

Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle

1400 Washington Avenue

Cloquet, MN 55720

(218) 879-6765

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this assembly shall be the Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle of Cloquet, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

This assembly shall teach, preach and practice the Word of God, such as: the new birth (John 3:5, II Corinthians 5:17), water baptism (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-5), baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:4), divine healing (Matthew 8:17, Mark 16:17-19, James 5:14-17) the gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:4), the second premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:3, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Acts 1:11).

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 The government of this assembly shall be vested in the body of believers who compose it and is amenable to no other ecclesiastical body.

SECTION 2 This assembly, although an independent body having no organic union with other religious bodies, recognizes the privilege of the communion and cooperation in word and spirit of other sister assemblies for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad.

SECTION 3 This assembly is and shall always remain an independent and sovereign assembly and shall always function as such. It shall never become a part of a denominationally organized religious body, having a centralized form of government outside or beyond the local church.

SECTION IV Its property, whether real, physical or chattel, shall always remain in the possession of the majority or minority group of members of such faith and practice as set forth in Article II and Section 1, 2, and 3 of Article III of this constitution.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I The membership for this assembly shall consist of those Christian believers accepted as members of this assembly.

SECTION II All persons desiring to become members of this assembly must give satisfactory evidence of conversion and must be baptized in water, unless such

baptism is clearly impossible. They must be reasonably attendant in the service of the assembly and must manifest an interest in its affairs and financial support.

No person shall be admitted to membership who remains a member of another assembly.

SECTION III Heresy and habits, practices of affiliations unbecoming to a Christian and incurring reproach, shall be ground for discipline. Discipline shall be by reproof, suspension from active participation in the worship and service of the assembly and finally exclusion from membership; and it shall be administered in accordance with the principles laid down in the New Testament Scriptures. See Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 16:17, I Corinthians 5, II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Titus 3:10-11.

SECTION IV No person may be admitted to, excluded or transferred from membership except by the vote of the assembly.

ARTICLE V - STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe:

The Bible to be the only inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. John 16:13, II Timothy 3:15-17, II Peter 1:21, I Thessalonians 2:13.

That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22, John 14:16.

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. John 1:1, Philippians 2:6-11, John 1:14, Isaiah 9:6, John 20:28-29, Colossians 2:9.

His virgin birth. (Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:34-35, Isaiah 7:14).

His sinless life. (II Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 7:26, I John 3:5, Hebrews 4:15, 7:26-27, I Peter 2:22).

His miracles. (Matthew 4:23, Luke 6:17-19, John 3:2).

His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood. (Colossians 1:14, 20, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 1:7).

His bodily resurrection. (I Corinthians 15:3-4, Luke 24:4-7, 36-48, Revelation 1:17-18).

His ascension to the right hand of the Father. (Acts 2:23, 5:30-31, I Peter 3:22).

His personal return in power and in glory. (Acts 1:11, Philippians 2:9-11, I Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, John 14:1-3).

That justification by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man. (Romans 3:24-25, John 3:3-7, Ephesians 2:1-16, Revelation 5:9, Acts 4:12, I Corinthians 6:11, John 5:11-13).

The prime agency for the work of God's Kingdom is the Christian local church functioning under the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ. To the church have been entrusted the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 16:4-5, Matthew 16:18, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:41-47, Ephesians 1:22-23, I Corinthians 12, II Corinthians 11:23-26).

In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, which includes: the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as an experience distinct from regeneration; His indwelling by which the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; His supernatural gifting and empowering of the church for its work, life and worship. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, Acts 2:1-4, 10:4-46, I Corinthians 12, 14).

In the return of Jesus Christ to consummate His Kingdom; in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:4-5, 11-12, Mark 14:62, Revelation 1:5-7, II Thessalonians 1:2-10).

In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (John 17:11, 21-23, Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 4:11-16).

BYLAWS

This assembly may adopt bylaws not inconsistent with law or these articles and may alter, amend or repeal them and these articles, excepting II, III and IV of these articles in a manner provided that notice of the meeting shall have specifically stated the changes to be considered.

ARTICLE I - MEETINGS

SECTION 1- ANNUAL MEETINGS The annual meeting of the assembly shall be held in Cloquet, Minnesota at its house of worship located at 1400 Washington Avenue on a date chosen by the elders and deacon/trustees in the first quarter of each year. Notice thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the house of worship at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting and in addition, the pastor or some other officer of the assembly shall give public notice from the pulpit at two regular Sunday services before the date of the meeting.

The agenda for the annual meeting shall be published one week in advance of the meeting.

SECTION 2 - SPECIAL MEETINGS Special meetings of the assembly shall be called by the elders upon a written request of the members of the assembly qualified to vote or they may deem it necessary or advisable to do so, on notice as provided in Section of this article for the calling of annual meetings. The notice shall state specifically the time, place and purpose of such meetings.

SECTION 3 - REGULAR MEETINGS Regular quarterly assembly meetings shall be held on the third Saturday of each month following or on such a date as decided most convenient by the elders. Such meetings need only be announced publicly two consecutive Sundays before the date of such a meeting, provided such additional notice shall be given when required under Section II of this article.

SECTION 4 - VOTERS All members of the assembly in good standing who have reached the age of 18 years (in compliance with the state law), and have been in its public worship at least six months before the election and contributed to its support, shall be eligible to vote. No person's vote may be cast except in person.

SECTION 5 - QUORUM One-third of the members of the assembly qualified to vote shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time until such a quorum is reached.

SECTION 6 - ORDER OF BUSINESS The order of business to be followed in the assembly meetings shall be left to the presiding officer. He shall employ as much of the accepted standards of parliamentary procedure as he may deem it necessary to insure order and efficiency but shall not be bound by mere technicalities. A majority vote shall carry all measures except as otherwise provided by law or these articles. Nothing contained in this section shall operate to abridge the powers of this assembly.

ARTICLE II - PASTORS/ELDERS

SECTION 1 - SENIOR PASTOR

A. Qualifications

1. The pastor shall be a mature Christian, conforming to the Scriptural standards for ministry as recorded in I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, I Peter 5:2-3.

2. The pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word of God, of good reputation and evangelical theology, Christ centered, Spirit-filled, and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests or affiliations.

3. The pastor shall be an ordained minister.

B. Ministry

1. The pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

2. The pastor shall be the teaching-shepherd of the Church. He shall give considerable time to study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall aim to feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry, and guard the church against the attack of the enemy.

3. The pastor shall be considered the senior elder of the church and shall oversee all its activities. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments of the church.

4. The pastor shall be the chairman of the board of elders.

5. The pastor shall give leadership to the associate and/or assistant pastors, the professional church staff, the elders and deacons.

C. TERM - The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term of ministry; however, this provision so stated does not imply a lifetime appointment.

D. TERMINATION -

1. **By Resignation:** The resigning pastor shall present the elder board with a formal letter of resignation ninety (90) days prior to his desired termination. The elder board may, by mutual consent, waive the requirement for the ninety (90) day period prior notice.

2. **By Removal:** A pastor shall be considered for removal on the basis of:

a. **Incompetency or Incompatibility.**

A complaint may be lodged with the elder board against the incumbent by any three (3) or more members in good standing. The complaint shall be in writing and shall be signed by the complainants. The elder board shall consider the complaint and may present the matter to a vote of the membership, should they deem such advisable. The pastor shall be removed if the complaint is supported by at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting in a special corporate meeting duly called for said purpose. In the event of removal by said action, the pastor shall be given sixty (60) days in which to arrange his affairs and remove himself per recommendation of the board of elders.

- b. Immoral conduct, radical departure from the Statement of Faith, or other serious charges.

The elder board shall have the authority to remove the pastor upon proven charges deemed in their collective opinion, to be of a serious nature. Upon said proof, removal shall be effective immediately.

E. COMPENSATION

The pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support. The amount shall be determined annually by agreement between the pastor and the board of deacons, with congregational ratification.

F. INTERIM

In the event of a termination of pastoral ministry, the elder board shall arrange for interim pulpit ministry until such time as another pastor is appointed according to the provisions of Article II, Section 1, Paragraph G of the Bylaws.

G. APPOINTMENT

1. The elder and deacon boards shall in the event of a vacancy, constitute a pulpit committee for the purpose of selecting, screening and recommending a prospective pastor to the voting membership of the church. The pulpit committee shall recommend only one (1) prospective pastor at a time.
2. Following an adequate period for the presentation of his ministry, a review of his resume and ministry recommendation, the prospective pastor must receive the endorsement of the elders and deacons by a minimum affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3). Such a vote shall constitute a recommendation for presentation to the membership of the church for a vote of acceptance.
3. The prospective pastor shall be given ample opportunity to become acquainted with and present his ministry to the membership, after which the membership shall determine its corporate desire whether to submit a formal call to said pastor by vote of secret ballot at a special corporate meeting duly called for such a purpose. Having a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present and voting, the pulpit committee shall extend a formal call to the senior pastorate of the church, requesting a written response.
4. The resigned or retiring pastor, with the approval of the pulpit committee, may recommend a successor and/or participate in the selection of his successor.

SECTION 2 - ASSOCIATE AND/OR ASSISTANT PASTORS

A. QUALIFICATIONS

The associate and/or assistant pastors shall meet the qualifications listed in (Article II, Section 1, Paragraph A1 & 2).

B. MINISTRY

1. An associate or assistant pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4), and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

2. The senior pastor and elder board shall define the ministry of an associate or assistant pastor upon his appointment. He shall be under the direction of the senior pastor and shall serve with the senior pastor and elder board in fulfilling the pastoral ministry to the church.

C. APPOINTMENT

1. Any candidate for associate or assistant pastor shall be recommended by the senior pastor to the boards of elders and deacons.

2. Following an adequate period for the presentation of his ministry, a review of his resume and ministry recommendation, the prospective associate or assistant pastor shall receive the endorsement of the elders and deacons by a minimum affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3). Such a vote shall constitute a recommendation for presentation to the membership of the church for a vote of acceptance. The prospective associate or assistant pastor shall receive a formal call from the church upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the congregation.

D. TERM

The associate or assistant pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term of ministry, unless otherwise specified in his call; this provision so stated does not imply a lifetime appointment. In the event of a senior pastor change, an associate or assistant pastor shall continue to serve with the approval of the new senior pastor and elder board.

E. TERMINATION

1. By Resignation

In the event of his resignation, the associate or assistant shall present the elder board with a formal letter of resignation sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of resignation. The elder board may, by mutual consent, waive the requirement for the sixty (60) day period prior notice.

2. By Removal

An associate or assistant pastor shall be considered for removal on the basis of the provisions of Article II, Section I, Paragraph D2 of the Bylaws.

3. By Request

It shall be the prerogative of the senior pastor, with the majority approval of the elders, to request the resignation of pastoral associates or assistants if they are not in harmony with the ministry of the Church as directed by the senior pastor.

F. COMPENSATION

The associate or assistant pastor shall receive compensation according to the provision of Article II, Section 1, Paragraph E of the Bylaws.

SECTION III - LAY ELDERS

A. Qualifications

All lay elders shall sense the call of God to this ministry and shall be qualified according to the Scriptural standards explained in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-3. They shall assist and cooperate with the pastor in feeding, overseeing and leading the flock. Their focus of responsibility shall be the spiritual oversight of the church and its well-being. A lay elder shall retain his office by virtue of his moral and spiritual fidelity to Christ, to the local assembly, to the pastor and to the duties invested in the office of elder, according to the qualifications set forth in the Scriptures. No lay elder shall gather persons loyal to himself, but shall serve unselfishly to support the ministry of his office, the church and pastor with whom he is called to work. A lay elder shall promote unity and loyalty among the members, serving the Body of Christ in love.

B. MINISTRY

The direction and vision of the church shall come from the pastors and the elders whom the Holy Spirit has made overseers of the flock (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-4). They shall not act selfishly or as lords over God's heritage but take the oversight of the church with the spiritual well-being of the members in mind, as a loving shepherd caring for his sheep. They are to seek the will of God in all matters, to be led by the Spirit, and above all, follow the admonition of the word. Major decisions shall be brought before the church for prayerful consideration, and the elders shall seriously consider the advice and suggestion of the congregation. In the event there is not a plurality of lay elders, the deacon trustees shall function with the pastor in this capacity.

C. THE ELDER BOARD

The senior pastor shall serve as chairman of the board of elders. The senior pastor, associate pastors and lay elders shall constitute the official elder board. The number of lay elders serving shall not be less than the number of pastoral elders.

D. ELECTION

Lay Elders shall be twenty one (21) years of age or older, filled with the Holy Spirit and exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit. They shall be members of the church

in good standing for a minimum of three (3) years. The elder board shall present the names of proposed lay elders to the congregation for their prayerful consideration and input at least thirty (30) days before installation. Lay elders recommended by the board of elders are to be presented to the church for confirmation by two thirds (2/3) majority vote of voting members present at a business meeting. The term of office of a lay elder shall be for six (6) years. An elder may succeed himself in office if he receives a simple majority vote from the members present at the business meeting. Should anyone feel no longer able to continue in office, it should not be considered a matter of condemnation, but taken as the leading of the Lord in this matter.

E. TERMINATION

Termination of an elder should follow the pattern of the termination of an associate pastor so provided in Article II, Section 2E.

ARTICLE III – DEACON/TRUSTEES

SECTION 1 – NUMBER, MANNER OF ELECTION

A. This assembly shall have a minimum of five (5) deacon/trustees who shall be those elected by the assembly so provided in Section IV of Article II. They shall be elected by written ballot; their term of office shall be three (3) years, with a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms, and/or until their successors are chosen and qualify. In order to fill an unexpired term, the Elder and Deacon Boards shall together by majority vote appoint a qualified replacement.

B. The names of nominees for deacon/trustee shall be published one week in advance of the annual meeting.

SECTION 2 – POWERS AND DUTIES

The deacon/trustees shall hold in trust the real and other physical properties of the assembly in its behalf but shall have no power to sell, mortgage, lease, transfer or in any way encumber the same, including chattels, without a specific two-thirds vote of authority by the assembly at a meeting duly called for the purpose. Notice thereof to be given in the manner prescribed for the calling of special meetings of the assembly, except that the public notice by the pastor or other officer shall be read at one regular service on each of the four successive Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

The deacon/trustees may appoint a clerk and treasurer of their board, regulate their compensation and remove them at pleasure. The clerk shall enter all rules and orders made by the deacons/trustees and payments ordered by them, in a book kept for that purpose.

SECTION 3

They shall approve all disbursements of its funds, subject to the assembly's approval (Acts 11:30), provided that this shall not in any way abridge the powers of the assembly or prevent the disbursement under the direction of the donors of funds on hand, received and disbursed during the preceding fiscal year, nature and amounts of all outstanding obligations and all other information and all other information which may be required by the assembly relating to its property and temporal affairs.

SECTION 4

Meetings of the deacons/trustees may be called by the chairman or two other deacon/trustees, which shall be done on five days written notice by the clerk, mailed to the last known address of each deacon/trustee, provided that no written notice shall be required for any meeting if all absent deacon/trustees file waiver of notice with the clerk. The last known address of any deacon/trustee shall be the last address filed by him with the clerk.

SECTION 5

The clerk and treasurer of the deacon/trustees shall be the clerk and treasurer, respectively, of the assembly. In the absence or incapacity of either of these officers, a substitute appointed by the deacon/trustees shall serve. Each appointment of clerk and treasurer shall be for a period of one year.

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL

SECTION 1

The clerk shall receive notice of all meetings of all committees and departments of the assembly. All such meetings shall be opened to attendance of the elders.

SECTION 2

No person shall hold office in the assembly who is not a member. Termination of membership automatically terminates tenure of office.

SECTION 3

Reports shall be made each year to the annual meeting of the assembly, in such form as it may require, by all persons charged with responsibility for its various activities.

SECTION 4

All persons soliciting or receiving funds for, in or on behalf of the assembly shall report thereon to the treasurer and make disbursement of the funds through him.

SECTION 5

The fiscal year of the assembly shall be October 1 through September 30.

SECTION 6 – DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, the assets of this assembly shall be distributed to the work of home and foreign missions under the administration of the Duluth Gospel Tabernacle and the Marquette Gospel Tabernacle of Marquette, Michigan in accordance with laws governing such transactions.