shall be selected by the Nominating Committee. The Pastor shall serve in an advisory capacity to this board. The responsibilities of this board shall be as follows:

- A. It shall educate the congregation concerning foreign and home missions and shall motivate them to pray for and contribute to missions.
- B. It shall investigate and make recommendations concerning the church's mission budget.
- B. It shall present to the Finance Committee the expected financial needs of the next fiscal year in connection with the proposed program of missions.

## **ARTICLE IX – Committees**

#### **Section 1: Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Moderator annually, with each of the four boards having a member and one member being a member at large. It shall be their responsibility to select qualified members for each vacancy in the church offices except the Diaconate. The Nominating Committee shall interpret to the nominee the requirements for and the tenure of each position.

#### **Section 2: Finance Committee**

This committee shall consist of at least six members, with the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary participating. It shall prepare and present to the members

a proposed budget and shall communicate directly to the congregation regarding financial matters.

### **Section 3: Memorial Committee**

This committee shall consist of at least three people, one being a member of the Board of Trustees. It shall maintain a list of the needs of the church that would make suitable memorial gifts. It shall have the responsibility of selecting the gift after consultation with the family and shall keep a Memorials Book up to date. It shall also convey to the donors the formal expression of appreciation on behalf of the church.

## **ARTICLE X – Meetings**

### **Section 1: Worship**

Meetings for worship shall be held each week and on other occasions as designated by the Pastor and the Diaconate. The Lord's Supper shall be observed monthly.

### **Section 2: Business Meetings**

The Business Meetings of the church shall be held annually, as close to the first day of the New Year as is feasible, with the Diaconate setting the date. Each other meeting shall be determined by the Diaconate. Notice of the meetings above shall be given at least two weeks in advance. Special business meetings may be called by the Moderator, any of the boards of the church, the Pastor, and ten people of the congregation who have notified the Moderator in writing as to the intent of their calling this meeting. Notice of the special meeting must be given two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Any business dealing with the procedure of the church program or any changes in the Constitution must be noted in writing to the members or families prior to the meeting.

### **Section 3: Quorums**

A quorum for voting on all business of the church shall be twenty-five (25) members present; when acting on the acceptance of a Constitutional amendment, thirty-five (35) members must be present.

### **Section 4: Voting**

Voting shall be by voice vote for all business unless a vote by ballot is called for. A majority vote of the members present shall prevail on all issues unless otherwise specified in the Constitution. The Parliamentary Authority used by this church in all matters pertaining to the conduct of business shall be the *Robert's Rules of Order*.

### **ARTICLE XI – Church Year**

The church year shall be the calendar year.

### **ARTICLE XII – Service**

Service on boards, committees, and in any teaching capacity shall be limited to members in good standing.

### **ARTICLE XIII – Amendments**

The Constitution shall be amended at a regular or called Business Meeting of the church by a  $2/3$  majority vote of all members present, providing that due notice, as stipulated in Article X, Section 2, is given and that a quorum, as stipulated in Article X, Section 3, is met.