



WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible Word of God. (*2 Timothy 3:16,17*)

We believe in the triune godhead as eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)

We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious death and atonement through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His present priestly ministry. (*Romans 1:4; Matthew 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 4:23,24; Romans 3:25,26; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 7:25*)

We believe in evangelistic and missionary fervor and endeavor. (*Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-18*)

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We further believe in the keeping power of God. (*Hebrews 9:22; Jude 24,25; Titus 3:5*)

We believe that sanctification, holiness, and the overcoming life are God's design for the Church, which is the Bride of Christ. (*Ephesians 5:25-27*)

We believe that sexual purity is a necessary expression for all of God's children and requires abstinence from adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, and other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture. (*Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Leviticus 18:1-30; Galatians 5:19*)

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and a sacred institution established by God. (*Matthew 19:4-6*)

We believe that since mankind is created in God's image, human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, from conception to the grave. (*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-14*)

We believe that water baptism is for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and is to be administered by immersion, thus bearing witness to the gospel of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for us, and our own new life in Him. (*Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4*)

We believe that communion, when shared by believers, witnesses to the saving power of the gospel, to Christ's presence in His church, and looks forward to His victorious return. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost and in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit as evidenced in charismatic gifts and ministries, and in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (*Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11; Galatians 5:22,23*)

We believe that divine healing is obtained on the basis of the Atonement. (*1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17*)

We believe in Christ's imminent personal return in power and great glory, and in His present and everlasting dominion. (*Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Daniel 7:14*)

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto eternal life and they that are lost unto eternal punishment. (*John 5:28,29; Revelation 20:15*)

We believe that it is the duty and privilege of every believer to, within his ability, support the local assembly with his regular presence, giving, and service. (*Hebrews 10:25; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Peter 4:10*)

We believe that tithing, accompanied by free-will offerings, is God's ordained method to finance the spreading of the Gospel and the needs of the local assembly. (*Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 8:9*)

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

ELIM GOSPEL CHURCH
OF LIMA, NEW YORK
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored, according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of the responsibility and privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in formal affiliation with Elim Fellowship, Inc., Lima, New York, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be Elim Gospel Church of Lima, State of New York.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES AND POWERS

Section 1: To establish and maintain a place of Christian worship, fellowship, and training.

Section 2: To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as it may deem useful to promote the cause of Christianity around the world, which includes ministry to people's physical, social and spiritual needs through local churches, missions organizations, Christian schools, orphanages, etc.

Section 3: To communicate the gospel message through various print, audio/visual and electronic media and distribution methods.

Section 4: To support other Christian ministries that are committed to the purposes of this corporation.

Section 5: To govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament scriptures, "...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...." (Ephesians 4:3)

Section 6: To employ all those persons essential to the carrying out of the purposes specified in this article.

Section 7: To purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

Section 8: To borrow and to loan money, and to give and to receive evidences of indebtedness and security therefore; to draw, make, accept, endorse, execute and issue promissory notes, warrants and other debentures of the corporation, or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by trust, deed or otherwise.

Section 9: To act within the charitable, religious and educational purposes stated in Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code (1954) - or a successor statute of similar import - so as to be a tax-exempt organization.

Section 10: To have a membership and to challenge and discipline its membership according to the Scriptures.

ARTICLE 3. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to govern its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative church affiliation with the Elim Fellowship executive offices located in Lima, NY. It shall share in the privileges and responsibilities enjoined by that Fellowship, with the privilege of fellowship with other assemblies of like precious faith.

Further, it is recognized that Elim Fellowship shall not hold, enforce, or in any other way exercise any prerogative which shall be held by any court or body to be its legal right, with the exception of only such prerogatives as shall be specifically delegated to Elim Fellowship by the assembly. Such specific prerogatives shall be returned in entirety to the assembly upon an unanimous vote of its Council of Elders, providing any and all obligations to Elim Fellowship have been dispatched. It is understood that the attitude and procedure of all individuals and assemblies should be that of a compassionate and cooperative relationship toward Elim Fellowship, Inc., in accordance with Philippians 2:3 and Philemon 14.

ARTICLE 4. UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP

Elim Gospel Church, Elim Fellowship and Elim Bible Institute share a unique relationship. In recognition of this, the assembly commits itself to prayerful counsel with the leaders of these organizations in all major decisions.

In the event of a conflict that arises between Elim Bible Institute and Elim Gospel Church that cannot be resolved, the pastor of Elim Gospel Church or the president of Elim Bible Institute shall have the ability to call for a representative of the elders of Elim Fellowship to arbitrate a solution.

ARTICLE 5. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1) We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
(2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
- 2) We believe in the triune Godhead as eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (2 Cor. 13:14)
- 3) We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed Blood, in His bodily

resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His present priestly ministry. (Ro. 1:4; Matt. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 4:23,24; Ro. 3:25,26; 1 Jo. 1:7; Heb. 7:25)

- 4) We believe in evangelistic and missionary fervor and endeavor. (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-18)
- 5) We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We further believe in the keeping power of God. (Heb. 9:22; Jude 24, 25; Tit. 3:5)
- 6) We believe that sanctification, holiness, and the overcoming life are God's design for the Church, which is the Bride of Christ. (Eph. 5:25-27)
- 7) We believe that sexual purity is a necessary expression for all of God's children, and requires abstinence from adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, and other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture. (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:18; Lev. 18:1-30; Gal. 5:19)
- 8) We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and a sacred institution established by God. (Matt. 19:4-6)
- 9) We believe that since mankind is created in God's image, human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, from conception to the grave. (Gen. 1:27; Ps. 139:13, 14)
- 10) We believe that water baptism is for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and is to be administered by immersion, thus bearing witness to the gospel of Christ's death, burial and resurrection for us, and our own new life in Him. (Matt. 28:19; Ro. 6:4)
- 11) We believe that communion, when shared by believers, witnesses to the saving power of the gospel, to Christ's presence in His church, and looks forward to His victorious return. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- 12) We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as on the day of Pentecost, and in the continuing ministry of the Holy Spirit, as evidenced in charismatic gifts and ministries, and in the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:8-11; Gal. 5:22,23)
- 13) We believe that divine healing is obtained on the basis of the Atonement. (1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 8:17)
- 14) We believe in Christ's imminent personal return in power and great glory, and in His present and everlasting dominion. (Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Dan. 7:14)
- 15) We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto eternal life, and they that are lost unto eternal punishment. (John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:15)
- 16) We believe that it is the duty and privilege of every believer to, within his ability, support the local assembly with his regular presence, giving and service. (Heb. 10:25; 2

Cor. 8, 9; 1 Pet. 4:10)

- 17) We believe that tithing, accompanied by free-will offerings, is God's ordained method to finance the spreading of the Gospel and the needs of the local assembly.
(Mal. 3:8,12; 2 Cor. 8, 9)

ARTICLE 6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its Statement of Faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and by-laws as herein set forth. All those who meet the standards for membership may be added to the membership roll of the assembly. The pastor and the Council of Elders constitute the final authority in the reception of members. Voting privilege shall be extended to all those members sixteen years of age or older. Members must be eighteen years of age in order to vote in election of trustees.

ARTICLE 7. OFFICERS

The officers of the assembly shall be: The Lead Pastor, Elders, Trustees, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE 8. MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be an annual communication meeting of the assembly, at which time reports from the Lead Pastor and Treasurer shall be read and the affirmation or election of officers shall take place. This meeting shall be held during the month of November. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2. Special communication meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary by the Council of Elders. Due notice shall be given on two Sundays prior to the date of such a meeting.

Section 3. A formal record shall be made of all regular or special communication meetings and included as a part of the official business record of the assembly. It shall be signed and dated by the Secretary.

Section 4. The Council of Elders shall meet regularly for the transaction of the business of the assembly.

ARTICLE 9. PROPERTY

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be purchased, taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the name of the assembly.

Section 2. No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, unless it has been authorized by the majority vote of those members present at a properly called communication meeting.

Section 3. The Lead Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such convey-

ance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized, as provided in ARTICLE 9, Section 2 hereof. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution and by-laws of this corporation may be proposed by the Council of Elders. The proposed amendment will then be presented to the assembly at a properly called communication meeting for their vote. This shall be by secret ballot. A favorable consideration of a three-quarter majority of those members present shall constitute an acceptance.

ARTICLE 11. PECUNIARY GAINS OR PROFITS

No part of the net earnings, properties or assets of the corporation, on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual or any member or officer of this assembly, and on liquidation or dissolution all properties and assets of this assembly remaining after paying or providing for all debts and obligations shall be distributed and paid over to Elim Fellowship or its successor for its home and foreign missions endeavors.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The standard of membership of this assembly will be evidence of full belief in and willingness to practice the Statement of Faith set forth in the constitution.

Section 2. The voting privilege will be extended to the members on those matters which the Council of Elders submits to the vote of the members or which are required by the constitution and by-laws of the assembly or by statute to be submitted to the vote of the members.

Section 3. Persons desiring to become members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the Lead Pastor, who, with two other pastors shall examine and approve the applicant according to the standard of membership.

After due consideration, those being received as members shall be publicly welcomed at an appropriate service.

Section 4. Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall, at the discretion of the Council of Elders, be temporarily suspended from the voting membership pending investigation and final decision in the case.

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Statement of Faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be prayerfully administered by the Council of Elders according to scripture (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 15:17,18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).

The Council of Elders shall be authorized to examine the membership roll of the assembly annually, and to take action for the removal from the list of all names of those who may have withdrawn. Those who may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly shall, after all appropriate action to effect restoration, reconciliation, and/or renewal has been exhausted, be removed from the membership (see scripture references cited in previous paragraph).

Section 5. Transfer of Membership. Members in good standing who desire to be transferred to some other assembly may apply to the Secretary for a letter which shall be granted upon approval of the Lead Pastor and the Council of Elders and shall be signed by the Lead Pastor and the Secretary of the church.

Section. 6. Associate (Non-Voting) Membership. The spiritual fellowship of this assembly may be extended to persons in the following categories:

6.1 Persons who are under training in the doctrine and practices of the church but who have not yet been qualified as active members.

6.2 Active members who move from the area yet wish to maintain their relationship with the church.

6.3 Elim Bible Institute students who are in fellowship as a result of their attendance at the college but are still members of their home churches.

ARTICLE 2. QUALIFICATIONS & DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Lead Pastor. The assembly finds its headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its Lead Pastor. He should be honored in his sacred office as the spiritual overseer of the assembly, and shall be general supervisor of all its activities. He shall be the chairman of all the communication meetings of the assembly and of the Council of Elders. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the eldership and the assembly. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his knowledge.

Section 2. The Council of Elders. The Council of Elders shall be solely responsible for the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church corporation and shall possess all powers and authorities in connection with the corporation, not otherwise specifically granted to others by the constitution and by-laws or specifically reserved by statute. All decisions of the Council of Elders will be made with a two-thirds majority vote, unless otherwise stated in the constitution and by-laws. In the event of a conflict within the Council of Elders which cannot be resolved, any elder shall have the ability to call for a representative of the elders of Elim Fellowship to arbitrate a solution.

Section 3. The Trustees. The trustees shall fulfill those duties which are required by law. They shall be nominated by the Council of Elders from its own ranks.

Section 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall oversee the keeping of minutes of the official meetings of the Council of Elders and the annual and special communication meetings of the assembly. He shall make sure a record of the membership is kept in the roster book and

that any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties is performed. He shall see that deposit of all legal documents is made in a safe deposit box of a bank as authorized by the Council of Elders. He shall be nominated by the Council of Elders from its own ranks.

Section 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make sure that all offerings are counted and signed for by two authorized persons. The Treasurer shall also make sure that all funds are deposited in a bank authorized by the Council of Elders in the assembly's name. He shall make sure that all checks are countersigned by the Secretary or the Lead Pastor or other duly authorized person. He shall make sure that an itemized account of receipts and disbursements is kept, and a report at the regular meetings of the assembly and Council of Elders is made. He shall be nominated by the Council of Elders from its own ranks.

Section 6. Careful consideration shall be given to the scriptural qualifications for the above offices as given in I Timothy 3:1-11, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.

ARTICLE 3. CALLING & VACANCIES

Section 1. The Lead Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period unless a definite time is stipulated at the time of being called. The Council of Elders, acting in the capacity of a Pulpit Committee, after prayerful inquiry, with judicious counsel, and full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall choose an available, Scripturally qualified minister as candidate to the office of Lead Pastor. Preference will be given to those on the list of ministers holding current credentials with Elim Fellowship.

During the process of calling of a Lead Pastor, the advice and counsel of an elder of Elim Fellowship will be sought.

The individual chosen by the Council of Elders will be presented to the assembly for their affirmation. Final acceptance will be made by the Council of Elders after such affirmation.

Section 2. Elders. The Elders shall be called for an indefinite period unless a definite time is stipulated at the time of being called. They shall submit themselves at the annual communication meeting for affirmation of the assembly. The Lead Pastor and the Council of Elders shall choose from the membership of the assembly those qualified for eldership. Those selected shall be presented for review to the members for a four-week period at which time any reason why an elder candidate should not be accepted will be considered. If no substantive reason is found, the elder candidate shall be installed in an appropriate service with a representative of the elders of Elim Fellowship and the full church Council of Elders laying hands on the elder in the presence of the assembly.

Section 3. The Secretary and the Treasurer. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be nominated by the Council of Elders from its own ranks and shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at the annual communication meeting.

Section 4. The Trustees. The Trustees shall be nominated by the Council of Elders from its own ranks and shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at the annual communication meeting. At the initial meeting, one shall be elected to serve one year, one shall be elected to serve two years, and one shall be elected to serve three years. Upon the expiration of the terms of office, the succeeding trustees shall be elected to a term of three years.

Section 5. Vacancies

5.1 Lead Pastor. If the Lead Pastor has been called for a definite period of time, the tenure of office shall terminate at the end of his term of service. If his continued service is desired, it would then be necessary for the Council of Elders to recommend his reappointment and the assembly to affirm his return to office.

In the event that the Lead Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in the Council of Elders to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any time. If request for such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Council of Elders has been affirmed through a decision of the elders of Elim Fellowship.

When a vacancy in the Lead pastorate occurs, a supply shall be arranged by the Council of Elders on a Sunday to Sunday basis or with an interim pastor (in consultation with an elder of Elim Fellowship) until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1.

5.2 Other Officers. Any other office may be declared vacant by the members of the Council of Elders at any time. Grounds for such action shall be: (a) unscriptural conduct; (b) doctrinal departure from the Statement of Faith; or (c) incompetence in office.

Any incumbent under charges shall have the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his cases before a representative of the elders of Elim Fellowship.

The Council of Elders is empowered to fill by appointment any irregular vacancy, including Trustees who will be elected at the next annual communication meeting.

ARTICLE 4. DEPARTMENTS

Departments, committees, and ministries may be established at any time by the Council of Elders to meet the on-going needs. Careful consideration shall be given to the scriptural qualifications of the leaders of these departments, committees and ministries, using the qualifications of a deacon as set forth in scripture (Acts 6:3-6, 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

ARTICLE 5. FINANCES

Section 1. The Lead Pastor and the church employees shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by the Council of Elders. The financial support shall be reviewed annually by the Council of Elders, with attention given to both cost of living and job performance.

Section 2. The Council of Elders shall provide for a regular monthly offering to be sent to both Elim Fellowship and Elim Bible Institute.

ARTICLE 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Communication meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure and should be conducted in the Spirit of Christ and in brotherly love and counsel. In all

decision making, our number one concern shall be the will of God, not simply the will of the majority. We, as an assembly, under the guidance of the Council of Elders, shall commit ourselves to finding God's will through scripture and scriptural disciplines, e.g. prayer, fasting. The regular order of business for the annual communication meeting of the assembly may be as follows:

- 1) Devotional
- 2) Reading of the Minutes
- 3) Report of the Secretary
- 4) Report of the Treasurer
- 5) Report of the Committees
- 6) Pastoral Report
- 7) Election of Trustees
- 8) Affirmation of Elders
- 9) Unfinished Business
- 10) New Business
- 11) Adjournment