

CONSTITUTION OF THE OPEN DOOR EVANGELISTIC CHURCH INCORPORATED



(ORGANIZED 1931 – INCORPORATED 1932)

THE OPEN DOOR EVANGELISTIC CHURCH

INCORPORATED

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|--|----|---|----|
| <i>HISTORY</i> | 2 | ARTICLE 4 - DIRECTORS | 14 |
| <i>STANDARDS OF FAITH</i> | 3 | ARTICLE 5 - AUTONOMY | 16 |
| <i>ECCLESIASTICAL STATUS</i> | 6 | ARTICLE 6 - FINANCIAL | 16 |
| PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | 6 | ARTICLE 7 - CHURCH AFFILIATION | 17 |
| TERM OF OFFICE | 7 | APPENDIX 1: CODE OF ETHICS | 19 |
| ELECTION OF PRESIDENT/CEO | 7 | APPENDIX 2: PROCEDURE OF | |
| <i>GENERAL BY-LAWS</i> | 9 | DISCIPLINE | 21 |
| ARTICLE 1 – HEAD OFFICE | 9 | MARRIAGE POLICY | 25 |
| ARTICLE 2 - SEAL | 9 | AMENDING FORMULA | 25 |
| ARTICLE 3 - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS | 9 | DISSOLUTION CLAUSE | 25 |
| VOTING | 10 | <i>THE CHARTER</i> | 26 |
| POLL | 10 | | |
| EXAMINATION OF BOOKS | 10 | | |
| MEMBERS’ STANDING | 11 | | |
| CREDENTIALS | 11 | | |

HISTORY

TO ALL WHO LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN SINCERITY, GREETINGS IN HIS PRECIOUS NAME

Some time ago, there came to members of The Open Door Evangelistic Church a vision and a call and the organization and incorporation of this Church is the result, in order that the vision might become a reality and the call obeyed. While there has been given to us a clear conviction of the call of God to an organized work, yet we have maintained sweet fellowship with all of God's dear people who are seeking to do His will. We have made no special effort to gain members from other churches, but rather our method of securing members has been by humble efforts to win souls through revivals and personal evangelism. It has been claimed that our Church is unique in the fact that it is not a branch of, or a split from, any denomination, but rather a coming together of members from many denominations. It is not a "coming out" movement, but a "coming together" movement. What brought this about? People of like faith came together saying, "It is good for us to be here, let us organize, let us launch out to where we are free to hold revivals, extend the kingdom, and hasten the coming of the Lord." God's word is of the highest order and evangelism is His machine and plan for harvesting the whitened fields, and when we break with it we are missing the purpose for which we were called, and the mission for which we were raised up.

The place of evangelism in The Open Door Evangelistic Church is in its foundation and is the chief cornerstone of that foundation. What ultimate value we in any other purpose apart from this zeal for the spreading of the gospel? It is a glorious task and worthy of the best we can put into it, and with joy and faith we propose to press on into the triumphs which await us as an Evangelistic church. We cannot compete with those about us in buildings, social welfare, civic righteousness or any other secondary work. Our job is winning souls for Jesus. If we fail in this, we are a failure, no matter what else in our work we may accomplish. Shall we fail in the one thing that has given us a place, let down in that for which we are called and most fitted? Shall we allow any work or program to enter in and hinder that which is most essential to our own life and advancement? God forbid. Our work is to promote revivals. It is not ours to pile up bricks and mortar, gain social prestige, political power and financial leadership. Of course, we must have machinery and sufficient finances to keep its bearings oiled. But our real task is preaching the Gospel to the un-churched masses, and to get souls to God as quickly as possible before they are swept into an awful eternity without God and salvation. Now is the time for repentance, speedy, deep, genuine confession of sin, returning to God and saving faith in Christ. There is no other hope or help. The ministry and the church, never faced a greater responsibility or a more challenging opportunity in all of the Christian centuries. Will you, my brother and sister, help us in this service for Jesus? Christianity must dominate or civilization will die.

Yours in the Master's service,
The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

(Founder – Rev. F.H. Ferris, B.Th., D.D.)

Standards of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We recognize all the books, of both the Old and New Testaments, as Canonical and none others of which there has been and is not now any doubt in the true church of God. We declare their inspiration to be of the Holy Ghost and neither Testament to be superior to the other in this respect. These books constitute and are the very word of God, infallible in their originals, perfect in their design and containing all that men need to believe or practice as necessary to salvation. We believe and do declare that holy men of old were inspired by the Holy Ghost to write the truths contained therein.

2. The Being of God

We believe there is one, ever-living and true God, a personal Being: one being existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We reject as of the devil all doctrines that teach pantheistic, impersonal or fatalistic notions of God, or of God as a mere force of blind power. The three persons of the Godhead are of one substance, eternity and power; and their trinity in unity has been and will be eternal. This God is our God, steadfast and faithful, of spiritual character, invisible to mortal eye, but seen by faith, full of all perfection and of infinite power, presence, knowledge, wisdom, purity, justice and love.

3. The God-Man, Christ Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and became man by the begetting of the Holy Ghost and by being born of the Virgin Mary. In this conception, birth and life, God-head and humanity two individual and perfect natures were united in one person. These natures became and continue indivisible: and thereby is the one true Christ, very God and very Man, who lives and reigns forever. This same Christ suffered, was, truly died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again from the dead. In this experience He reconciled His Father to the world as the representative sacrifice of the Father for sin; and He also reconciled the world to the Father as the vicarious offering of humanity for sin, both original and committed. He thus made peace between man and God, and so gave to us who believe on Him, with a true heart and faith unfeigned, an eternal guarantee of our justification, regeneration, sanctification, preservation, resurrection and glorification. This same Christ, in truly rising from the dead, took again His human body, transforming it into glorified perfection in all its nature and elements. He ascended into the Heavenly places where He abides as our sufficient and only High Priest and Advocate, at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, making intercession for us continually. This same Christ is coming the second time without sin unto salvation. At this coming He will awaken the sleeping bodies of deceased saints and glorify them as the temples of their immortal spirits, and He will then translate His faithful saints, then living on earth. His coming in judgment will be visible and universally apparent. He will reign a thousand years on this earth in person. He will judge and rule the nations. He will banish Satan, judge all men, renew heaven and earth and present the redeemed creation to His Father. We do not dogmatize as to times and seasons, but the signs of the times

show the imminent fulfillment of the Christian's blessed hope of His soon return.

4. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the blessed Trinity, proceeds from the Father and Son. He teaches, warns, inspires, comforts, reproves, influences and persuades human beings in the things of God. He is the very energy and vitality of the Godhead. He regenerates, sanctifies, sustains and resurrects the spirits and bodies of those whom the Trinity, elect as their own. He is eternal and of one substance authority and operation with the Father and the Son.

5. Sin

God created man perfect, after His own divine image and likeness. Nevertheless, man fell by self-chosen disobedience to God's will and an express transgression of divine law. This is the original act of sin. By this principle of inbred sin, carnality and depravity became fully imbedded in the human constitution, so that both spiritual and physical death ensued. This principle of sin is federal in origin and universal in inheritance and tendency. Those are to be rejected as mockers of God's truth who teach that sin is a mere defect in man's evolving nature, to be outgrown, suppressed or educated away from his character and habits. Sin is an inward eruption that is engendered in every child of Adam, so that human beings, of themselves, are totally depraved and utterly destitute of original righteousness and of their own nature impotent and inclined to do evil continually. Sin does not destroy free-will anymore than it removes intelligence, for men by wisdom cannot find God. The Holy Spirit must move upon the hearts of men to draw them away from the corrupt

inclinations of their unregenerate hearts and assist them to turn from sin unto the living God.

6. Repentance and Its Fruits

All who yield to the wooing of God's Spirit and genuinely repent of their sins, making restitution where possible and believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, are pardoned and adopted by the Father, being justified freely by the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ the Son, and are regenerated by the Holy Ghost, being thus born from above and so becoming the children of the living God, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

7. Immortality

The human soul is immortal by the creation of God, and sin did not destroy that quality of its eternal nature. Both the just and the unjust are resurrected by the power of God, each in their own time as God has revealed in His Word. All human beings live for ever after physical death; some in a real place prepared for the devil and his angels, a literal hell, which shall be enveloped in the lake of fire and brimstone, a quenchless torment, the second death; some in Paradise or Heaven, a literal abode which shall become their entrance into eternal joy.

8. Gifts of the Spirit

We declare that the Spirit of God gives to His children such gifts as pleases Him, such as they can bear and use honorably and profitably for His kingdom, whether it be the gift of faith, prophecy, healing, administration, teaching, praying, preaching,

exhortation or any other such spiritual gifts. These gifts are to be esteemed and desired, but not sought after as an end in themselves.

9. Ordinances

We recognize two Ordinances as taught in the Word of God. One of these is the Lords Supper instituted by Christ at the time of the Passover; the other is that of Christian Baptism according to the command of our Lord. Baptism by immersion will be recommended although not insisted upon as a requisite for membership.

10. Dedication of Children

We believe parents should present their children unto the Lord, to whom they belong, in a service of dedication, at as early a date as convenient after their birth.

The above **ARTICLES** cover in brief the Statements of faith of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated which, according to the Charter, cannot be annulled, modified or changed except to be added to from time to time as need may arise.

Ecclesiastical Status

Whereas, this Church is a legal body providing Ordination Credentials for the harmonious co-operation and united efficiency of those who (1) desire to spread the Gospel over the world, and (2) are content to utilize this Church for that purpose on the terms set forth in the Charter, the following provisions are in effect in regard to the ecclesiastical status:

1. The Board of Directors of this Church is charged with responsibility for uniform operations and harmonious agreement between the various persons fellowshiping with the Church in its work. All persons co-operating in this fellowship, shall be amenable to said Board.
2. All teachers, instructors of classes, professors in our schools, ministers, local or otherwise, shall, before being appointed to their work, be required to sign a statement of sympathy with and adherence to the doctrines established by this Church, and said signed statement shall be filed with the Board of Directors. Any violation of same is grounds for dismissal from such work.
3. Anyone applying for membership in this Church shall be furnished a copy of the Charter and other details and after opportunity to study same,

those desiring membership shall be required to execute a pledge before being received for membership. Any violation of same is grounds for dismissal from such work.

President/Chief Executive Officer

4. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

He/She shall:

- a) Under authority of the Board of Directors, have general oversight of the ministry of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.
- b) See that all directives and resolutions of the Annual Meeting and or any specially called meeting of the membership are put into effect
- c) See that all directives and resolutions of the Board of Directors are put into effect
- d) Preside over all ordination and licensing ceremonies and sign all credential certificates and all membership identification cards
- e) See that all members of the Board of Directors are notified as to the time, date and place of called meetings
- f) See that all members in good standing are notified as to the time, date and place of

the annual meeting, any special general meetings and the annual conference.

- g) Chair all Annual Conferences and all meetings of the Board of Directors, appoint and be responsible for the functioning of all committees.
- h) In consultation with the Board of Directors make all necessary appointments
- i) Have the authority to counsel with any minister that may not be meeting the requirements to fulfill the mandate of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated and shall seek to affect a solution whenever possible.
- j) Promote and represent The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated to members and non-members, and act as coordinator of activities and communications.
- k) In cooperation with the Board of Directors plan for local and/or regional conferences and if so directed by the Board of Directors attend such gatherings.
- l) Act as a good-will ambassador of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated with other ministers, churches and Christian denominations.
- m) The offices of President/CEO are one and the same.

Term of Office

The term of office for the President/CEO shall be for a three year period. After a President/CEO has served for three consecutive terms, that member shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year.

Election of President/CEO

The Board of Directors shall submit to the membership, prior to the annual meeting the names of those they deem eligible for the office of the President/CEO. Voting shall be at the annual meeting of the membership, by secret ballot. The term of office shall not exceed three consecutive terms.

5. The Vice-President shall be appointed by the President/CEO, in consultation with the Board of Directors. The Vice-President shall perform the duty of the President/CEO in his/her absence, or as the President/CEO may direct.
6. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President/CEO, in consultation with the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall make and preserve a complete and detailed record of all actions and proceedings of the Church. The Secretary shall discharge such other duties as the Board may direct.

7. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President/CEO, in consultation with the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall collect, receive, hold, and disburse all funds for and in behalf of the Church, as the Board of Directors shall so order. He/She shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and report same together with the status of the Church in reality and other assets at the Annual meeting; and he/she shall be required to furnish therewith a bonafide statement of auditing under such terms as the Board may direct.
The office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer may be combined, as determined by the Board of Directors.
8. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Judicial Council, chaired by the President/CEO or a Director, and shall be, under the jurisdiction of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated, which shall sit upon all questions involving arbitration between various departments, members, officers, workers and employees, and upon all questions of law arising in administration.
9. The guidance of God shall be sought at all times in the work. Every session shall be opened and closed with prayer and conducted in a prayerful spirit. The same procedure shall characterize all

our committees, officers, employees and coworkers. As God delegates to us this responsibility, so we delegate it to others and insist that in all these things we seek help of one another and of God in a humble, godly and earnest manner.

10. The Board of Directors is authorized to make INTENSE EVANGELISM in the salvation of men, Christian education of a practical type, in training men and women for the great work of evangelism at home or abroad, which is the main objective of this Church. Everything else must be subordinated to this purpose; and all the organization must direct all its procedure to the conforming of its program to the realization of soul-saving activities as expressed in these imperative duties and functions. Wherefore, we the Board of Directors of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated recognizing our obligations to Almighty God, and relying upon Him for guidance in this path into which we are convinced He is leading us, do ordain these as the Bylaws and the Ecclesiastical Status of this Church, and take solemn assurance to Him and to one another to abide by these provisions and to execute them faithfully to the extent of our power and opportunity.

General By-Laws
of
THE OPEN DOOR EVANGELISTIC
CHURCH INCORPORATED

By-Law Number One

Be it enacted by the Directors of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated as a By-law thereof, as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – HEAD OFFICE

The Head Office of the Church shall be at such place in the Province of Ontario as the Directors shall from time to time direct.

ARTICLE 2 - SEAL

The Corporate Seal shall be added to all relevant documents and shall be the Seal of the Church.

ARTICLE 3 - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1: The Annual General Meeting of the Church shall be held at such place and time as the Directors may by resolution decide.

Section 2: A general meeting of the members of the Church may be called at any time by the Board of Directors whenever they deem the same necessary or expedient. It shall be incumbent upon the President/CEO to call such meeting of members whenever required and to do so in writing by the Members of not less than one-third in good standing shown on the Church's Register of Members for the transaction of any business specified. Such requisition and such notice calling the meeting and shall be left at the Head Office of the Company. If the President/CEO does not proceed to cause the said Special General Meeting to be convened within thirty (30) days from the date upon which said requisition in writing was so left at the Head Office of the Church, the Members signing such requisition or any other members in good standing may call such Special General Meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 3: No public notice of any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Church shall be required. Notice of the time and place of any such meeting shall be given to each Member in good standing appearing on the Register of Members of the Church not less than thirty (30) days from the date and time of the meeting. Failure to receive such notice shall not, in any

way, affect the validity of such Meeting of Members or any of its proceedings.

VOTING

Section 4(a): At any General Meeting unless a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has been carried or lost, and an entry in the Minutes of the proceedings of the Church shall be conclusive evidence of the fact, with the proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favor of or against such resolution.

POLL

Section 4(b): If a Poll is demanded it shall be taken in such manner, at such time and place as the Chairman of the meeting directs, and either at once or after an interval or adjournment or otherwise, and the result of the Poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting of which the Poll is demanded. The demand of a Poll maybe withdrawn.

Section 5: At any meeting of the Members, one-third of the members in good standing, present in person or represented by proxy, shall constitute a quorum of the Members, and for all purposes, unless the representation of a majority number shall be required by law, and in that case the

representation or the number so required, shall constitute a quorum.

EXAMINATION OF BOOKS BY MEMBERS

Section 6: The Directors shall prepare or cause to be prepared and shall approve financial statements and shall distribute and submit a summary of the same to the members as soon as is practical after the end of the fiscal year of the Church. The Directors shall, from time to time determine whether, and to what extent, and at what time and places, and under what conditions or regulations, the accounts and the Books of the Church, or any of them, shall be open to the inspection of Members, and no Member shall have any right of inspecting any account book or document of the Company, except as conferred by Statute or authorized by resolution of the Church in general Meeting.

Section 7: At the Annual Meeting, or any Special General Meeting, only the business mentioned in the notice of meeting may be discussed.

MEMBERS' STANDING

Section 8: A member in good standing shall:

- (1) Believe in and practice the "Standards of Faith" as taken from the Constitution.
- (2) Be of unquestionable Christian integrity and conduct according to the Holy Scriptures - (I Thess.5:22) (I Tim.3) – (See Appendix 1: Code of Ethics).
- (3) Credentials may be revoked by the Board of Directors upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the credential holder is guilty of any moral charges, financial misconduct, serious departure from the faith as set out in the Standards of Faith, or a manifest spirit of rebellion. (See - Appendix 1)
- (4) Fulfill all requirements of the current application form.
- (5) Be faithful in financial obligations of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated and payment of yearly fees when due.
- (6) Acknowledge that violation of the above is grounds for review, discipline and possible dismissal from The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

CREDENTIALS

Section 9(a): **Categories of Credentials –**

There shall be six (6) categories of credentials issued by The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated:

- (1) Ordained Minister
- (2) Licensed Minister
- (3) Associate
- (4) Correctional Services Worker
- (5) Evangelistic Worker
- (6) Deaconess

Section 9(b): **Conditions for issuance of Credentials –**

Credentials are issued on the condition that for the term of their validity the holder of the credentials will not hold credentials with any other denomination or fellowship of churches in Canada except with the express consent of the Board of Directors of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

Section 9(c): **Procedure –**

Applications for credentials shall be made in writing upon prescribed forms, and submitted to the secretary of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated. The Board of Directors may provide for the personal examination of applicants, and shall issue to the successful candidates a Certificate of Credentials.

Section 9(d): Terms and Renewal of Credentials –

All applicants are required to complete the renewal application form and return it with fees by the assigned date. Credentials shall be issued upon payment of fees for a term of one (1) year and considered for renewal annually by the Board of Directors. In determining whether or not to renew credentials, the Board of Directors may at its discretion request a meeting with those desiring renewal.

Section 9(e): Ordained Ministers –

Candidates for ordination must meet the following requirements to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors:

- (1) Demonstrated ability to undertake the responsibilities of the Full Gospel Ministry
- (2) Have practical ministry experience
- (3) Demonstrate adequate Biblical and Theological knowledge

An applicant holding an ordination certificate with another recognized church body, whose ministry is well-known and proven, may receive transfer of Ordination Credentials at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Accepted applicants shall be ordained by the laying on of hands of the President/CEO or his/her appointee and one or more members of the Board of Directors or their appointee.

Ordained ministers shall have the following functions:

- (1) To solemnize marriage according to the laws of the Province or State wherein they minister;
- (2) To officiate at funerals;
- (3) To administer the sacraments of Holy Communion and Water Baptism by immersion;
- (4) To perform all other duties consistent with the Gospel Ministry in accordance with the Statement of Faith herein contained.

Section 9(f): Licensed Ministers –

Candidates for license to minister must meet the following requirements to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors:

- (1) Some experience in the work of the ministry
- (2) Pursuing active ministry
- (3) Demonstrate adequate Biblical and Theological knowledge

Licensed Ministers may have the following functions:

- (1) To officiate in funerals;
- (2) To administer the sacraments of Holy Communion and Water Baptism by immersion;

- (3) To perform all other duties consistent with the Gospel Ministry in accordance with the Statement of faith herein contained.

Section 9(g): Correctional Services Worker, Evangelistic Worker, Deaconess –

Candidates for Correctional Service Worker, Evangelistic Worker, Deaconess, must meet the following requirements to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors:

- (1) Some experience in the work of the ministry
- (2) Follow scriptural standards:
 - (a) believe in and practice the “Standards of Faith” as taken from the Constitution
 - (b) be of unquestionable Christian integrity and conduct according to the Holy Scriptures (I Thess.5:22; I Tim.3).
 - (c) fulfill all requirements of the application form
 - (d) be faithful in financial obligations of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.
 - (e) acknowledge that violation of the above is grounds for review, discipline and possible dismissal from The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

- (3) Dedication to active service in their calling
- (4) Submit to the leadership of the Pastor of their local church.

The function of the Correctional Services Worker, Evangelistic Worker, and Deaconess is to be determined by the Pastor under whose direction they are working. Correctional Service Workers, Evangelistic Worker, Deaconesses may not officiate at funerals or administer the sacraments of Holy Communion or Water Baptism.

Section 9(h): Associate Status –

Any person desiring to have fellowship with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated may apply for Associate Status. Approval of the Board of Directors is required. Renewal of Associate Status shall be considered by the Board of Directors upon receipt of annual fees.

Section 9(i): Revocation of Credentials –

Credentials may be revoked by the Board of Directors upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the credentials holder is guilty of any moral charges, financial misconduct, serious departure from the faith as set out in the Standards of Faith, or a manifest spirit of rebellion. (See Appendix - 1)

ARTICLE 4 - DIRECTORS

Section 1(a): The affairs of the Church shall be managed by a Board of at least six, consisting of a minimum of five elected Directors plus the President/CEO, of whom, four shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall have the discretion, from time to time, to add to the Board such additional numbers as may be required by circumstance. The Board of Directors shall act as the nominating committee to approve all nominations for President/CEO and Directors.

Section 1(b): Any ordained member of the Church in good standing shall be eligible for the office of Director.

Section 2(a): The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Members at the first meeting of the Church, and at each annual meeting held thereafter, and shall hold office until their successors are elected. Voting shall be made by ballot.

Section 2(b): Term of Office

The term of office of a Member of the Board of Directors shall be for three (3) years. After a member has served 2 consecutive terms, he/she shall not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year.

Section 2(c): Method of Nomination

Any member in good standing may nominate any ordained member to be a Director.

Section 3(a): A meeting of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President/CEO or the Secretary of the Church. Notice of such meeting shall be given to each of the Directors, naming the time and place of such meeting, and such notice shall be given at least forty-eight hours before the time appointed for such meeting.

Section 3(b): Any meeting of the Directors shall be deemed regular when a quorum of the Directors are present, without regard to notice thereof, or when a quorum of the Directors who are present consent to such meeting being considered a regular one, and those who are absent waive notice of such meeting, either prior to the said meeting or thereafter.

Section 4: The Directors of the Church shall have full power in all things to administer the affairs of the Church, and may make or cause to be made for the Church any description of contract which the Church may enter into by law. The Directors of the Church are thereby expressly authorized in the name and on behalf

of the Church to carry on any business capable of being conducted so as to directly or indirectly benefit the Church.

Section 5: Voting

Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of the individual votes of the Directors present.

Section 6: Vacancy

Should any vacancy occur in the Board of Directors, either by retirement or by act of God or any other cause, the remaining Directors shall have full power to fill such vacancy by selection by them of an ordained member in good standing appearing on the Register of Members.

Section 7(a): Removal of Directors

Any Director may be removed at any time with cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, and the remaining Directors shall have full power to fill such vacancy by selection by them of an ordained member in good standing appearing on the Register of Members.

Section 7(b): The office of a Director shall ipso facto be vacated:

- (1) If he/she does any act, which in the opinion of the majority of the Directors constitutes

an act disgraceful to his membership in the Church

- (2) If he/she becomes of unsound mind.
- (3) If he/she ceases to be qualified as a Member.
- (4) If by notice in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Church he resigns his Office.
- (5) By unscriptural conduct & departure from the tenets of faith. This being "questionable Christian integrity and conduct according to the Holy Scriptures." (I Thess.5:22; I Tim.3). Credentials may be revoked by the Board of Directors upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the credential holder is guilty of any moral charges, financial misconduct, serious departure from the faith as set out in the Standards of Faith, or a manifest spirit of rebellion.

ARTICLE 5 - AUTONOMY

In the New Testament we see a pattern for the relationship of churches and ministers. Although the New Testament pattern does not call for organic union of local churches, or centralized authority over local churches, it does reveal a wonderful spiritual fellowship and voluntary cooperation among churches. In light of the above we affirm our commitment to both local church autonomy and inter-church cooperation as biblical norms for our life and ministry.

ARTICLE 6 – FINANCIAL

***Section 1:* Appointment of Auditors/Accountant**

An Auditor/Accountant shall be appointed by the Board of Directors yearly to review all financial transactions. The Financial statements will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting.

***Section 2:* Financial Year End**

Until changed by resolution of the directors of the Church, the fiscal year of the Church shall end on the 30th day of April in each year.

***Section 3:* Execution of Instruments**

Contracts, documents or instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Church shall be signed by the President/C.E.O. and the

Secretary, or either the President or the Secretary and one other director, and all contracts, documents or instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the Church without any further authorization or formality. The directors are authorized from time to time by resolution to appoint any officer or officers or any person or persons on behalf of the Church either to sign contracts, documents or instruments in writing generally or to sign specific contracts, documents or instruments in writing. The Church seal may, when required, be affixed to contracts, documents or instruments in writing signed as aforesaid or by any officer or officers, person or persons, appointed aforesaid by resolution of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 7 - CHURCH AFFILIATION FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

Section 1: Conditions of Affiliation for Local Churches

Any Church may apply to be affiliated with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated and they shall be limited to churches that meet the following conditions:

- (1) Acceptance of the Standards of Faith as stated in The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated By-laws & Charter.
- (2) A record of all business meetings is kept by the secretary of the local church.
- (3) A record is kept of funds received and disbursed by the treasurer of the local church.
- (4) A certificate of affiliation with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated is publicly displayed in the local church.
- (5) Must have a written constitution of the local church that provides:
 - (a) all real and personal property is held in trust for the local church, and is not by scheme or contrivance owned or controlled by one individual
 - (b) no part of the net income or assets of the church accrue to the benefit of any private individual or member

- (c) all real and personal property shall be used only in the furtherance of the objects of the local church
 - (d) upon dissolution, all real and personal property of the church shall be distributed to religious organizations recognized by Revenue Canada as having a tax exempt status
- (6) Provide The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated with a certified copy of its local church constitution and provincial charter, and a copy of certification by revenue Canada as to its exempt status as a charity
 - (7) The Pastor of the local church is a member in good standing of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

Section 2: Application Procedure

A local church wishing to have affiliation with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated shall submit a written letter of application for affiliation to The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated Board of Directors. No local church shall have affiliation until its application is approved by the Board of Directors. A Certificate of Affiliation shall be issued to each local church whose application has been approved.

Section 3: Resignation

A local church may resign from being an affiliated member with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated in writing to the Board of Directors of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated. Such resignation becomes effective on the date of the letter upon which notice is given to The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated or the time specified in the resignation.

Section 4: Removal

Any local church may be removed from affiliated membership with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated by a resolution to that effect passed by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting of the Board of Directors duly called and held for the purpose of considering the removal of affiliated membership in The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated of the particular local church.

Section 5: Voting Members

Only individuals who are members in good standing (as described in Article 3 Section 8) who hold credentials (Article 3 Section 9) with The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated may be Voting Members.

Subject to these by-laws, references to meeting of members shall refer to meeting of Voting Members.

APPENDIX 1: CODE OF ETHICS

The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated is committed to Jesus Christ and His kingdom. This commitment involves a biblical lifestyle - a lifestyle of integrity and ethics (Proverbs 11:3). We believe that the Bible is God's infallible Word and the believer's guide and final authority for both faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Every facet of our lives must come under divine authority. (I Corinthians 10:31)

OUR BODIES

Since our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit and instruments of righteousness (I Corinthians 6:19, Romans 6:13), we must keep our bodies clean and consecrated for the Master's use. We commit ourselves to maintaining this disciplined lifestyle with regard to our bodies. (Romans 12:1-2)

OUR MINDS

We believe that our minds should be kept pure and positive in the midst of an impure and negative world. (Philippians 4:7-8) It is for this reason that our members are to govern their "mental" diet. Members of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated are to avoid material that is profane and pornographic. Members are urged to read and watch wholesome material that feeds

and strengthens the spiritual man. We hold a deep commitment to the study of the Bible.

OUR SPIRITS

The spirit of this world is hostile to the spirit of the Christian. (Galatians 5:17, I Corinthians 2:12-14) We must guard against the hatred and hostility that breeds so easily in the human spirit. We therefore urge all our members to exhibit the "mind of Christ" in all their attitudes. (Philippians 2:5-11)

OUR SPEECH

The Christian should be known by his/her wholesome conversation. (Matthew 12:34-37) Our members should refrain from speaking anything that is unclean, untrue, unkind or unprofitable. We must make sure that our talk affirms our testimony.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Our relationships reveal our personal preferences and positions. Our members are not to align themselves with organizations or movements that stand in contradiction to Christian principles. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) Our members are to be honest and ethical in all their relationships. (Romans 12:17). Believers should live according to the moral standards of God's Word.

Believers must be ethical in the home, business and in social concerns.

OUR FAMILIES

The divine origin of the family makes it of vital concern both to the church and to society. We give priority to the sanctity of marriage and to the biblical pattern of relationships in the home. (Ephesians 5:25 & 28) (Ephesians 5:22-23) (Ephesians 6:1-4)

OUR STEWARDSHIP

According to the Bible everything belongs to God. (Psalms 24:1) We are stewards of His resources. Our stewardship of possessions begins with the tithe. (Malachi 3:8-10) All our members are expected to return a tenth of all their income to the Lord. Stewardship also includes our time, talent and spiritual gifts, as well as our money. (Ephesians 5:16, Romans 12: 3-8, Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 19:11-27)

OUR LOYALTY

Loyalty to Christ and His church are basic to the success of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated. Faithful participation of members in the various ministries of the church is necessary if The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated is to fulfil

its mission. Loyalty involves commitment to all the ministries of our fellowship, attendance at the gatherings of our fellowship, financial support and affirmation. The morale of the church requires the positive affirmation of the leadership and ministries of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated

This Code of Ethics is intended as a guideline for all our members, and not a system for monitoring and judging one another.

APPENDIX 2: PROCEDURE OF DISCIPLINE

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Discipline is an exercise in spiritual authority for which The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated is ultimately responsible. Disciplinary action is taken so that God may be honoured and the purity and integrity of the ministry may be maintained. Hereinafter, referred to as "the Church."

REASONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. Being out of harmony with the Standards of Faith
2. Being out of harmony with the Covenant of Commitment
3. Actions that are immoral or unethical and behaviour contrary to Biblical principles
4. A member's conduct evidences an unwillingness to either comply with, adhere to or submit to the authority or procedures set out in the Constitution & By-Laws of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.
5. A member has wronged another member and has not resolved such wrong through the mechanism for dispute resolution set out in the constitution.
6. Any unbecoming conduct that reflects negatively on the ministry of The Open Door Evangelistic

Church Incorporated and tends to hinder or disrupt its influence.

INITIATIVE

1. No allegation will be considered by The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated, unless it is set out in a signed written statement given to the Board of Directors.
2. If the Board of Directors determines that the written allegation is without merit & deemed to be invalid, no further action is necessary.
3. If the Board of Directors determines that the written allegation warrants further investigation, the member is deemed to be under "the discipline of the church."
4. All matters, should be settled, if possible, according to the principles of ***Matt. 18:15-17.***
5. The goal of discipline in The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated is restoration.
6. Should an accused confess and repent, the Board of Directors will draft a plan of restoration.
7. Should the subject member not confess, the following procedures will be followed.

A Judicial Committee shall review all available facts and evidence.

- (i) A Judicial Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and is to include the President, one Director and three licensed or

ordained non-Director members.

- (ii) A Judicial Committee shall review all available facts and evidence.
- (iii) A Judicial Committee shall require the subject member to come before them to discuss the matter.
- (iv) A subject member failing to appear before the Judicial Committee (unless providentially hindered) forfeits his/her membership and right of appeal.
- (v) The Judicial Committee shall report to the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final.

SUSPENSION

1. When a member is suspended, his/her credentials shall be held by the Board of Directors pending complete restoration.
2. Before being re-admitted, the suspended member shall make full confession, in writing, and submit to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors.
3. Disciplinary actions and restorations shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

HEARINGS/TRIALS

1. Hearings and/or trials in The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated are ecclesiastical, not civil in nature.
2. Matters involving church membership shall be judged by the guidelines of the Holy Scriptures.
3. The Board of Directors shall convene a hearing, and the subject member shall be given fourteen (14) days written notice by registered mail at his/her last known address, of the date, time and place at which the hearing will be held and his/her right to attend the hearing, and be heard. Notice shall briefly explain the nature of the allegation.
4. The chairperson of the Board of Directors shall act as chairperson of the hearing, unless the situation is deemed to be a conflict of interest by the Board of Directors.
5. The hearing shall not be open to the public nor to members of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.
6. The subject member shall be entitled to be accompanied at the hearing by two members of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated, who may act as observers during the hearing.
7. Equal allocation of time for presentations by both the Board of Directors and the subject member shall be given.

8. Both the subject member and the Board of Directors may call any witnesses or evidence that is relevant to the allegation being made. No party to the hearing shall be represented by legal counsel.
9. All evidence shall be kept confidential.
10. The Board of Directors will convene in private to deliberate on the evidence presented. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to conclude that the allegation is true. Failure to do so will result in the subject member no longer being under church discipline.
11. The Board of Directors shall determine the appropriate disciplinary action to be implemented with the intent of both protecting the integrity of the ministry & restoring the subject member into fellowship (**Lu.17:3 & Gal.6:1**).
12. Disciplinary actions may consist of indefinite dismissal or suspension up to two years according to the severity of the charges and at the discretion of the Board of Directors (as per guideline no.7)
13. All disciplinary actions shall be declared in a spirit of love and concern with an intent of restoration.
14. The Board of Directors may implement any disciplinary action it deems appropriate, including but not limited to the removal from positions of leadership or teaching within the church; the prohibition of offending conduct or behaviour; requirement that an apology be given; submission to the authority of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated or the termination of membership.
15. The chairperson of the Board of Directors shall send written notification to the subject member of the decision made by the Board of Directors by registered mail within ten (10) days of a decision having been made together with a succinct summary of the reasons for the decision.
16. The decision of the Board of Directors on all matters of discipline shall be final & binding.
17. No pronouncement on matters of discipline by the Board of Directors shall be made unless given orally from a prepared text at a members meeting and only after careful and sober consideration has been made by the Board of Directors, to avoid undue embarrassment to the subject member or other prejudicial consequences to either the subject member or to the Church as a whole.
18. A member, who has been disciplined or whose membership has been terminated shall not be barred from public worship services unless his/her presence is disruptive to the peaceful proceedings of the worship service.
19. Any request or notice of withdrawal from membership by the subject member while under discipline shall not become effective until after the discipline proceedings have been finalized.

APPEALS

1. All accused shall have the right to an appeal, given in writing to the Board of Directors, only if new evidence is presented.
2. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES TO BE EMPLOYED IN RESTORING SUCH A MINISTER

1. There must be genuine repentance which involves renunciation of sin, acceptance of responsibility, and commitment to reconciliation. (Proverbs 28:13, Matthew 5:23 - 25)
2. Specific and complete confession must be made to the Board of Directors (1 Timothy 5:20)
3. He/she must be willing to meet with the Board of Directors in order to implement restoration.
4. He/she must accept the plan of restoration prescribed by the Board of Directors.
5. He/she must be willing to submit to a pastor designated by the Board of Directors, who shall, in turn report on his/her progress to the Board of Directors.
6. During the time of suspension the minister may not engage in public ministry.
7. At the completion of the suspension period, the supervising pastor and the Board of Directors shall determine if the restoration is complete and make recommendation as to furtherance in or dismissal

from ministry under The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

8. Membership in The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated shall not give a suspended or dismissed member cause for legal action against a pastor, officer, or any member taking part in the suspension proceedings, and acceptance of membership on any level shall be evidence of a waiver of claim against The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated or any officer of The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated.

MARRIAGE POLICY

We, as members of the Church, believe that there are statements in the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, that clearly define “marriage” as the exclusive union of one man and one woman, which makes possible, the conception of children. Also, the Bible contains statements that God is pleased when a husband and wife become parents, and teach their children to love, honor and serve God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

Any Ordained Minister of the Church who is registered to perform marriages by the Province of their residence, who does not adhere to the above marriage tenet, will have their Provincial Marriage Certificate and their membership in the church cancelled. In addition, any Ordained Minister may refuse to marry any man and woman, if the minister believes, that they do not believe The Open Door Evangelistic Church’s religious beliefs.

The above definition of marriage is a “Tenet” of The Open Door Evangelistic Church’s religious beliefs.

AMENDING FORMULA

Notice shall be given 30 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting for proposed change of the articles of incorporation and/or by-laws. Such notice shall contain the proposed change or changes. Voting shall be by secret ballot and approved by 2/3 (two-thirds) of members present.

DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

It is hereby declared that in the event of dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, all its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more recognized charitable organization(s) in Canada, to be determined by the Board of Directors.

*THE CHARTER
CERTIFICATE OF
INCORPORATION*

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

**By the Honourable
GEORGE HOLMES CHALLIES,
Provincial Secretary**

To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come
Greetings.

WHEREAS The Companies Act provides that with the exceptions therein mentioned the Lieutenant Governor may by Letters Patent create and constitute bodies corporate and politic for any of the purpose to which the authority of the Legislature of Ontario extends.

And Whereas by the said Act it is further provided that the Provincial Secretary may under the Seal of his office have use, exercise, and enjoy any power, right, or authority conferred by the said Act on the Lieutenant Governor:

And Whereas by their Petition in that behalf the persons herein mentioned have prayed for a Letters Patent constituting them a body corporate and politic for the due carrying out of the undertaking hereinafter set forth.

And Whereas it has been made to appear that the said persons have complied with the conditions precedent to the grant of the desired Letters Patent and that the said undertaking is within the scope of the said Act:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that under the authority of the hereinbefore in part recited Act **I Do By These Letters Patent Constitute** the Persons whose names appear on the Charter; all of the City of Hamilton, County of Wentworth and Province of Ontario; and any others who have become subscribers to the memorandum of agreement of the corporation, and persons who hereafter become members thereof, a corporation without share capital under the name of **The Open Door Evangelistic Church Incorporated** for the following purposes and objects, that is to say:

- (a) To conduct the work and carry on the teaching of the Gospel;
- (b) To employ, send out and direct Christian missionaries to preach the Gospel, at home or otherwise and to do all things necessary for the carrying out of such work;

- (c) To conduct public or private meetings of a religious and Evangelistic nature;
- (d) To acquire lands or buildings, either by lease or purchase, for the purposes of the Church and for such purposes, to establish churches, mission halls and such places of public meeting as may be deemed in the interests of the Church;
- (e) To establish, conduct and maintain religious classes for the education of those who may be desirous of taking up the work of religious instruction to others and to employ and pay instructors therefor;
- (f) To print, publish, sell and distribute religious literature of every nature and kind and to establish and operate printing plants for such purposes;
- (g) Subject to the provisions of any statute or regulations passed thereunder in that behalf for the time being in force, to establish, operate and maintain homes of refuge for indigent persons and to help to a better mode of living those who may have come under the penalties of the criminal law; and
- (h) To conduct social service work of every nature and kind and to do any and all things necessary to that end:

THE HEAD OFFICE of the Corporation to be situated at the said City and **THE FIRST DIRECTORS** of the Corporation to be Frederick Henry Ferris, Albert Ernest

Hunter, John James Hobbs, and David Matthew Morris, hereinbefore mentioned:

AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AND DECLARED THAT:

- (1) The subscribers to Memorandum of Agreement of the Corporation shall be the first of those who shall hereafter be duly elected as members of the Corporation in accordance with the by-laws and regulations from time to time in force
- (2) The interest of a member in the Corporation shall not be transferable, and shall lapse and cease to exit upon the death of such member, or when such member shall cease to be a member by resignation or otherwise in accordance with the by-laws and regulations from time to time in force
- (3) The directors of the Corporation shall constitute the Committee of Management of the Corporation; and
- (4) The by-laws and regulations for
 - (a) the election of members, trustees, directors and officers
 - (b) the holding of meetings of members, trustees and directors
 - (c) the establishment of branches
 - (d) the payment of directors, trustees, officers and employees, and the control and management of the affairs of the Corporation, shall be made and established, subject to amendment or

repeal as therein or hereafter by by-law or regulation provided, at a general meeting to be held not more than six months after incorporation at such time and place as the directors may determine, and such by-laws, regulations and amendments shall replace, exclude or modify those set out in Form 4 in the Schedule to The Companies Act, save that in any matters covered by such Form 4 and not provided for in the Corporation's by-laws, regulations or amendments the provisions of said Form 4 shall apply and be in force, but all such matters which, after the passing of the Corporation's first by-laws and regulations, may be left to be governed by such Form 4 may be varied, amended, excluded or modified by any by-laws or regulations:

AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDAINED AND DECLARED that the said Corporation shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members, and that any profits or other accretions to the Corporation shall be used in promoting its objects.

Given under my hand and Seal of office at the City of Toronto in the said Province of Ontario this fourth day of May in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-two.

G. H. CHALLIES,
Provincial Secretary.