

**CONSTITUTION OF THE SAUKTOWN CHURCH OF
CHRIST
MILL CREEK, INDIANA**

As of December 7, 2014

WHEREAS, as believers in Jesus Christ, we have associated ourselves and organized a religious corporation under the statutes of the State of Indiana in such case made and provided, and

WHEREAS, we by these presents do associate ourselves to maintain public worship, provide Christian education and to promote the Kingdom of God according to the Scriptures, and have and by these presents do declare our confidence and faith in God and in each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order that we may make complete expression of our desire and that our unity in Christ Jesus may be complete and that continually our service in His name may be more effective by observing His special command, to let all things be done decently and in order, to let all things be done with love, to let all things be done to edifying, to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, we have established the following constitution binding ourselves together as a body of baptized (immersed) believers in Jesus Christ and have and do pledge our loyalty to such Constitution.

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This organization shall be known by the name under which it was incorporated, that is to say, Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc. and is located Three miles north of Mill Creek, Indiana, Wills Township, LaPorte County, Indiana.

It is not affiliated with any denomination or inter denominational organization or unit thereof, either local, state, national, or inter-national.

It is purely an autonomous congregation and is managed, maintained, and operated by it's members within the framework of this Constitution and the laws of the State of Indiana and the United States of America.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc. shall, be to serve Christ as a

New Testament Congregation in the advancement of the Kingdom of God in every possible way. It shall seek to attain this and through maintaining public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel of Salvation, providing Christian education according to the New Testament scriptures, having it's only creed Christ, exercising Christian care over its members, promoting the scriptural welfare in consistent Christian living by its members.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc. shall consist o those who have joined together in the adoption of this Constitution, of those who shall unite with it on the Gospel terms of salvation, that is to say: (a) Faith in Jesus Christ; (b) Repentance from sin; (a) Public confession of faith in Jesus as the Christ, as the Son of the Living God; (d) Baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost; (e) Christian Living; and those who shall hereafter unite with it by transfer of membership by letter, statement or other satisfactory evidence to prove that they have complied and continue to comply with the provisions herein above set forth.

2. The qualified voting membership of the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc., shall consist of such members as are named upon the records of this congregation that have reached the age of eighteen (18) years and have been in attendance at regular Sunday Services not less that twenty— six (26) Sundays during the twelve (12) month period immediately proceeding the vote being taken. (**Amended according to the prescribed procedure and passed by the congregation on November 30, 2008 to read) “At least 20 Sundays during the twelve month period”.**) This record shall be kept of attendance at the Sunday morning worship service and be the responsibility of the Church Board or their appointee.

3. Letters of transfer for the purpose of uniting with some other congregation of like faith shall be granted upon request by the Church Board.
4. Any member desiring to sever connection with this congregation for any purpose whatsoever shall be granted a demit upon application to the Church Board.
5. Any Member of this congregation may be removed from the rolls and severed from this organization by the congregation provided that no such member shall be removed from the roll or dismissed from the organization until after notice by mail to the last known address shall have been given notifying such member of the intention to present the matter to the congregation and provided further the organization by appropriate notice and action of the congregation, then and in that event that demit shall be sent by mail to such member by the Church Board, to the last known address, and provided further that it is the consensus that Church discipline shall be administered in such a spirit of Christian love as to secure, if possible, the return and salvation of an erring member, and in the case of private offense, the Gospel rule of Matthew 18:15— 17 shall be strictly observed and followed regardless of whom it may concern, and provided further that in case of negligence, or in case of public violation of the principles of Christian religion and morality, and when erring member shall fail or refuse to mend their erring ways, their name shall be dropped from the membership roll of this congregation by action of the congregation as heretofore provided.

ARTICLE IV ORGANIZATION

1. Subject to the provisions and limitations of this Constitution and the secular law of the county, state and national government, the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc., shall be entirely managed, operated and maintained by the congregation consisting of such members as appear on its rolls.

2. An annual business meeting of the congregation of the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc., (shall be held on the first Wednesday in the month of December of each year.)

Amended October 3, 2010 to state: Shall be held the first week in the month of December.

The fiscal year of the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc., shall be from 1 December to 30 November. Special congregational meetings must be called by the office of the Chairman of the Board, upon request of the majority of the Board or written Petition of one—third of the eligible voting members of the congregation.

3. The following officers shall be elected by the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc., by secret ballot at the annual business meeting. An affirmative two-thirds (2/3) of all ballots cast at the annual business meeting shall constitute an election of Elders and Deacons. The other church officers may be elected by a majority of the votes cast. The terms of the elected officers shall start on the first of January.

Officers of one year term or until such time as a successor is elected and assumes offices: Elders and Deacons. These shall be in such number as the congregation shall from time to time select. Also elected by the Church Board is a Clerk, Treasurer and a Board Chairman at the first meeting of the new year.

4. Election of church trustees shall be for a three (3) year period, one being elected or reelected every year and recorded three trustees; one for one year; one for two years and one for three years. At the first annual meeting of the congregation the one year term shall be filled by election to a three year term, etc.

5. Any male member of this congregation who meets the scriptural requirements for the office of Elder or Deacon and who has been an active member of this congregation or Church of like faith with a transfer of membership to the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc. shall be eligible to be elected to the office of Elder or Deacon.

6. No one shall hold more than one (1) elective office, except that the position of clerk, treasurer, trustee and chairman of the Church Board may be held by an Elder

or Deacon of this congregation.

7. Any such officer may be removed for a good and sufficient cause by a vote of the congregation upon any regular or special business meeting.

8. Any such officer may resign by submitting in writing and addressed to the Church Board of the Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc., and shall be effective on the date specified therein.

9. The Church Board shall consist of the elected officers of congregation. The Church Board shall meet regularly each month and at such times as it may from time to time decide for the purpose of transacting such business as may properly come before it for its decision and disposition. Immediately following the annual business meeting the Church Board shall elect a Chairman, Clerk and Treasurer to hold office one year or until their successors upon the Church Board is selected and assumes office, whichever shall come to pass first. The Church Board shall have the power to fill any vacancy in any elective office until such time as the congregation shall act on a vacancy. A minimum of 51% of the members at the Church Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. All expenditures for repair, alterations, additions or improvements to the physical property of the Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc. shall be cared for by the duly elected and recorded trustees of the congregation. All other bills and Moines shall first be submitted to the Church Board for action. The Church Board shall appoint or hire such other employees of the congregation as are necessary to properly care for the physical property and shall have the power to remove such employees for good and sufficient reasons and shall have the power to fix the remuneration to be paid to such employees.

10. The Elders shall discharge the duties of their office as set forth in the New Testament.

11. The Deacons shall discharge the duties of their office as set forth in the New Testament.

12. The trustees shall perform such duties as are required by the law of the State of Indiana, County of . LaPorte, and such other duties as pertain to the care and protection of the physical property of the Sauktown Church of Christ, Inc., subject to the approval of the congregation.

13. The church clerk shall keep an accurate record of the membership of the church and make corrections thereof from time to time as required by the admission of new members or loss by death or otherwise of old members, and shall keep the minutes of all congregational and board meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the church board. He shall be the custodian of all the congregational records, papers, documents, correspondence and such other records as are not properly kept by the other congregational officers in the carrying out of their respective official duties.

14. The treasurer shall disburse all funds of the congregation according to the authority designated to him by the church board. He shall be the custodian of all records and papers pertaining to his office and official duties.

15. All missionary money or support shall be handled by or with the approval of the Elders of the church for the further protection of our congregation from the organizations that do not meet the standard of the New Testament in missionary support. No money shall be sent or paid to anyone in the name of the church which have not been disbursed as above stipulated, nor which shall not have originated as direct obligation of this congregation.

16. The Board Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the congregation, whether special or annual. The Board Chairman shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of two board members, two members of the congregation, not serving in

any official capacity, three months previous to the annual congregational business meeting. The board chairman or the minister shall also serve on the nominating committee. The committee shall prepare a list of names from the active membership of the Sauktown Church of Christ Inc. who are qualified to fill the various offices. It shall interview each nominee proposed and ascertain willingness to serve in case of election. The nominating committee shall report it's and post a sample ballot a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the annual business meeting. No nominations may be taken from the floor. Under no circumstances shall voting be by proxy at any church election or at any church meeting. The board chairman shall, at the annual meeting, appoint a sufficient number of tellers from the active members of the congregation for the purpose of recording or tallying the votes as cast from the various offices of the congregation. Each voting member that is unable to attend the annual business meeting for reasons of health, work, or being out of state may submit an absentee ballot to the Chairman of the Board who shall include it with the ballots collected from the voting members present. Those desiring to vote absentee ballot may obtain one from the chairman of the Board.

17. The minister shall be chosen by the board for an indefinite period. Whenever the selection of a minister becomes necessary, the Elders shall serve as a pulpit committee. The pulpit committee shall investigate and recommend to the board a minister for the vacancy who shall appear for a trial service before the congregation. The candidate shall then be approved by the congregation by at least two thirds (2/3) affirmative votes cast by the voting members. If the candidate is not approved by the congregation, the committee shall report other selections until a suitable choice shall have been made. No minister shall be employed who does not unreservedly subscribe to the New Testament church pattern and the New Testament, nor who preaches some other doctrine that found in the New Testament Scriptures, nor who

belongs to any religious organization holding views other than those held by this congregation, or who supports such organizations. The minister shall preach the gospel, administer the ordinances, watch over the membership of the congregation, promote the spiritual interest of the congregation, organize and develop its strength for the best possible service. He shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to his office. He shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees for the church and its auxiliary organizations, except the pulpit committee. The term of the minister shall be for an indefinite period and may be terminated by written notice by the minister to the Elders, or of dismissal, by the Elders to the minister submitted at least 60 days prior to its taking effect. A vote of confidence of the minister shall be taken at the annual meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot and the results shall be known and used only by the Elders and the minister.

18. A church officer or the minister may be dismissed from office for cause by the following procedure.

1. An affirmative two—thirds (2/3) vote by the Elders.
2. The Elders shall then meet with the officer or minister to discuss the charges and to reach an equitable agreement if possible.
3. A reading of the notice containing the statement of charges by the Chairman of the Board to the congregation at the next Sunday morning service following such action by the Elders.
4. An affirmative two—thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the voting members present at this service.
5. The written notice containing the statement of charges delivered by the Chairman of the Board to the minister or church officer.
6. All voting shall be by secret ballot under the direction of the Chairman of the Board and the church officer or minister may, by

the order of the Elders, be suspended from their respective office until the matter is settled.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the church, at a special or annual meeting, by a two—thirds (2/3) majority of the active members of the congregation as shown on the membership records providing such notice of change has been presented in writing to the church board and the proposed amendment has been read at the regular Sunday services at least two weeks before the date of the vote is taken.

ARTICLE VI ORDER OF BUSINESS

The following order of business shall be followed at all annual meetings of the church.

1. Scripture reading and prayer
2. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting.
3. Report of the pastor.
4. Election of new officers.
 - (A) Report of the nominating committee.
 - (B) Election by ballot.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Report of the treasurer.
7. Report of the trustees.
8. Report of special committees.
9. New business.
10. Announcements.
11. Adjournment with prayer.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Notice of any special meeting of any board or of the congregation shall be deemed sufficient if given from the pulpit on the Sunday proceeding such meeting.

ARTICLE VIII APPROVAL

This constitution Shall be in full force and effect from and after the date thereof.

For use by a Domestic Not for Profit Corporation incorporated or reorganized under "The Indiana General Not For Profit Corporation Act," approved March 7, 1935

June 3, 1984

Article IX Amendment to the constitution of Sauktown Church of Christ.

Said corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious educational, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to or annexations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying On of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tat under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or(b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the-dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax coed or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. In witness whereof, we have hereto subscribed our names this 18 day of October 1984.

(Amended at Annual Meeting December 07, 2014)

**Article X: Amendment to Constitution – Definition of Marriage –
Marriages performed at the Sauktown Church of Christ**

Marriage is defined according to God’s inspired word, the Bible. Genesis 2:23-24 it says : 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” 24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Sauktown Church of Christ, in keeping with God’s written word the Bible defines marriage as being between a man and a woman. Every marriage performed at Sauktown Church of Christ will be between a man and a woman.

Board Members

Robin Ward President

Dan Hartwick Vice President

Willis Northcutt

Howard Simmons

Jim Sudlow

Joe Wilson

John Riggs Minister