

CONSTITUTION

and

GENERAL RULES

of the

Fire-Baptized

Holiness Association

of

America.

Constitution and General Rules

ог тне-

Fire-Baptized Holiness Association

of America.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This organization shall be called the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America.

ARTICLE

OBJECT AND DESIGN.

The object of this Association he tially evangelistic and missionary in heature, and its purpose three-fold:

1. The deepening of the spiritual life among ourselves, so that all of our members shall attain the highest state of Christian experience possible in this life.

2. The recognition and sending forth evangelists, helpers and missionaries, divinely called, qualified, and set apart to the work.

3. The unification and conservation of the work. It is our intention that the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association shall embody all the essential characteristics and perform all the functions of an Apostolic church. As a means of accomplishing the three-fold design of this organization every member of the same is expected to contribute freely of his time, talents. influence and means, to scatter the Holy Fire throughout the whole earth.

All our pastors, evangelists, helpers and missionaries shall be required to teach and preach the doctrines set forth in the

basis of union.

The Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America is an independent religious organization, and our ministry shall be a

fire-baptized ministry.

All our regularly ordained evangelists, elders and missionaries, including general overseer ar ' ing elders, shall have authority reby empowered to the ordinances of the Lord's and baptism, and to perform the rage ceremony.

ARTICLE III.

BASIS OF UNION.

1. We believe that Jesus Christ shed his blood for the remission of sins that are past (Rom. 3:25), and for the regeneration of penitent sinners and for salvation from sin and from sinning (I. John

3:5-10, Eph. 2:1-10).

2. We believe, teach, and firmly maintain the scriptural doctrine of justification by faith alone, as taught by John Wesley and the early fathers of Methodism (Rom. 5:1).

3. We believe also that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the complete cleansing of the justified believer from all indwelling sin, and from its pollution subsequent

to regeneration.

4. We believe also that entire sanctification destroys and eradicates inbred sin (Rom. 6:6, Heb. 13:12, I. John 1:7-9, I. Thes. 5:23, John 17:17, Acts 26:18).

5. We believe that entire sanctification is an instantaneous, definite, second work of grace obtainable by faith on the part

of the fully consecrated believer.

6. We believe also that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is obtainable by a definite act of appropriation of the fully cleansed be admitted to full

2:1-4, 38, Luke 11:13, Acres ristion who is

7. We believe also that the baptism with fire is a definite, scriptural experience, obtainable by faith on the part of the Spirit-filled believer (Matt. 3:11, Luke 3:16, Rev. 15:2, Psa. 104:4, Acts 2:1-4, Heb. 12:29, Ezek. 1:4-14, 10:2-7, Isa. 33:14, 6:1-8).

8. We believe also in divine healing as in the atonement (Isa. 53:3:5, Matt. 8:16-17, Mk. 16:14-18, Jas. 5:14-16, Ex. 15:26). ing (II. Tim. 4:8).

10. We do not believe that the baptism with fire is an experience independent of, or dis-associated from, the Holy Ghost, but we do believe that the divine baptism of Jesus is two-fold. Christ's baptism is with the Holy Ghost and with fire We believe that it is He, the divine Paraclete, abiding in the heart of the purified believer, who creates an intense longing for the experience of the baptism with fire, and, as the Executive of the Godhead, baptizes those in whom He dwells with the baptism with fire, and that none can receive the experience of the baptism with fire except those in whom the personal Holy Ghost alleady abides.

the ordins utterly opposed to baptism so-called Christian scientists, Spiritualists, Unitarians, Universalists and Mormons. We deny as false and unscriptural Seventh-Day Adventism, annihilation of the wicked, conditional immortality, antinomianism, absolute perfection, so-called come-outism, the so-called resurrection life, the so-called redemption or glorification of the body in this life, and the doctrine of the restitution of all things as set forth

in millennial dawhism and taught by Jukes and others, and the false teaching that we are not born of God until we are

sanctified wholly.

12. The Lord says, "Marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled," and the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America firmly holds that there are certain relations between husband and wife which are strictly private according to the Word of God, and into this sacred privacy no one has any right to inquire (Heb. 13:4, I. Cor. 7:145).

13. No subsequent General Council, State Association, local church, or other body shall have authority to change the basis of union of the Fire-Baptized Holi-

ness Association of America.

ARTICLE IV.

GENERAL PULES

1. No one shall be admitted to full membership in this Association who is not in full accord with the teachings of the Association as set forth in the basis of union, and with the spirit, genius and design of this organization, and who does not believe in the baptism with fire as a definite experience.

2. He must also give satisfactory evidence aside from his own testimony that he is regenerated, clearly justified, sanctified wholly, and is groaning after the

fulness of the Spirit and the definite experience of the baptism with fire. Provided, also, that applicants in the enjoyment of the experience of scriptural justification may be received as probationers for the period of three months. Provided, further, that no one shall be received into full membership nor entitled to a vote in the local associations who does not enjoy the experience of entire sanctification and is agon/zing after the fulness of the Spirit and the definite experience of the baptism with fire.

3. In accordance with these professions, all who remain with us shall take as their rule of conduct the Word of God (Gal. 6:16) and shall conform outwardly as well as inwardly in their daily walk and conversation to its simple teachings.

4. We are commanded in God's Word not to be unequally voked together with unbelievers, and to have no communion on fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, such as oath-bound secret societies, social clubs and corrupt partisan politics (II. Cor. 6:14, Eph. 5:11); not to be conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2); to come out from among them and be separate (II. Cor. 6:16); and even to turn away from those who have the form of godliness but deny the power thereof (II. Tim. 3:5); to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (II. Cor. 7:1), such as the use of tobacco in every form, or of morphine, or intoxicants, filthiness of speech, foolish talking or jesting, or the use of slang language; to abstain from all appearance of evil (I. Thes. 5:22); and to do all we do to the glory of God and in the name of Jesus Christ (Col. 3: 17, I. Cor. 10: 31); to wear no outward adorning, such as jewelry, gold, feathers, flowers, costly apparel or ornamentation of any kind (I. Tim. 2:9, I. Peter 3:3), and a practical observance of all these scriptural requirements, and a complete separation from anything which does not tend to deepen our own spirituality and promote the glory of God, is hereby required of all our members.

5. Every member of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America shall be required to observe the Lord's day according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the holy apostles, and to abstain from doing their own pleasure thereon.

6. To abstain from thentioning the faults of an absent person, and refuse to listen to those who do, except it be absolutely necessary for the glory of God and the good of the cause, and of the person concerned.

7. The tenth is the Lord's, and shall be recognized as such by all our mem-

bers (Gen. 28:22, Matt. 23:23).

8. All our members are required to be patterns of frugality, diligence, faith and charity, taking up the cross daily, and true to the abiding baptism of fire.

9. To witness on all suitable occasions, even if it costs us our lives, to what the Lord has done for us, especially to sanctification, divine healing, and the baptism with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

These are the general rules of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America, and we believe them to be in accordance with the teachings of God's Word. and therefore for the good of our own souls and for the glory of God.

ARTICLE V.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF PRIVATE MEMBERS.

1. Have you the forgiveness of your

sins? (I. Jno. 1:9).

2. Have you peace now with God through our Lord Jesus Christ? (Rom.

3. Have you to witness of the Holy Ghost agreeing with your spirit that you are a child of God? (Rom. 8:16).

4. Has no sin, inward or outward,

dominion over you? (Rom. 6:14).

5. Are you wholly sanctified according

to I. Thes. 5:23?

6. Have you the personal Holy Ghost as promised in John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:13. Luke 11:13 and Acts 19:2?

7. Have you the experience of the baptism with fire? and if not, are you earnestly seeking it with all your heart?

(Matt. 3:11, Luke 3:16, Acts 2:4, Eph.

3:20, Heb. 1:7.)

8. Do you believe in divine healing as in the atonement? and in the laying on of hands, and in anointing with oil? (Isa. 53:3-5, Matt. 8:17, Mark 16:14-18, James 5:14-16).

9. Do you believe in the imminent, personal, pre-millennial, second coming of our Lord? (I. Thes. 4:15-18, II. Peter

3:1-4).

10. Will you faithfully and loyally witness to all these experiences? (Acts 2:32, Isa. 43:10, Luke 24:48).

No one shall be received into full membership in the local associations who shall not pass satisfactory examination upon the foregoing questions.

ARTICLE VI.

QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS FOR MIN-ISTR

1. Have you been called of God to preach the gospel, and can you say as the apostle said: "Woe is me if I preach not

the gospel?"

2. Will you "preach the Word" without fear or favor, seeking the honor that comes from God only, reproving, rebuking and exhorting with all long-suffering and doctrine, contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints?

3. Will you take the Word of God as

your charge and only rule of conduct, and strive to regulate your life and manner of living by its sacred teachings? (II. Tim. 4:1-5, I. Cor. 9:16, I. Tim. 4:10-16, II.

Tim. 1:1-13, Acts 20:17-35).

4. Having a dispensation committed unto you, will you undertake to preach this gospel, not as a hireling, nor by constraint, neither as being lords over God's heritage, nor for filthy lucre, but willingly, and of a ready mind, doing all for the glory of God and the salvation of lost men?

5. Have you counted the cost, and do you fully commit yourself for life to the

cause of fire-baptized holiness?

In addition to the above, the Local and Ruling Elders shall be required to pass satisfactory examinations as to qualifications upon the following Scriptures: Titus 1:5-9, I. Tim. 3:2-7, and I. Peter 5:2-4.

Learn these examinations be close and searching, and lee all our workers be required to conform strictly to these

requirements.

ARTICLE VII.

GOVERNMENT.

We recognize and acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ as the Supreme Head and Rightful Governor of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association in all its various departments, and His infallible Word as the man of our counsel, and as our only rule of faith and practice.

GENERAL OFFICERS.

1. There shall be a General Overseer, who shall have the general oversight and care of all the Associations in America, and whose tenure of office shall continue during good behavior. He shall preside at all the General Councils, and when present, at all the state, provincial and

territorial associations

2. There shall be a General Secretary and General Treasurer appointed by the General Overseer. The General Secretary shall keep the minutes of each General Council, and a correct list of the membership of the Association as furnished by the Ruling Elders. The General Treasurer shall have charge of all money contributed for the benefit of the Association at large, and pay the same by order of the Board of Trustees.

3. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of not less than three or more than nine, appointed by the General Overseer, who shall be chairman of the same. They shall hold in trust and have charge of all property deeded or bequeathed to the Fire-Baptized Holiness

Association of America.

ARTICLE VIII.

RULING ELDERS.

1. The General Overseer shall appoint the Ruling Elders for the state, provincial and territorial associations, both domestic and foreigh, and shall have power and authority to remove the same and appoint others, whenever, in his best judgment, the good of the cause requires it.

2. It shall be the duty of the Ruling Elders to preach the Word, and do the work of an evangelist, giving their time, talents and influence to the spread of fire-baptized holiness throughout their respective jurisdictions. Their work is essentially evangelistic, and they are expected to so direct the work in their respective territories that the greatest possible good may be accomplished and the greatest number of souls saved. They shall obtain a list of the members of the Association in their respective territory and report the same to the General Secretary once each year.

3. The Ruling Elder shall in co-operation with the leaders of the local associations, supply them with regular pastors as far as practicable. He may by the consent of the leaders unite as many of them into a pastoral charge as the interest of

the work may demand.

4. The Ruling Elders shall have authority to appoint as many assistants as they may deem necessary, and assign to each of them such territory as in their judgment such assistants shall be able to occupy.

ARTICLE IX.

EVANGELISTS.

The New Testament evangelist corresponds to the Old Testament prophet, and is called, ordained, and sent forth by the Holy Ghost as the ambassador of Jesus Christ, to do special and extraordinary work, especially to arouse the sinners in Zion, and to alarm the people who sit in darkness and live in sin by the faithful preaching of the awful truths of the gospel. Therefore it is necessary that they have the largest gospel liberty. They are not to be restricted, either in their fields of labor or in their modes or methods of work. Neither General Overseer, Ruling Elders, Pastors nor the Laity. nor the General Council, nor State or Territorial Associations shall ever exercise restraining authority over these firebaptized prophets of the Lord. The General Overseer and Ruling Elders, and those to whom the ordaining power may be delegated, are simply and only to examine the applicants for evangelistic orders, closely and prayerfully, as to their scriptural qualifications, and, if satisfied that they are called of God to the evangelistic work, recognize them and

send them forth to do the work of an evangelist. These divinely appointed fire-baptized evangelists are to take their orders from the great/Head of the Church (Gal. 1:11-12-15-16-17, Acts 8:26-27, 39-40), and go forth as their predecessors did in apostolic times, without exacting any stipulated sum of money for their labor, trusting in God to supply their temporal and spiritual need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. And all of our preachers, including Ruling Elders and General Overseer, shall live according to the same apostolic rule. We believe a salaried ministry is not of God, unless indeed it be a Pauline salary, as laid down in II. Cor. 6:3-10, and I. Cor. 4:9-13. And vet, we hold that those who preach the gospel shall live of the gospel, and if all our members do their duty, recognizing the tenth as the Lord's, none of our preachers or their families will suffer for the necessaries of life.

ARTICLE X.

ORDINATION ORDINANCES, ETC.

1. The General Overseer shall have power and authority to ordain Elders and Evangelists in every place where there is need of such, and, under the immediate direction of the Holy Ghost, to separate them unto the work whereunto the Lord hath called them, according to the prece-

dent given in Acts 13:1-3, always remembering the scriptural requirement that an elder must not be a novice, "lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil" (I. Tim. 3:6), and also that other wholesome apostolic injunction, to "lay hands suddenly on no man" (I. Tim. 5:22).

2. The General Overseer shall have authority to delegate to any Ruling Elder or regularly ordained Evangelist the power to ordain elders in special cases whenever he may doom it wise and expedient for the promotion of the fire-

baptized work.

3. A certificate of ordination shall be issued to each ordained minister in the connection, officially signed by the General Overseer and the Ruling Elder grant-

ing the same.

4. In view of the increasing number and efficiency of women who are evidently called of God and the evangelistic, missionary and rescue work, provision is hereby made for the appointing, ordaining and sending forth of women thus called of God, exactly the same as men, thus placing fire-baptized women, called of God, upon the same footing with our brethren of the stronger sex.

5. As the question of water baptism has always been a subject of fruitless strife among carnal professors, we leave it entirely to individual conscience and preference as to the mode by which the

rite shall be administered, but we insist upon the observance of the plain word of God, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

6. In the administration of the Lord's supper only unfermented wine shall be

used.

ARTICLE XI.

GENERAL COUNCIL.

1. The General Council shall be composed of the General Overseer, the active editor of the official organ, the Ruling Elders, the General Secretary and General Treasurer.

2. There shall be one regular meeting every two years, provided that, in case of necessity the General Overseer shall have authority to conveye the General Council at such time and place as he may designate for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it.

3. The object of the General Council shall be to confer together and to adopt such measures and devise such means as shall be deemed expedient for the promotion and furtherance of the cause of fire-

baptized holiness.

4. In the event of the death, removal or disability of the General Overseer, the active editor of the official organ and the Board of Trustees shall have authority to call a meeting of the General Council, who shall, by prayer and fasting, seek to know the mind of the Spirit with regard to filling the vacancy, and the one plainly designated by the Holy Ghost shall be accepted as the divinely appointed one.

5. The General Overseer and three Ruling Elders shall constitute a quorum

to transact business

ARTICLE XII.

MISSIONS.

1. The foreign missionary work shall be under the general supervision of the General Overseer, who shall have power and authority to appoint one or more Superintendents of Foreign Missions, as the exigencies of the times may demand.

ARTICLE XIII.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

1. Each state, provincial and territorial association shall hold at least one fire-baptized holiness camp meeting each year, to be open on all the lines of divine truth, especially on the lines of sanctification, the baptism of fire, and divine healing. The time and place of these camp meetings shall be designated by the Ruling Elder.

2. Each state, provincial and territorial association shall be composed of the Rul-

ing Elder thereof, the evangelists and pastors within the jurisdiction of the same.

3. The following business shall be transacted at the state, territorial or provincial association. I. The examination and passage of the character of the Ruling Elder, evangelists and pastors belonging to the same. 2. The examination and recommendation of applicants for evangelistic orders. 3. To suspend from the ministry and deprive of credentials persons who are inefficient, or negligent of the duties assigned them.

ARTICLE XIV.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS.

1. Three or more persons in any community, having the required qualifications for membership in the local organization, may be organized into a Fire-Baptized Local Association, by any evangelist, helper or missionary. If he deem it wise and expedient, he shall appoint a leader who shall report to the Ruling Elder. Should a vacancy occur the society may elect a leader.

2. It is hereby provided that the Ruling Elder or evangelist organizing any local association shall have authority to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to attend to the finances of the association.

ation

3. This committee shall consist of the leader, who shall be ex-officio chairman of the same, a secretary, treasurer, and as many others as he may deem necessary.

4. This committee shall report to the local association once a quarter, and shall thereafter be elected annually by the

association.

5. In every local association meetings shall be held when practicable, either in meeting houses, private residences, or in the open air, at least once every Lord's

Day, and once during the week.

6. The local association only shall have authority to license proper persons to preach upon due examination, when their qualifications and usefulness warrant the same. The Ruling Elder shall preside over the meeting on such occasions, or shall appoint some one to act in his stead.

ARTICLE XV.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

There shall be an official organ of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America, of which the General Overseer shall be editor-in-chief. He shall also have the general management of the same, and may appoint as many assistants as he shall deem necessary.

ARTICLE XVI.

HIDICIARY PULES

1. When the General Overseer shall be accused of immoral conduct or neglect of duties assigned him it shall be the duty of the Ruling Elder, in or nearest whose inrisdiction said acts of immorality may be committed, to call together the Ruling Elders, whose duty it shall be to thoroughly investigate the case, and if he be found guilty, they shall deprive him of his credentials and expel him from the Association. Three Ruling Elders may constitute a quorum in the trial of this case

2. When any evangelist shall be accused of immoral conduct, the Ruling Elder shall call to his aid a committee of not less than three nor more than nine from among the ordained evangelists, whose duty it shall be to investigate the charges, and if he be found guilty, they shall suspend him from the ministry until the ensuing session of the State Association, which shall make final disposition

of his case.

3. When the leader of the Local Association shall be accused of immoral conduct, notice thereof shall be given to the Ruling Elder, whose duty it shall be to call a committee from among the local church of which he is a member, who shall investigate the case, and if he be found guilty, shall be expelled from

membership in the Association.

4. Any member habitually violating the general rules, or found guilty of immoral conduct, the leader of the band shall admonish him of the error of his way, and if he repent not, he shall take with him two or more others, and if he refuse to hear them. he shall be brought before the society, who, after due investigation, shall have power to expel him.

ARTICLE XVII.

DIRECTIONS REGARDING DEEDS, TITLES, ETC.

1. Let each each Local Association appoint a Board of Trustees in accordance with the laws of their respective states, territories, etc., whose duty it shall be to receive and hold in trust all property that may be deeded to the Fire-Bantized Holiness Association of merica for the use and benefit of the individual society to which they may belong.

2. This board shall secure a warranty deed to all property whenever it is practicable. When said property shall cease to be used by the society for religious purposes it shall revert to the General Board of Trustees, unless otherwise speci-

fied in the deed

3. This local board shall report to the General Board the amount and estimated value of all the property held by them.

4. Let it be specified in each deed to church property that it shall be for the use and benefit of the ministry and membership of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Association of America.

