

the Roman Catholic church. (B) This version also uses the phrase “He descended into hades”, instead of “He descended into hell”, “He descended to the dead”, or omitting it altogether. This phraseology more closely reflects our understanding of the Scripture.

Potentially, we can also add a Clause (5) to include a more contemporary wording of a “Statement of Faith”, similar to those adopted by many other churches. For references, there are hardcopies from: WCCF web site, CBC, MHCC, BCCT, DCEFC, etc.

Article III. Church Governance

Clause (1), This passage from Eph. is the guiding principle for operating this church in the service of our Lord. Other passages from the Scripture may also be considered here.

Clause (2-6) These clauses are trying to put into words, or to “codify”, how this church has operated in the past. We didn’t have any formal structures, found in many other churches: the elders, the deacons, a pastor, a membership enrollment procedure, one or more standing committees, a board of directors or trustees, elected church officers, etc.. So there is no need to be any more specific on most of these details.

Clause (2-6) The verb “will” is used here, instead of “shall” to match the verb used in the quoted Scripture passage. The meaning of the verb “will” is also a bit softer than “shall”.

Clause (2). The term “co-workers” is derived from the term “fellow workers” [NIV, KJV], “helper”[KJV], “labourers”[KJV], “fellow labourers”[KJV], which are found in Romans 16:3, I Corinthians 3:9, II Corinthians 6:1, Philippians 4:3, Colossians 4:11, and Philemon 1:24.

Clause (3). This is new. In the past, we have not stated the requirement on who may attend the co-workers’ meeting. This seems to reflect what we have been doing.

Clause (4), This is new. The use of the word “consensus” here is intentional. In the past, we have not specified how decisions are to be made in the co-workers’ meeting. There are many forms of “democratic” or “representative” decision making: “majority”, “plurality”, “unanimity required”, “super majority required”, “veto privilege”, “veto override”, “one person one vote”, “one family one vote”, “one share one vote”, “split voting allowed”, “absentee voting allowed”, “proxy voting”, “participate but not vote”, etc. In consideration, “consensus among those attending” seems to be how we have done it in the past.

Clause (5), Do we really need any positions other than the “Secretary / Treasurer”?

Clause (6), Do we need to list the specific duties of the “Secretary / Treasurer”?

Article IV. Procedure for Amendments

Clause (2) The use of “monthly” is intentional. Requiring three readings are common among parliamentary procedures. Having three consecutive monthly co-workers meeting ensures that the process spans at least two months. This way many more people can review any proposed changes.

The verb “shall” is use here to make this procedure a stronger requirement.

Supplement:

Various versions of The Apostles’ Creed,

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (WCCF weekly bulletin, 11/2003)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hades; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (The Hymnal of worship & Celebration, Word Music)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins. the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (Hymns of Praise, CNEC)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. (*universal, reformed.org)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic* Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN. (*universal, creeds.net)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN. (*universal, creeds.net)