

# Seventh-Day Remnant Church of [your city] Adopted [date constitution was adopted]

## PREAMBLE

**This Constitution and its Bylaws are made to:**

- Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
- Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the church.
- Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
- Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing church members.

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I—Name

The name of this church shall be the  
Seventh-Day Remnant Church of [your city]  
hereinafter referred to in this document as SDRC.

### ARTICLE II—Location

The location of this church is at:  
[address of church or where you meet most frequently]

### ARTICLE III—Purpose

**Resolved**, that this congregation shall have as its primary purpose the fulfillment of the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20: go, win, baptize, and teach converts until Jesus Christ returns.

- **Go**—We believe it is the responsibility of the church to reach the lost through every scriptural means, such as personal soul winning and tract evangelism, and not to rely merely on evangelism from the pulpit. It is the responsibility of every Christian to seek opportunities to witness for Christ.
- **Win**—Soul winning is not a responsibility reserved for the pastors and deacons but is to be accepted as the responsibility of all members of this body. Soul winning is not merely witnessing or testifying; it is making disciples.
- **Baptize**—Immersion of the believer in water is a testimony of the convert's identification in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and should be the first act of obedience following conversion. Those believers converted through personal soul winning efforts or in the public invitation during the preaching services should be baptized as soon as they are able to give a clear testimony of their conversion.
- **Teach**—Regular services and classes shall be held for the purpose of teaching the Word of God to

the believers. Teaching shall include doctrines, principles, commandments, and facts found in the Word of God. The King James Version shall be used in all public reading of the scriptures.

## **ARTICLE IV—Covenant**

- Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with each other as a local assembly of the body of Christ. We shall ever seek to allow the Holy Spirit full freedom to do His work of convicting, converting, cleansing, empowering, teaching, comforting, and guiding.
- We determine, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that ours shall be a faith that is balanced in every area of life; that we shall maintain a spiritual walk in practical matters as well as spiritual matters. With the help of God, we shall strive for our services to be fervent and scriptural; for every member to be a witness, and every preacher to be a prophet of the whole counsel of God.
- We determine to walk together in Christian love; to work for the advancement of this church in holiness, knowledge of God’s Word, and soul winning; to be faithful in its worship, ordinances, discipline, preaching of the truth and doctrines; to give cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, to the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the gospel throughout the world.
- We determine to maintain personal and family devotions and to train our children in the fear of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our loved ones and acquaintances; to live separated from that which is worldly; to be honest and faithful in our business; to walk daily in a manner that honors the Lord Jesus Christ, and to avoid participation in activities that would bring reproach to His name; to be zealous in our love and service for the Lord; to discern our spiritual gifts and employ them in this local church.
- We further determine to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.
- We moreover determine that if we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the principles of the Word of God.

## **ARTICLE V—Statement of Faith**

**Resolved, that this congregation shall take the following as their basis of present truth:**

- A. FIRST ANGEL’S MESSAGE**—“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” Revelation 14:6-7. A warning message to the world: to fear God, our Creator, to worship only Him, and give glory to Him by reflecting His character, for the hour of investigative judgment (first for the dead and then for the living) has come, and to proclaim the Everlasting Gospel, which involves the plan of redemption, and salvation from all sin through Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man. (For further study: Genesis 1:1; Exodus 20:3-6; 1 Kings 8:60; Psalms 19:9; Proverbs 2:5; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Matthew 5:16, 28:19; John 1:3, 14:6, 17:3; Acts 1:8, 14:15,

17:24-25; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Timothy 2:5; Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 199, 222-229, 231; Testimonies, vol 6, p 19.)

**B. SECOND ANGEL'S MESSAGE**—“And there followed another angel saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Revelation 14:8. Babylon fallen represents the moral fall of all Protestant Churches by 1844, because they rejected the light of truth sent to them from heaven as proclaimed in the First Angel's Message. This message is still a call for all Christians to separate from their fallen churches. (For further study: Isaiah 28:7, 48;17-20; Jeremiah 50:6, 51:6, 8, 51:44-45; Ezekiel 21:3,4; Zechariah 2:6-7; Matthew 24:15-16; Mark 13:14; Luke 21:20-21; Acts 15:14; Revelation 11:8, 16:19, 17:18, 18:1-5; Testimonies, vol 8, p 118; Patriarchs and Prophets, p 124; Great Controversy, p 383, 606; SDA Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 984-985; Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 230-33, 421, 424-425; Selected Messages, book 2, p 118; book 3, p 405; Fundamentals of Christian Education, p 362; Testimony to Ministers, p 61, 117, 265; Upward look, p 277; Kress Collection, p 124; Review and Herald, October 31, 1899; July 5, 1906; Manuscript Releases, book 12, p 248.)

**C. THE HEAVENLY TEMPLE, ARK, AND IMMUTABLE LAW OF GOD**—“And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments therefore, even so shall ye make it.” Exodus 25:8-9. “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament.” Revelation 11:19. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. There is a temple in heaven of which the earthly sanctuary was a pattern. This heavenly sanctuary is composed of two apartments; the first is the holy place, the second the most holy place. In the second apartment is found the ark of God containing His immutable law perpetually embodied in the ten commandments which is a transcript of His character. God's divine principles, His moral requirements, are binding upon all men in all ages and constitutes the basis of His covenant with His people and the standard of character in the final judgment. (For further study: Numbers 14:18; Proverbs 28:13; Jeremiah 32:19; Ezekiel 18:30, 33:20, 34:17, 20; Daniel 7:9-10; Matthew 22:1-14; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; All of the book of Hebrews; James 4:12; 1 Peter 4:5; Jude 14-15; Revelation 5:1-9, 11:18, 22:14-15; Great Controversy, p 428, 412.)

**D. CHRIST'S MINISTRY IN CLEANSING THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY**—”And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel 8:14. “...I have appointed thee each day for a year.” Ezekiel 4:6. Christ's first apartment (holy place) ministry began at His ascension and continued until October 22, 1844, at the end of the 2300 days/years when He entered into the second apartment (most holy place) to begin His final mediatorial work of intercession, atonement, and investigative judgment to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest. (For further study: Leviticus 16, 23:27-32; Numbers 14:34; Hebrews 6:19-20, 9:3, 7, 11-15, 12:24; Great Controversy, p 352, 409, 412-22, 428, 480, 647-48; Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 265-270, 431, 440; Early Writings, p 36, 54-56, 256; Testimonies, vol 6, p 364; vol 5, p 86, 575; Counsels to Writers and Editors, p 78; Testimony to Ministers, p 37, 445; Manuscript Releases, vol 12, p 392; Selected Messages, book 1, p 124-126, 232, 344; Notebook Leaflets, p 99, col 1; Battle Creek Letters, p 116-117; Review and Herald, January 21, 1890.)

**E. THE SABBATH**—“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy god: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor

thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:8-11. God Himself, after six days of creationary work, blessed, sanctified, and rested on the seventh day as His only Sabbath (Genesis 2:2-3). This fourth commandment of God’s written holy law requires all of His true followers to devote the seventh day of each week, beginning at sunset Friday through sunset Saturday, to the worship of God as their Creator. Thus it is a sacred day of rest requiring abstinence from all unnecessary labor and secular work, and the performance of sacred and religious duties. This Sabbath commandment contains God’s official seal which includes His name—“Lord thy God;” His official position—“Creator;” His domain—“heaven and earth.” Therefore the seventh day Sabbath is the seal of God’s creative and sanctifying power which is exercised through the Holy Spirit in the lives of His obedient people. (For further study: Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31, 2:2-3; Nehemiah 13:19; Isaiah 8:16, 58:12-14; Ezekiel 20:12; Daniel 7:25; Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 1:32, 2:27-28; Luke 23:54-56, 24:1; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 4:4-10; James 2:10-11; Revelation 12:17, 14:12; Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 279-281, 395-96, 457; Testimonies, vol 1, p 116; vol 6, p 349-368; vol 8, p 117; Patriarchs and Prophets, p 336.)

**F. THIRD ANGEL’S MESSAGE**—“And the third angel followed them saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:9-12 “And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Revelation 18:1-5. A solemn invitation is given to every truly repentant sinner to accept the righteousness of Christ by faith, which is imputed in justification and imparted through sanctification, enabling them to keep all of God’s commandments, overcoming all sin through His grace and strength, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. It also warns all mankind against worshiping the beast (Roman Catholicism), or his image (apostate Protestantism), or receiving the mark of Catholicism (which is submitting to Sunday worship), lest they receive the wrath of God poured out in the seven last plagues. It also warns all of God’s people to willingly separate themselves from all unclean apostate, harlot churches of Babylon—including the Seventh-day Adventist Church - or become partakers of her sins and receive her plagues. (For further study: Genesis 19:24; Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:6; Psalms 92:7; Ezekiel 22:31; Daniel 3:5-29; Luke 17:29; Acts 2:27; 1 Corinthians 6:15-16, 19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Amos 3:3; Isaiah 52:11; James 4:12; 2 Peter 3:10; Jude 7; Revelation 12:17, 13:1-18, 14:11-12, 15:2, 16:2, 19:10, 20:10, 14-15; Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 278-279, 281, 356, 362-363; Great Controversy, p 444-45, 449, 536, 605; Early Writings, p 219, 221; Testimony to Ministers, p 133; SDA Bible Commentary, vol 7, p 976, 979-980; Manuscript Releases, vol 12, p 248, 250; Word to the Little Flock, p 12.)

**G. NON-IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL (State of the dead)**—“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun... for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, 10. Death is a state of silence, inactivity, and entire unconsciousness, referred to in the Bible as “sleep.” Therefore the scriptures clearly confirm that all apparitions of those who have died, including the Virgin Mary, are the spirits of demons working miracles to deceive, if possible, God's people (see Revelation 16:14). The investigative judgment determines whether the dead will awaken at Christ's second coming being raised in the first resurrection to inherit everlasting life, or remaining in the grave until the second resurrection to be consumed in the lake of fire which is the second death. (For further study: Job 14:21; Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 22:30; John 11:24-25; Acts 2:29, 34; Colossians 3:4; 1 Corinthians 15:22-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 14:13, 20:5, 21:4; Hebrews 9:24; Isaiah 26:14; Ecclesiastes 3:20; Desire of Ages, p 527; Early Writings, p 262; Acts of Apostles, p 289; Testimony to Ministers, p 457.)

## **H. BIBLICAL INTERPRETATIONS REGARDING DANIEL AND REVELATION**

**1. ADVENTIST PIONEER INTERPRETATIONS OF DANIEL**—We concur along with our Adventist pioneers, including Ellen White, that the correct interpretations of the major prophecies of Daniel are as follows:

### **a. DANIEL 2**

- The 4 metals of the image (gold, silver, brass, iron) represents the 4 world kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome.)
- The feet and toes of iron and clay represents the 10 divisions or kingdoms of Europe.
- The stone cut out of the mountain without hands represents the second advent of Christ.
- The stone which grew into a great mountain represents God's eternal kingdom

### **b. DANIEL 7**

- The first beast, being a 2-winged lion, represented Babylon.
- The second beast, being a bear, represented Medo-Persia.
- The third beast, being a 4 winged leopard, represented Greece.
- The fourth beast, being dreadful and terrible, represented pagan Rome.
- The 10 horns on the fourth beast represents the 10 divisions/kingdoms of Europe.
- The 3 horns uprooted represented the Heruli, Vandals, and the Ostrogoths.
- The little horn represented the Papacy.
- The 3 1/2 times represented 1260 years of Papal supremacy - from 538-1798 AD.
- The final scenes represents the judgment which began October 22, 1844.

### **c. DANIEL 8**

- The 2-horned ram represented Medo-Persia.
- The he goat represented Greece.
- The great notable horn represented Alexander the Great.
- The 4 notable horns represented the 4 generals who each ruled 1/4 of the Grecian Empire after Alexander's death.
- The little horn waxing exceeding great represented papal Rome.
- The daily represented paganism.

- The 2300 days represented 2300 years - from 457 BC - 1844 AD.

#### **d. DANIEL 9**

- The 70 weeks were "cut off" from the first part of the 2300 years.
- The 70 weeks represented 490 years - from 457 BC - 34 AD.
- The 70th or last week represented 7 years - from 27-34 AD.
- In 27 AD Jesus Christ was anointed as Messiah the Prince.
- In the midst of this last week Christ was crucified in 31 AD, which brought to an end all sacrificial, ceremonial, and feast rituals and types connected with the earthly sanctuary.
- In 34 AD Stephen was stoned which ended this 70 week prophecy.

#### **e. DANIEL 11**

- The scope of this prophecy covered the histories of Persia, Greece, and Rome in both pagan and papal forms.
- The willful king represented the Papacy.
- Ellen White indicated that most of Daniel 11 was already history (see Manuscript Releases, vol 13, p 394 - Letter 103, 1904), and that it "has nearly reached its complete fulfillment" (Testimonies, vol 9, p 14).

#### **f. DANIEL 12**

- The 3 1/2 times represented 1260 years of Papal persecution - from 538-1798 AD.
- The 1290 days represented 1290 years - from 508-1798 AD.
- The 1335 days represented 1335 years - from 508-1843 AD.
- Not only was Ellen White in agreement with the above, even stating that "the 1335 years were ended" (see Manuscript Releases, vol 5, p 203 - Letter 28, November 7, 1850), but also stating that Daniel was already standing in his lot thus signifying that all these times prophecies were ended (see Testimony to Ministers, p 115; Manuscript Releases, vol 17, p 10).

**2. ADVENTIST PIONEER INTERPRETATIONS OF REVELATION**—We concur along with our Adventist pioneers, including Ellen White, that the correct interpretations of the major prophecies of Revelation are as follows:

#### **a. REVELATION 6 & 7**

- The 4 horses, or first 4 seals, represented the Christian era, with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th seals representing the progressing apostasy and corruption of the early church.
- The 6th seal represents signs of the end.
- Ellen White was in agreement with the above, even stating that the rider of the white horse in the first seal represented Christ (Gospel truth) going forth "conquering and to conquer" through His followers after His ascension (see Acts of Apostles, p 23; Sons and Daughters of God, p 358; SDA Bible Commentary, vol 4, p 1146). Also Ellen White indicated that both the 3rd and 4th seals were already history stating that this "history shall be repeated" (see Manuscript Releases, vol 9, p 7 - Letter 65, August 23, 1898).

#### **b. REVELATION 8 & 9**

- The first 4 trumpets represented the various barbarian groups which attacked pagan Rome.
- The 5th trumpet represented the Mohammedans.

- The 5 months represented 150 years - from 1299-1449 AD.
- The 6th trumpet represented the Ottoman Turks.
- The hour, day, month, and year represented 391 years and 15 days - from 1449-1840 AD.
- Ellen White was in agreement with the above, even stating that the 6th trumpet represented the Turks, and the hour, day, month, and year ended in 1840 (see Great Controversy, p 334; Maranatha, p 152).

**c. REVELATION 10**

- Reveals the history and experience of the Advent Movement of 1840-44.
- The little book open represents the sealed book of Daniel being opened and understood.
- Ellen White agreed with the above, even declaring that the open book was the book of Daniel (see Manuscript Releases, vol 17, p 6, 8; Selected Messages, book 2, p 107-108; Testimony to Ministers, p 115).

**d. REVELATION 11**

- Reveals the history of the French Revolution.
- The 2 witnesses represent the Old and New Testaments.
- The 1260 days represented the 1260 years of Papal persecution - from 538-1798 AD.
- The seventh trumpet represents 1844 and afterwards.

**e. REVELATION 12**

- The woman represented the true church.
- The child represents Christ.
- The dragon represented Satan through Pagan Rome.
- The 1260 days represented the 1260 years of Papal persecution - from 538-1798 AD.
- The 3 1/2 times represented the 1260 years of Papal persecution - from 538-1798 AD.
- The remnant represents those who keep God's commandments and follow the Testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy (see Revelation 19:10).

**f. REVELATION 13**

- The first or leopard-like beast represents the Papacy.
- The 10 horns represent the 10 divisions/kingdoms of Europe.
- The 42 months represented the 1260 years of Papal persecution - from 538-1798 AD.
- The 2-horned beast represents the USA.
- The 2 horns represent the principles of Republicanism and Protestantism.
- The image of the beast represents apostate Protestant churches.
- The mark of the beast represents submitting to worship on Sunday instead of the seventh-day Sabbath.

**g. REVELATION 14 & 18**—Please see Paragraphs A, B, and F above.

## **ARTICLE VI—Character**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Seventh-Day Remnant churches. We believe in the autonomy of the local church and shall never submit to the ecclesiastical authority of any man or group of men (other than the prayerfully chosen pastors of this local assembly) or to any ecclesiastical or human decree that is contrary to the Word of God.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE VII—Authority**

The Word of God shall be the supreme law of this church. The Will of God shall be the supreme guide. All members in full fellowship shall have opportunity to express their desire without fear of intimidation or coercion. The Will of God shall be determined by the clear statement of Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy, when possible, or by the leadership of the pastors under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Decisions, both spiritual and temporal, will be made “in one accord,” not self-willed, but seeking God’s Will. When there has been genuine discernment of God’s Will and sufficient teaching of God’s Word, there will be one accord among the pastors and a majority of the assembly.

### **ARTICLE VIII—Officers**

We believe the Scripture teaches that there are two offices of the local church: pastor (also called “elder” and “bishop”) and deacon. Although these are the only offices discussed in Scripture, other offices shall be authorized, as necessary, for the proper administration of church business. These offices, while not mandatory, may include clerk, treasurer, and trustee.

#### **A. PASTOR (or ELDER)**

##### **1. Qualifications and Duties**

- The qualifications for pastors are given in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.
- The role of the pastor exists for the service of the church body.
- The pastor has the spiritual responsibility of the church.
- The pastor shall assist in all public and regular services of the church and shall assist in general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.
- The pastor will function in a spirit of mutual submission with the rest of the church officers and members in a servant-leadership capacity.
- The pastor leads and teaches the congregation (I Timothy 5:17-18).
- The pastor, along with the deacons, protects the pulpit from false doctrine.
- Although the congregation shall have opportunity to express their desire on any issue and to vote on certain issues, the leadership of this assembly shall be provided by the pastor.
- While the Bible does not command a plurality of pastors for the local church, it is permissible and advisable for the leadership of a larger local church to be provided by more than one pastor. In that case only one shall be the senior pastor.
- The pastor may receive material compensation sufficient to meet his needs.

## **2. Selection of the Pastor**

- The pastor is selected by nomination in a general business meeting.
- This meeting shall not be led by the person selected.
- This person shall not be present while the vote for him is taken.
- There will be only one name at a time considered and voted for.
- The selection shall be approved by the vote of 80% or more of the members present.
- An alternate person shall be selected from among the other pastors or deacons and voted in to serve temporarily in case the pastor cannot serve. The alternate shall serve for no more than two years.
- If the pastor and/or alternate has never been ordained to this position, an ordination service is required.

## **3. Dismissal of the Pastor.**

- The pastor may be dismissed at his request.
- If a church member questions the pastor's service to the church he must privately counsel with the pastor to resolve his concern. Once three church members have failed to resolve their concern privately, the pastor must temporarily step down from his position until the issue is resolved (see Matthew 18).
- If after careful consideration of the issue raised, the pastor will only be dismissed by the vote of 80% or greater of the voting members present in a general business meeting.
- Every two years (or as close to two years as practical) the pastor is subject to a vote of confidence by an 80% majority vote of the voting members present in a general business meeting. Failure to win that vote of confidence implies dismissal.
- The pastor shall not be present at any time there is a vote about him.

## **B. DEACONS**

### **1. Qualifications and Duties**

- The qualifications for deacons are listed in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- The role of the deacon exists for the service of the church body.
- The deacons have the physical responsibility of the church.
- The deacons shall assist in all public and regular services of the church and shall assist in general oversight of the physical welfare of the church.
- The deacon will function in a spirit of mutual submission with the rest of the church officers and members.
- The deacons are to serve, witness, preach, and contend for the faith as demonstrated in Acts 4-8.
- The role of deacon is not restricted to males.
- If there is the need for more than one deacon, one of them is to be designated the senior or head deacon.

### **2. Selection of the Deacons**

- Nominations of persons for the position of deacon may take place in a general business meeting or in a nominating committee.
- Voting is by majority. If the voting is done individually rather than accepting the report of a nominating committee, the individual must not be present when the vote for him is taken.
- The deacon maybe re-elected for successive terms.

- If the deacon has never been ordained to this position, an ordination service is required.

### **3. Dismissal of the Deacons**

- The deacon may be dismissed at his request.
- The deacon is automatically dismissed from his position after having served for three years.
- Dismissal of the deacon for failure to perform the duties described or apostasy must be voted on by a majority or voting members in a general business meeting.

### **C. CHURCH CLERK**

- The church clerk shall keep accurate records of business meetings.
- The church clerk shall maintain an up-to-date membership roll.
- The church clerk shall sign church documents.
- The church clerk, along with the treasurer, shall sign financial documents except those entrusted to the trustee.
- The church clerk is selected by the pastor(s) and deacon(s) together.
- The term of office of the church clerk is indefinite.
- The church clerk may be dismissed at his request.
- Dismissal of the church clerk for failure to perform the duties described or apostasy is at the discretion of the pastor(s) and deacon(s) combined.

### **D. CHURCH TREASURER**

- The treasurer shall function as the business manager of the church.
- The treasurer shall have authority to receive, disburse, and manage all money belonging to the church or committed to its trust in accordance with the budget or approved programs of the church.
- The treasurer, along with the church clerk, shall sign all financial documents except those entrusted to the trustee.
- The treasurer shall keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures and make regular quarterly financial reports to the church.
- These records of contributions will be sent to the contributors regularly.
- The treasurer shall ensure that the financial records are audited annually.
- The treasurer shall collect and verify the information necessary for the preparation of the church budget.
- The treasurer shall be selected by the pastor(s) and deacon(s) together from among the current, active deacons.
- The term of office of the treasurer is indefinite.
- The treasurer may be dismissed at his request.
- Dismissal of the treasurer for failure to perform the duties described or apostasy from the statement of faith is at the discretion of the pastor(s) and deacon(s) combined.

### **E. TRUSTEE**

- If the church is required to fill this office, the pastor(s) along with the deacon(s) shall appoint the trustee(s) from among the membership of the SDRC.
- The trustee(s) shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action.
- It shall be the function of the trustee(s) to sign any, and all legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or lease of church property or any other legal documents requiring the sig-

nature of the trustee(s) for and in behalf of the church.

- The trustee may be dismissed at his request.
- Dismissal of the trustee for failure to perform the duties described or apostasy from the statement of faith is at the discretion of the pastor(s) and deacon(s) combined.

## **ARTICLE IX—Membership**

### **A. QUALIFICATIONS**

- Members shall consist of people who have made a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- Members have been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as determined in the scriptures.
- Members are in agreement with the Articles of Faith and covenant of the church (this implies that they have completed formal Bible studies on the doctrines and/or shown their knowledge of the doctrines by answering questions on those doctrines).

### **B. ACCEPTANCE**

- Once the qualifications have been met and verified and the prospective member expresses a desire to join, then:
- The prospective member is added to the membership roll after receiving a majority vote at a general business meeting.

### **C. DISMISSAL**

- The member may be dismissed at his request. The departing member may be provided with a letter to another Seventh-Day Remnant Church recommending membership transfer.
- The member is dismissed when he dies.
- The member may be dismissed for failure to uphold the standards of the statement of faith. This dismissal is completed upon a two thirds majority vote in a general business meeting.
- The pastor, deacons and other members will do all they can to counsel the member for restoration prior to action of dismissal from the church membership.

## **ARTICLE X—Meetings**

### **A. WORSHIP SERVICES**

- All worship services are to be conducted with holy reverence. These are solemn occasions and loud and boisterous demonstrations or music are not appropriate.
- Preparation for the worshiping of the Ruler of the universe includes cleansed minds, cleansed bodies, presented neat and clean, wearing the best we own as we would wear if coming before earthly royalty.
- The room or building reserved for worship services should not be used for other purposes.
- Weekly worship services are conducted every Sabbath on the seventh day of the week.
- Other worship services may also be conducted on other days of the week at the discretion of the church body.
- Communion services are held more than once a year and include the ordinance of humility (washing of feet).

### **B. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

- All major decisions such as budget approval, missions support, major expenditures, election of officers, amending the constitution, adoption or rescission of standing resolutions, accepting and dismissing members, and calling or dismissing the senior pastor and/or associates, will be made in a general business meeting.
- Quorum—no valid business will transpire in a business meeting unless at least twenty percent of the church members are present at the beginning of the meeting.
- Business meetings are called with a minimum of one week’s notice to the membership except in cases of an emergency.
- All business will be handled through prayer and humility of spirit.
- Since business meetings are to conduct the business of the church, visitors are not allowed.
- Since business meetings are to conduct the business of the church, no business meetings will be conducted on the hours of the Sabbath.
- All business meetings will be conducted according to parliamentary procedure. Any procedural issue not specifically noted in this Constitution shall be governed by the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

### **C. SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

- It is the responsibility of the SDRC to sponsor social gatherings for the purpose of the members to become better acquainted with each other.
- If the social gathering is on the Sabbath day then there will not be allowed any activities considered inappropriate for Sabbath keeping.
- No social gathering will allow activities inconsistent with the statement of faith.

## **ARTICLE XI—Finances**

### **A. INCOME**

- The entire program of this church shall be supported by free will tithes and offerings.
- All gifts received for any purpose are received as charitable contributions to the SDRC and its auxiliary ministries.
- At no time may this church be permitted to use any unscriptural method or methods for raising funds. This outlaws all suppers for pecuniary gain, all profitable sales of tickets, chances, or merchandise, and all other profit-making methods that are not supported by God’s Word.
- Real property or equipment owned by the church may be sold for replacement or liquidation.

### **B. DISTRIBUTION**

- The duly elected authorities of this not for profit church shall have final authority for the distribution of all contributions received.

### **C. FINANCING**

- Extreme restraint should be exercised whenever it becomes necessary to secure financing for any church project.
- Tithes and offerings, as well as other property, belong to God and will be treated as His property.
- Every available means of securing necessary funds for approved projects will be exhausted prior to borrowing money.
- Money shall not be borrowed for depreciating items unless a cost analysis shows the investment to be profitable despite the depreciation of the actual value of the item requested.

- Money should not be borrowed on the basis of projected growth or increase in income alone.