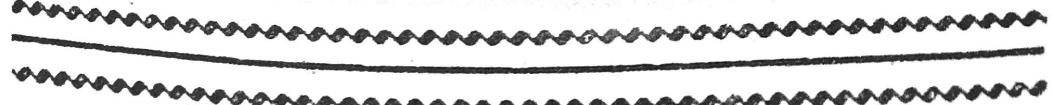

CONSTITUTION

of the

Elk Valley

Advent Christian Church

BIG CHIMNEY, WEST VIRGINIA



ARTICLE I

Board of Trustees

This Church shall have a Board of Trustees composed of five members who shall, when elected, be property holders, and who shall be in good moral and spiritual standing with the Church.

Section 1.

Each Trustee shall be appointed to serve as long as he remains a property holder and is found to be in good moral and spiritual standing with the Church.

- (a) The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust all real and other property, except money, belonging to the Elk Valley Advent Christian Church; and it shall be their duty to look after said property as to title, repairs, rents, leases, insurance, etc., and to perform such other duties as the Church may prescribe from time to time.
- (b) The Board of Trustees shall elect their own chairman annually.
- (c) The chairman shall be the executive officer of the Board, and it shall be his duty to preside at all regular or called meetings of said Board.
- (d) The Church Secretary shall be an official of the Board of Trustees, but he shall not have a vote.
- (e) Four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (f) Should a member of the Board of Trustees become inactive in the Church, the chairman of the Board shall remind him to write a letter of resignation so that an active member can be elected.
- (g) When vacancies occur in the Board of Trustees, it shall be the duty of the chairman to

call a meeting for the purpose of selecting two candidates to be presented to the Church for election or rejection.

OFFICIAL BOARD

Article II

Section 1.

The Official Board of the Elk Valley Advent Christian Church shall consist of the members of the Board of Trustees, the Elder, the Deacon, the Pastor, the Church Secretary, and the Sunday School Superintendent.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Official Board to nominate all candidates for Church offices and Heads of departments; provided, however, that at least two candidates shall be presented to the Church for election or rejection.
- (b) Each member of the Official Board shall have one vote in all matters brought before it, and all voting shall be done by ballot.
- (c) Six members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- (d) The Official Board shall elect its own chairman annually, and he shall be the executive officer of said Board.
- (e) The Official Board shall have jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the moral and spiritual questions that may arise within this Church or that may affect any one of its members.

ARTICLE III

The Elder

Section 1.

This Church shall have one Elder who shall be nominated by the Official Board and elected by the Church. Two candidates must be presented to the Church for election or rejection.

- (a) The Elder shall be the executive officer of this Church; and it shall be his duty to preside at all Church services.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the Elder with the assistance of the Pastor to inform and instruct the officials of this Church as to the nature and the extent of their duties.
- (c) All matters intended to be placed in the hands of the Official Board must first be brought to the attention of the Elder who, in turn, shall make such complaints known to the Board for disposition.

ARTICLE IV

The Deacon

Section 1.

This Church shall have one or more Deacons whose duties and qualifications are set forth in the New Testament (Acts 6:1-2, 1 Tim. 3:8-9; 3:12-13).

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Deacon to acquaint himself with the needs of widows, orphans, etc., and to inform the Official Board of his findings except in an extreme emergency, in which case, a minimum of three Official Board Members shall have permission to provide for whatever need might be required.
- (b) The Deacon shall superintend the temporal affairs of the Church.
- (c) It shall be the duty of the Deacon to inform the Deaconess of her duties, and to assist her in the performance of such duties as she may require of him.
- (d) It shall be the duty of the Official Board to assist the Deacon in the performance of his duties at any time he may require such assistance.

ARTICLE V

Membership Requirements

Section 1.

Candidates for membership shall be a converted Christian and baptised by immersion.

- (a) Candidates for membership shall be required to come before the Pastor and Elder to be informed and instructed in the Articles of Faith of the Advent Christian Church. If, after careful consideration, they cannot agree with said Articles of Faith, then they shall not be received into this body.
- (b) All new members shall be requested to support the church with their presence and their tithe.

ARTICLE VI

Pastor, and Requirements of Church Officials

Section 1.

This church shall have one pastor, and an associate Pastor, if so desired.

- (a) A Pastor or Evangelist shall not be called to serve in this church who believes or teaches the following doctrines:
 1. That man has an immortal soul.
 2. That eternal suffering is the wages of sin.
 3. Once in grace, always in grace.
 4. Speaking in an unknown tongue.
 5. Handling snakes.
 6. A secret rapture of the church.
 7. Any other doctrine that might bring dis-harmony or a division among this church body.
- (b) A person who is in disagreement with any of

the Articles of Faith of the Advent Christian Church shall not hold an authoritative position in this Church, such as, Trustees, Elder, Deacons, or Teachers.

- (c) It shall be the duty of the Pastor, Elder, and Official Board to see that part (b) is carried out.

ARTICLE VII

Election of Church Officials

Section 1.

Election for new officials shall be held no later than the second week in June.

- (a) There shall be a church business meeting called each year, no later than the last Sunday in May, for the purpose of nominating all church officials for the incoming year.
- (b) Only members who have attended at least one-third of all Sunday night services will have the right to nominate or vote for new officials.
- (c) Election shall be by ballot.
- (d) On election night, each member who is qualified to vote can nominate from the floor, and said name shall be added to ballot, provided candidate is qualified as per Article VI, Part (b).
- (e) Candidates who receive the majority of votes are elected.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE ELK VALLEY ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1. We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour from sin and death,

and in the Holy Spirit, our ever present Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide.

(a) We believe that the Holy Spirit, since it has many names and titles is the power and spirit of God. In reference to the Holy Spirit it is called:

1. The Comforter (John 14:16; 14:26).
2. Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 16:13).
3. Spirit of grace (Zech. 12:10; Heb. 10:29).
4. Spirit of wisdom (Isa 11:2; Eph. 1:17).
5. Spirit of glory (I Pet. 4:14).
6. Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9-14).
7. Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9; 1 Pet. 1:11).

(b) When defining the "spirit of man" (Greek, pneuma), the whole context must be considered; for it may mean the "breath of life," or the intellectual and spiritual faculty of the man himself (see Greek Lexicon).

2. We believe in the Inspiration of both the Old and the New Testaments, and that they contain the revealed Will of God to mankind (2 Peter 1:20-21; Rev. 1:1-19).

3. We believe the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Apostles are a full and sufficient statement of the duties and the faith of the Church, and we reject all modern versions and so-called revelations (Rev. 22:18-19).

4. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins; that He was buried; that He arose from the dead the third day immortal; that He ascended bodily from the earth to Heaven; that He now sitteth at the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for us and from thence, Heaven, He shall come again personally to this earth to judge the living and the dead (2 Tim. 4:1), and to establish His everlasting Kingdom "under the whole Heaven," and that His glorious coming is now near and is to be watched for daily.

5. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, and that it was founded upon the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Christ Jesus being the Chief corner Stone; we also believe in the Divine appointment, importance and sacredness of the local Church, and that it is the duty of believers to assemble for Divine worship, the preaching of the Gospel, and the observance of the New Testament ordinances.

6. We believe in a change of heart, that is, in conversion and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. While justification frees us from the guilt of sins committed and secures our title to the promised inheritance, sanctification pertains to right living, service, and our fitness for the promised inheritance.

(a) By "change of heart" we mean that one must be "born anew" (John 3:3, 7). By "conversion" we mean a spiritual and moral change in the individual through faith in Christ.

7. We believe it is our duty to make our Church fellowship a true brotherhood, and that we should bear and forebear with each other, exercising true love one for another, and that we should help the poor and care for the sick and the troubled.

(a) Merely expressing sympathy for a brother who is poor and greatly in need of material assistance is not enough.

8. We believe that man is wholly MORTAL and is therefore unconscious in death (Psalms 146:4-5; Eccl. 9:5-10; Isa. 38:18).

(a) Since only God has immortality, it must follow that man cannot now possess it (I Tim. 6:16). Immortality is applied to God only (I Tim. 1:17). And those who SEEK immortality, Christ will give them eternal life at the resurrection of the just (Rom. 2:7).

(b) If our soul is immortal, why did Paul ask us to SEEK for it?

9. We believe that there is to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust (John 5:28-29; Acts 24-15).

(a) John 5:28-29 presents TWO CLASSES of the dead—not two resurrections, entirely separate, one thousand years apart.

(b) Since the resurrection of dead bodies is a PHYSICAL matter, the "hour" must be PHYSICAL in meaning.

10. We believe in one general judgment day (Acts 17-31; Rev. 20:12-15; Hebrews 9:27; Matt. 25:37-46).

(a) Both the living and the dead will be judged "at His appearing and His Kingdom" (II Tim. 4:1).

(b) Since the Apostle Paul did not use a qualifying word to signify which class of the dead and the living he meant, we have no other choice but to conclude that he meant both the wicked and the righteous (II Thess. 1:7-10; 1 Cor. 6:10).

11. We believe that the second coming of Christ will be the time of the judgment of all mankind, and consequently of rewards and of punishment (II Tim. 4:1; Matt. 13:37-43; Rev. 20:12-15).

(a) A third coming of Christ is not mentioned in the Bible (2 Peter 3:7; 1 John 4:17). Observe that there can be but ONE "the" day of judgment.

(b) Observe also that the judgment of "All Nations" is to be a judgment of works (Matt. 25:37-46); and there is nothing in the context that indicates that only the living are judged.

12. We believe that the saints will be given eternal life, with glory, honor, peace, fullness of joy and pleasure throughout all eternity (Rom. 2:6-7; John 3:16; Psalms 16:11; John 10:27-28).

13. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal destruction (John 5:29; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Matt. 3:12; Mal. 1:3).

- (a) The King James Version uses "hell" indiscriminately for "Hades" (Matt. 11:23), and for "Gehenna", Matt. 5:22). The Greek Hades (English, "hell") means the grave; whereas, the Greek Gehenna means the place of punishment of the wicked in the day of judgment.
- (b) In 2 Peter 2:4 the correct word is "Tartarus"—NOT HELL—and means the "unfathomable depths of the air." This word Tartarus is used but one time in the Bible.
- (c) In Revelation 20:10 the phrase "for ever and ever" means until "the ages of ages"; therefore, punishment for the wicked can last only until the end of this present age.
- (d) The word "until" is used as a divider of times; hence, the phrase should be "until the ages of ages"—not for ever and ever.

14. We believe that at the second coming of Christ all probation will end, after which the ungodly can have no hope of restoration to the favor of God (Luke 13:24-28; Matt. 13:40-43).

15. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church of Christ, and the Lord's Supper is to be duly observed by all believers until the Saviour comes (I Cor. 11:23-26; Romans 6:3-5).

16. We believe that the Bible teaches that the mode of Baptism is by immersion only, and for believers only (Mark 1:9-10; 16:16).

- (a) Baptism is not "the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God" (1 Peter 3:21).
- (b) The Greek word "baptizo" was not translated, but was simply spelled with English letters by the King James translators. The literal meaning of the Greek Baptizo is to IMMERSE.
- (c) Baptism by immersion signifies the death, burial, and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:4-5).
- (d) Baptism is not mentioned in the Old Testament; it is a New Testament ordinance.
- (e) The Bible does not teach "infant baptism."

17. We believe that the earth made new will be the inheritance of the saints for all eternity (2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1-3; Matt. 5:5).

- (a) No dead saints are now in Heaven (John 3:13). Then, too, "David is not ascended into the heavens" (Acts 2:29, 34). The word "heavens" is plural and includes every one of the heavens mentioned in the Bible, and David was not to be found in any one of them!

18. We believe that the first day of the week, Sunday, is the day set aside by the early Church in commemoration of Christ's resurrection and should be observed as the Christian day of rest and worship (Acts 20:7; John 20-19-20; 1 Cor. 16:2).

- (a) Prior to Nehemiah 9:7-14, we have no Biblical record of the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath, Saturday. This Scripture fixes beyond all question the time when the Sabbath, God's rest day, was given to mankind. It was a commandment given to Israel, and to no one else.

- (b) The Apostle Paul declares that we, the Church, are not to be judged "in respect of a holy day" (Col. 2:16,17).
- (c) The Bible does not divide the Law into Moral Law and Civil Law. In the Bible the Law is the Law. All the other commandments except the Fourth One are enjoined in the New Testament.
- (d) The New Testament nowhere says that the Church is to observe any day of the week (see Col. 2:16).

19. We believe that the Scriptures teach a reign of Christ which is to be everlasting, a Kingdom of God which is to be perfect for all eternity; that no limited period of one thousand years of peace, ending in tragedy, can be found on a single page of inspired prophecy; that the perfected Kingdom of God is described, not in the terms of a Millennial Kingdom, but in the inspired picture of a New Heaven and a New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness and peace forever more (Rev. 21:22-27; Isa. 6:19; Rev. 22:5).

- (a) In Revelation 22:5 the phrase "for ever and ever" is translated from the Greek "for the ages of ages," meaning that the Kingdom of God, as of Christ, shall be eternal, without end.
- (b) Neither "the resurrection," nor "the judgment," nor "the throne of Christ" is mentioned in Revelation 20:1-10.
- (c) In Revelation 20:1-6 only the DEAD ARE MENTIONED; the righteous living are not mentioned! A physical resurrection is not meant.

20. We DO NOT believe that the New Testament teaches "feet washing" as an ordinance to be observed by the Church of Christ.

- (a) The Apostle Paul, the Gentile preacher, nowhere mentions "feet washing"; and he was chosen by Christ Himself to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.
 - (b) Christ washed Peter's feet, but—Peter never mentioned "feet washing" either at Pentecost or at the house of Cornelius.
 - (c) The context clearly shows that Christ had Judas in mind at the time He washed the feet of His disciples (see Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:1-2; I Peter 5:5).
 - (d) If the disciples washed each other's feet, the Scriptures do not record the observance.
-

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE, Feb. 1952

Ira E. Baxter, Chairman

A. B. Baxter, Secretary

Rev. J. M. Withrow

Rev. Eugene Huffman

Bro. Elmer Carte

Bro. John Burgess

1. Constitution of the Elk Valley Advent Christian Church has been revised by the Official Board. Approved and adopted by Elk Valley Advent Christian Church in regular session on Sunday, July 18, 1971.