

**REVISED EDITION- 2006**

**CONDENSED MANUAL  
OF THE  
DOCTRINE, RULES, AND BY-LAWS  
OF  
THE FIRST  
CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, INC.**



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## **I. PREFACE**

## PREFACE

Forasmuch as we have taken in hand to set forth a declaration of those things which were preached and practiced by the Apostles, it is our duty and divine responsibility to perpetuate and exalt the Apostles' Doctrine and Standard of Holiness. It is imperative that we "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." This is in the instruction given to us by the great servant of our Lord, Jude (Jude 1:3). This we intend to do, both in word and in deed.

We have adopted these Rules, Regulations, and By-Laws. We humbly comply with what the Apostles left on record in order to instruct and govern the people of God. This is done so they may not be lead away into error, or fall from their steadfastness, but instead grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is God Almighty.

The Standard of Salvation that God has ordained in his Word has been watered down and conveniently ignored by false prophets and lustful leaders through deceit and compromise. The carnal religious ministers, in the past and more so today, have obviously given heed to seducing spirits and the doctrines of devils. It is incumbent upon us to teach and warn God's people against their trickery and evils. This has culminated into an assortment of false doctrinal tenets which does not, neither will produce fruits worthy of acceptance, by the True Originator of our most precious Faith, The Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul declared, "that **all** our fathers were under the cloud, and **all** passed through the sea; And were **all** baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did **all** eat the same spiritual meat" (I Corinthians 10:1-3). God had only one way for Israel and **all** had to observe this way and do as Moses had commanded them. Hence, we must observe and do **all** that was commanded to us by the Lord Jesus through the Apostles. God has required of us **ONE WAY**. He has also given us an example of what we must do. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of

God” (St. John 3:5). Therefore, we believe that men must receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues, according to Acts 2:4. Just as Israel passed under the cloud and passed through the sea, we must be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and receive the gift (baptism) of the Holy Ghost, speaking in other tongues, as the Spirit gives utterance.

Therefore, we encourage the saints of God to be steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For we know that he that doeth the will of God shall abide forever.

## **II. HOLINESS, THE RELIGION OF GOD**

## HOLINESS, THE RELIGION OF GOD

“Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God *am* holy” (**Leviticus 19:2**). There is no other Religion mentioned in the scriptures. If Almighty God is Holy, then we, The Children of the Heavenly Father, are to be Holy as He is Holy. The religions of the world are not in the scriptures, they never have been, nor will they ever be! Holiness is our firm belief, and it is God’s way, so it has to be our way of life. All other religions have men as founders, giving a beginning and an ending to their religion; but not Holiness. The Bible says, “According as He (God) hath chosen us in Him **before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy** and without blame before Him in love” (**Ephesians 1:4**). How Great Holiness is! Before creation was, Holiness was already here! It is ordained of God for everyone to be Holy!

Holiness is not like the religion of men; it totally reflects the will of the One God! Sin is not justified in any form, but rather it is total obedience unto God. That is what Holiness is- surrendering your will to God’s will, submission and self-denial in every way that is against God. The scripture teaches us, “And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (**Leviticus 10:10**). The scriptures also say, “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works” (**Psalms 145:17**). The prophets and apostles were Holy Men. They did not profess any other religion, nor will we. “For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also *holy*: and if the root be holy, so *are* the branches” (**Romans 11:16**).

Holiness is the religion of God. It is our religion, for we are the branches. It is this kind of church that God is coming for. “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be **HOLY** and without blemish” (**Ephesians 5:27**). From the Old Testament, to the New, Holiness has always been God’s Way!

**Isaiah 35:8**, “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *theirin*.” **Exodus 15:11**, “Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” **Leviticus 11:45**, “For I *am* the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.” **St. Luke 1:74-75**, “That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”

**II Corinthians 7:1**, “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” **Ephesians 4:24**, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and **TRUE HOLINESS**.” **Hebrews 12:14**, “Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” **I Peter 1:16**, “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

The scriptures do not point to anything else for God’s people to follow, and with God’s help, we are determined to lift up The Holy Standard of God.

## **HOLY BELIEFS**

### **PUBLIC MEDIA**

First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. does not endorse the **improper** use of televisions or computers in the homes of the saints. Televisions and the internet may be used for the viewing of religious services and programs or to further one's educational understanding of the world. We do realize and concur that the "lust of the eye" can be fulfilled without a screen. When one selects VCR tapes and DVDs for viewing, it requires that the same wise judgment be used as when viewing television and using the internet and/or other forms of media.

### **COURTSHIP**

Courtship, as practiced in the traditional sense, is not a part of the Holy teachings. Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines courtship as, "the wooing of one person by another; the period which silicates favors, etc.; behavior in animals before and during mating."

We strongly employ the scripture found in I Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." A sister is not to track down or corner a brother. A brother is not to use the House of God as a "shopping center" when seeking a wife. We do not tolerate the "dating game" approach to marriage.

When a brother or sister has an intention to marry, this should first be announced to the Pastor, who will in turn enter them into a counseling session(s). The counseling may occur for one or both individuals. They, as mature persons, are expected to abide by the teachings of the Holy Church. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (II Timothy 2:22). Saints who intend to marry are advised to take their time and be faithful to Christ to avoid fornication and backsliding.

### **III. DOCTRINAL ISSUES**

## **APOSTLES' DOCTRINE**

We stand for the faith that was founded and built upon the precepts, practices, and doctrines, which are infallible. We believe First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ is a direct descendent of the original Orthodox Church Fellowship that began on the Day of Pentecost. Be it known that this fellowship is of the Orthodox persuasion. Our doctrine, which is that of the Apostles, reflects this experience. "And they continued stedfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

## **GOD'S STANDARD OF SALVATION**

We earnestly contend for God's Standard of Salvation. In the Word of God, we can find nothing short of a Holy Spirit filled life. Read St. Mark 16:15-17; Acts 1:8; 9:17-18; 10:44, 48; and 19:1-6. Also read: Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 12:14; St. Matthew 5:48; and I Peter 1:15-16.

## **THE GODHEAD**

We firmly hold that Jesus Christ is God Almighty and apart from Him there is no God: Isaiah 7:14; St. Matthew 1:23; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:14-17; Isaiah 45:15-21; Titus 1:13; Deuteronomy 32:4; I Corinthians 10:4; Colossians 2:9; I John 5:20; and Revelation 1:8.

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Melchizedek, the Priest of the Most High God, gave the first communion to our father, Abraham, consisting of bread and wine (Genesis 14:18). Christ, being a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, eventually administered the same. Water and grape juice are modern substitutes that have been invented by the formal and carnal churches of today (St. Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-32).

The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated by the use of the elements of bread (which represents the broken body of our Saviour) and wine (which represents the blood that was shed for the remission of sin). The wine shall be administered by the use of one cup for all (I Corinthians 11:25; St. Mark 14:23).

### **FEET WASHING**

We hold that Feet Washing is an example given by the Lord Jesus to the Church and that it should be observed as often as communion is served (St. John 13:5-14).

### **THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**

The pre-millennium coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in person, is a doctrine clearly set forth by the Apostles in the New Testament. Jesus taught it, the Apostles believed it, and the Saints expect it. Read: St. Matthew 24; Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; I Corinthians 1:7-8; 11:26; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:14-17; and Titus 1:13-14.

### **OFFERINGS**

We believe in the Apostles' principle and custom of financing the Church by means of Tithes and Offerings. A tithe is one-tenth of one's earnings and an offering is what is given of free will, in honor and sacrifice to God above one's tithes. Offerings may be received by the Minister and workers in the field, wherever and whenever given, without begging (Malachi 3:8-10; St. Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:5-10).

We firmly hold that socials, concerts, and shows, are **not** God's plan for carrying on His work. Programs with choirs and quartettes, and charging entrance fees at the door of the church, are of the devil himself and are the traditions of men and not of God.

## **MALTREATMENT**

In the time of persecution or ill treatment at the hands of the enemy, we should not avenge ourselves, but rather give place to wrath. For it is written: “Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Romans 12:19; Deuteronomy 32:35). Neither shall we take up any weapon of destruction to slay another in the defense of others. For it is written: “Do violence to no man” (Luke 3:14). We should rather suffer wrong-doing, than do wrong ourselves.

## **MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE**

“Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery” (St. Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:39; St. Mark 10:11-12). We have no right to add any thoughts of our own to such plain statements in order to justify those who have taken a second companion while the first one still lives.

## **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

All Civil Magistrates are ordained of God for peace, safety, and the general welfare of all people (Romans 13:1-10). Therefore, it is our duty to be in obedience to all requirements of the laws of the land **that do not contradict biblical principles**. They must not conflict as to where one would be forced to violate the Sixth Commandment by Bearing Arms and going to war. When the laws do not violate scriptures, it is our duty to honor them and show respect in all lawful requirements of the Civil Government.

## **RESURRECTION AND TRANSLATION OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that the time draweth near for the coming of the Lord to make a change in the present order of things. The dead in Christ shall rise first and those that remain shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The unrighteous and the wicked dead shall not rise until the thousand years have expired; then shall be the White Throne of Judgment.

“And whosoever is not found in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation, Chapter 20; St. Matthew 24:36-42; St. Luke 17:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

After Christ has come for his saints in the translation, and after the tribulation period, He shall return with them and reign on earth for a thousand years (I Thessalonians 4:17). There shall be peace on earth and good will toward men. After which, the Second Resurrection and White Throne of Judgment shall take place. “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the First Resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6).

### **THE MILLENNIUM**

Moreover, we believe that the distress upon the earth is the “beginning of sorrows” and will become more intense until “there shall be a time of trouble, such as there never was since there was a nation” even to this present time (St. Matthew 24:3-8; Daniel 12:1). That period of tribulation shall be followed by the dawn of a better day on earth, and for one thousand years there shall be “peace on earth and good will toward men” (Revelation 20:3; Isaiah 65:7-25; St. Matthew 5:5).

### **FINAL JUDGMENT**

When the thousand years are finished, there shall be a resurrection of the wicked dead, who shall be survived before the Great White Throne for their final judgment. All whose names are not found written in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone, which is the second death that God hath prepared for the devil and his angels and the wicked who serve him. Satan shall be cast in first: Revelation 20:7-15; St. Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 21:8.

#### **IV. BY-LAWS**

**FIRST  
CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, INC.**

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I  
CHURCHES  
SECTION 1**

The Gospel must be preached throughout the world. This necessitates the establishing of Churches around the world under the body of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc.

**SECTION 2**

The headquarters of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. is located at 2431-49 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125 in the United States of America.

**SECTION 3**

The General Elder shall have the power to arrange for the registration of this Corporation in all the states of the United States in which there shall be a Church home; or he shall have the power to arrange for the incorporation of a new Church in any of the states or possessions of the United States.

**SECTION 4**

All Churches established by the assistance of the headquarters Church shall be under the direct control of the said body, as far as Church property is concerned.

**SECTION 5**

All auxiliaries and Churches must present a report in the annual meeting.

**ARTICLE II**  
**MEMBERS OF THE BODY**  
**SECTION 1**

All Ministers, Bishops, and Members of the body are to be subject to the authority of the General Overseer.

**SECTION 2**

The General Elder has the authority and power to appoint all Local Elders in any and all sessions.

**SECTION 3**

Any Minister or member of this body who seeks to change the doctrine of this assembly or sows discord among the brethren and exhibits no visible or verbal desire to repent for his or her deed(s), shall be disfellowshipped from the body of Christ and this assembly.

**ARTICLE III**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of this body shall be comprised of the Elders with the General Overseer as spokesperson of this Board.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**ORDINATION**  
**SECTION 1**

All men who desire to be ordained/appointed to be an Elder in this body must meet the following qualifications as prescribed in Titus 1:1-16:

- a. The Bishops, which are the “Elders”, must be **blameless**.
- b. He must be the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly in any way.

- c. His children must be under subjection. He cannot believe or practice remarriage or entertain the worldly sin of divorce.
- d. He must be a good and faithful steward of God, for indeed he is a Minister of God.
- e. He must not be self-willed or hard-headed, stubborn or stiff-necked.
- f. He must not be one who soon becomes angry.
- g. He is not to drink wine or any alcoholic beverages at any time. Wine is drunk only for the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- h. He must not be a striker or a fighter.
- i. He must not be a lover of filthy lucre, which is money.
- j. He must be a lover and a giver of hospitality.
- k. He must be a lover of good men. He must be one who is willing to work with sincere and honest brethren in the work of the Lord.
- l. He must be sober and stable minded.
- m. He must live a holy life. He must have the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues according to Acts 2:4.
- n. He must be temperate and practice self-control.

## **SECTION 2**

Ordination may be secured and given with the consent of the General Overseer or with the assistance of an appointee.

## **ARTICLE V CREDENTIALS**

### **SECTION 1**

Ministers desiring to secure credentials with this body must have the one baptism as prescribed in Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; and 19:1-9. They (Ministers) must believe, preach, and practice **all** of the precepts and teachings that the Apostles preached and practiced.

### **SECTION 2**

All Ministers who seek credentials in this body must be able to read and write.

### **SECTION 3**

All Ministers who seek credentials in this body must be able to conduct a religious service intelligently and in order whenever necessary.

### **SECTION 4**

Any person holding credentials from this body of Christ who is found in error and will not receive correction, nor repent for their evil deeds will be deprived of their credentials.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MINISTERS IN CHARGE**

#### **SECTION 1**

Members in all of the Churches of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. are to obey, support, and cooperate with the Minister who has been placed in charge by the General Overseer.

#### **SECTION 2**

Ministers who have been placed over any of the Churches of this body are to be obedient to their Local Elder.

#### **SECTION 3**

A Minister shall have the authority to deposit funds into the Church account, as long as he does so under the guidelines of the Church. If withdrawals are to be made, it is imperative that two signatures accompany the transaction.

#### **SECTION 4**

Ministers in charge of missions shall not be addressed as “Pastors” until they have become ordained/appointed Elders.

## **SECTION 5**

All Ministers who are in charge of any assembly must send their monthly report to the General Overseer. They must also be prepared to make a financial report in every annual and state session.

## **SECTION 6**

In cases of discord between the Minister in charge and member(s) of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc., due to any accusation on behalf of the Minister, the committee designated to handle such disputes shall try the matter. The committee shall consist of the General Elder, Local Elder, and a Deacon.

## **SECTION 7**

If there exists a majority complaint against a Minister or if one arises, the committee shall investigate the complaint. If there is no violation of the Apostles' doctrine, rules, regulations, or moral laws, the Minister in charge shall be at liberty to remain as long as he desires or lives, and/or at the discretion of the General Elder.

## **SECTION 8**

Any Minister who is in charge of an assembly and found to be influencing members (of his assembly or in any Church of this body) to leave and establish another work, shall have his license and credentials removed and hence, silenced.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **MARRIAGE**

- a. No Minister shall perform a marriage ceremony of persons when one is filled with the Holy Ghost and the other is not.
- b. All Ministers shall require parties who are seeking to be joined in matrimony to give solemn word as to whether they have been married before. If they have, they are to state whether the former companion still lives. If the party has died, then it is expected that a Death Certificate be presented.

- c. Be it known that no Minister of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. shall perform the ceremony of marriage to any person whose former companion still lives.
- d. For the protection of both parties, it is **MANDATORY** (not simply recommended) that both individuals undergo testing for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. Proof of the tests with results must be supplied to the General Overseer prior to the marriage ceremony.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **OUTWARD ADORNING**

#### **THE HOLY ADORNING FOR THE HOLY WOMEN OF GOD**

“Whose adorning let it NOT BE THAT OUTWARD ADORNING OF PLAITING THE HAIR, and of WEARING OF GOLD, or of PUTTING ON OF APPAREL; But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (I Peter 3:3-4).

Of a truth, God’s Holy Women should not appear as the women of the world in any way. The scripture says, “And that ye put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:10). The Holy Women are not permitted to indulge in worldly pride. When a person dresses in an unholy manner, they have adorned themselves in pride. The Lord himself said that he hates a proud look. “These six *things* doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look” (Proverbs 6:16-17). The Lord does not approve of a proud look, neither does he approve of one possessing a proud spirit. **Women are not to exhibit any outward adorning-EVER!**

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **HEAD COVERING**

- a. When in public, women are to have their heads covered whether they be inside or outside of the Church.

- b. Women are not to wear hats with veils or long feathers. If the hat or scarf contains a print, then so be it.
- c. Women are not to wear chapel caps or small pieces of cloth that sit mainly in the center of the head—this is not considered a covering. The scripture says, “But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with *her* head uncovered dishonoureth her head: For that is even all one as if she were shaven” (I Corinthians 11:5).

## **ARTICLE X**

### **HAIR PRIDE**

Hair Pride is seen when a woman prepares her hair in a manner that differs from the way God intended it to be. God does not give a woman her hair so that she may be proud, but rather she is to be thankful to God for what He has given her. The woman’s hair is given to her for her covering. “But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering” (I Corinthians 11:15). This signifies the covering of her scalp, hence she covers *her* glory and gives God the glory.

- a. The term “hair straightening” is not found in the Holy Bible, but it comes under the category and condemnation of outward adorning. When a woman uses a hot comb or any other device or method to straighten her hair, she is not using it inwardly, but rather outwardly, to adorn her hair in a way which God did not make it. The Prophets and the Apostles condemned hair pride. Isaiah called it “well set hair”. Paul condemned broided hair, for in I Timothy 2:9-10 we read, “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” Peter condemned the plaiting of the hair, for the scriptures tell us in I Peter 3:3, “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.”
- b. Women are not to straighten their hair in any form.
- c. Women are not to cut their hair, in any manner for any reason.
- d. Women are not to dye their hair, in any manner for any reason.

- e. Women are not to use “permanent curl” techniques in their hair in any manner.
- f. Women are not to sit in beautician parlors for the puffing out and slicking back of the hair as women of the world do.
- g. Women are not to corn-row or plait their hair, or wear any type of hair decoration. Women may use something to hold their hair in place, or pulled back, if need be. Simply, let it be modest.

**Women are to wear their hair as God made it....NATURALLY!**

## ARTICLE XI

### MAKE-UP

Jewelry and make-up most certainly are outward adorning and are **not** of God. Jeremiah declared that it is all in vain, “And *when* thou *art* spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; *thy* lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life” (Jeremiah 4:30).

The Women of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. shall refrain from the following:

- a. renting their face with paint (make-up is not to be used)
- b. eye-brow arching
- c. eye-liner
- d. mascara
- e. lipstick
- f. eye-shadow
- g. nail hardener or polish
- h. toenail hardener or polish
- i. wigs or hair attachments of any type

The Holy Ghost forbids outward adorning. However, false prophets and churches which are not built on the foundation of the Apostles justify, condone, and endorse these

idolatrous and heathenish practices.

## ARTICLE XII

### JEWELRY

The Apostle Peter said, “Whose adorning let it not be the outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel.” God’s Holy Women are not decked or arrayed in gold jewelry as harlots and heathens were in days of old or as they are permitted to do in false churches in this age. The Holy Ghost said through Isaiah:

“Moreover, the Lord saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing *as* they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the Lord will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of *their* tinkling ornaments *about their feet*, and their cauls, and *their* round tires like the moon, the chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, the bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, the rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils” (Isaiah 3:16-23).

The Women of Holiness are not to be arrayed in:

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. earrings                 | e. ankle chains                 |
| b. chains around the neck   | f. gold fingernails or toenails |
| c. chains around the waist  | g. gold teeth                   |
| d. finger rings of any kind | h. pearls or diamonds           |

The Holy Women of God are not to wear these things which the Bible has condemned. “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with

shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array” (I Timothy 2:9).

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**WOMEN’S APPAREL**  
**SECTION 1**

The Apostle Paul certifies in I Timothy 2:9, “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel.**”

Modest apparel is not designed to be flashy in nature nor is its purpose to be lustful or disdainful. Holy Women adorn themselves in conservative and modest attire which bespeaks the calling by which they are called. Women of the Body are not for sale, neither are they harlots. Therefore, our Holy Women are not to portray these types of images through their apparel.

There are foreign countries in which the apparel normally leaves flesh, such as stomachs and backs, exposed. We ask all Sisters of the Body of Christ to cover the nakedness of their backs, stomachs, breasts, thighs, and calves. This is necessary for the sanctification of one’s soul. As we read in **Revelation 3:18**, “I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, **AND THAT THE SHAME OF THY NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR**; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”

Regarding **colors**, we realize that dark colors are not the only conservative colors, nor do dark colors reflect one’s salvation. Due to having saints in foreign countries, the judgment used in making these laws must be able to be applied in all Churches, here and abroad. For this cause, consideration must be given for those “who have” and those “who have not.”

In some countries, saints wear bright colors of many shades. You will find various shades of yellow, peach, green, blue, apricot, orange, soft pinks, etc. being worn. If the sisters have only these colors to wear, are we to say they cannot be saved? We will neither be so narrow-minded nor foolish to make such a declaration. Moreover, if they are not going to hell for wearing those colors there, then we cannot put sisters in any of the Churches into hell for wearing the same. The style and look of the apparel is to simply be modest, for we know you can have a black dress which is modest in color, yet worldly in style.

As mentioned before, we must consider those saints “who have not.” Some have no shoes, stockings, or socks and are not able to afford any. We will **not** allow the saints in America to look down on those in foreign countries in any manner. Our focus is to first get the heart right, and then allow everything else to fall in place. The scripture says, “Boast not of thy clothing and raiment, and exalt not thyself in the day of honour: for the works of the Lord are wonderful, and his works among men are hidden” (Sirach 11:4).

## SECTION 2

The Women of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. are encouraged to wear “Holy Attire for Women”, which would be the standard apparel for the body. As such, the Holy Women of God are to adhere to the following:

- a. No tight dresses
- b. No tight skirts
- c. No deep cut necks
- d. No deep cut backs
- e. No straight apparel, hugging the woman’s body
- f. No splits of any kind
- g. No apparel which exposes breasts, stomachs, backs, thighs, or calves
- h. No sheer stockings
- i. No fishnet stockings, nor stockings with a line down the back of them
- j. No high heeled spiked shoes

k. No shoes with toes, heels, or sides out

**Note:** Consideration must be made for those who may not be able wear shoes after this manner due to physical malformations or medical conditions. We are also mindful of sisters who do not have and are unable to purchase such shoes, due to their means. In such instances, the sister should not be burdened and may wear what is in her possession.

l. Women are not to wear pants, long or short, in or out of the church at anytime. The Bible says, “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God” (Deuteronomy 22:5).

The Holy Women of God do not wear mini-skirts or sheer shirts. This form of adorning is of the world and not of God. The Apostles preached for the Church not to go after the world. “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (I John 2:15-16).

Holy Women are not to wear shoulder-length blouses or shirts unless they are worn underneath a jacket. Otherwise, all shirt and blouse sleeves are to end at a point below the elbow (may be wrist-length, quarter-length, etc.). All women’s dresses and skirts are not permitted to come any higher than 5 inches above the ankles.

God condemns pride. The Women of the Body of Christ are Holy Women of God. They are not to be foolishly proud in look or conduct. Our women are to be adorned as the scripture states and this dictates that they must be fully covered. Fur coats and fur hats such as minks, foxes, rabbits, etc., are not in keeping with the True Holy tradition. Let the Holy Women adorn themselves in modest apparel. If there is a print on the apparel, such as plaid, stripes, flowers, etc., let the print simply be modest.

We consider colors such as black, brown, white, blue, gray, off-white, green, purple, and beige to be appropriate colors to be worn by the Women of God. However, as noted before, there are many other colors not mentioned here that are worn by sisters, particularly those in other countries and cultures. **We ask that whatever color is worn, it be modest in nature.**

In regards to stockings, we recognize that there are Holy Women who live in hotter climatic regions of the world where temperatures may routinely reach 120° or higher. For sisters in these areas of the world, judgment must be used when imposing the wearing of stockings which may, in fact, be detrimental to one's health. We also realize that there are Sisters of the Body who live in indigent areas and do not have the means to purchase stockings. In these instances, it is not our desire to unnecessarily encumber the Women of God.

For all other sisters, however, it is expected and asked that stockings be worn and that the color of your stockings be as modest as the color of your apparel. As addressed above, shades of black, dark blue, white, and brown are acceptable. Please note, your stockings are not to be so sheer that the flesh of your legs may be seen. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13).

**ARTICLE XIV**  
**WITNESSING (SISTERS)**  
**SECTION 1**

The sisters of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. may witness to sinners by using the standard literature available. They are not to try to open and define scriptures. In the event that questions arise during witnessing, sisters are to direct persons to the Church. For it is written, "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 2:7).

## **SECTION 2**

When sisters go to pray or visit the sick, they should never be alone. Sisters do not have the authority to anoint with oil or lay hands on anyone at anytime when praying for the distressed.

### **ARTICLE XV**

#### **AGED MOTHERS OF THE CHURCH**

The Women of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. are to honor and respect the aged women (Mothers of the Church) at all times. It is written, “The aged women likewise, that *they* be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:3-5).

### **ARTICLE XVI**

#### **STANDARD FOR HOLY BROTHERS**

##### **THE GODLY APPEARANCE FOR THE HOLY BRETHREN**

“And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:10).

The world has become so wicked, until men are wearing that which pertains to women. However, a man does not desire to dress in the same manner as sinners once he repents of his sins and is baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and receives the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues according to the scriptures.

## **ARTICLE XVII**

### **HAIR**

Brethren of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. are not to wear their hair long as does a woman, for I Corinthians 11:14 teaches us, “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?” The Holy Brethren are to wear a conservative hair cut. They are not to follow every foolish hair style as if they were of the world. Brethren are also not to have their hair curled, dyed, or plaited. Holy Brethren are not to pray with their heads covered at anytime, for we read in I Corinthians 11:4, “Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.” The brethren are to be neatly shaven at all times. They are not to wear toupees or false hair at anytime. For those brothers who wear beards, please keep them neat, not sloppy.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **MEN’S APPAREL**

As addressed with the sisters, we recognize that there are Brethren of the Body from various cultures and those with varying amounts of means and incomes. Consideration and judgment must be used in creating laws which do not burden the people, particularly those saints who live in areas of great poverty. Apparel which “pertains to a man” must be considered relative to that brother’s culture and traditional garb. In any case, we ask that the brethren wear modest, conservative apparel. All brethren are asked to maintain their apparel after a Holy manner.

Suits, when they are worn, are not to be in flashy colors, such as red, yellow, or other obscene colors which misrepresent the Faith. Modest colors: blacks, browns, grays, blues, greens (not loud), along with any other modest color will be acceptable. Brethren are not to have or wear handkerchiefs in jacket pockets. If the suit has a print, let that print simply be modest, whether it be plaid or striped.

Regarding shoes, brethren are not to wear footwear with the toes, heels, or sides out. However, consideration must be made for those who may not be able wear such shoes due to physical malformations or medical conditions. Also, we are mindful of those brethren who do not have and are unable to purchase such shoes, due to their means. In such instances the brother, as was stated for the sisters, should not be burdened and may wear what is in his possession.

When in public, Holy Brethren are expected to wear long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirts, which end at the wrist or below the elbow, respectively. “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” (I Thessalonians 4:7).

**BRETHREN ARE NOT TO WEAR SHORTS OR SHORT PANTS IN PUBLIC-  
EVER!** Brethren are not to wear tight pants or pants which can be seen through. “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us” (II Thessalonians 3:7, 9).

We must emphasize that we may have Brethren of the Body who possess only shorter-sleeved shirts or short pants and may not be able to afford otherwise. Considering these circumstances, if a brother has only these garments to wear, then let it be so. However to all Brethren, I beseech thee to be a living example to ALL men in Word and in Deed. “Therefore, brethren stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle” (II Thessalonians 2:15).

## **ARTICLE XIX JEWELRY**

Just as the Holy Women are not to be arrayed in jewelry, neither are the brethren. Holy Brethren do not wear chains around their necks, finger rings, bracelets, or any gold ornaments as sinners do. The Holy Brethren are not to appear as Playboys or Pimps.

Coats of mink, foxes, etc. are forbidden. Earrings are not to be worn by the Holy Brethren.

All brethren are to look and act in a Holy manner at ALL times! “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that you believe” (I Thessalonians 2:10).

## **ARTICLE XX**

### **CHILDREN OF THE WAY OF HOLINESS**

The parents of our children and young people have a direct mandate from God regarding their responsibility in the child’s care, nurturing, and shaping of behavior. After a child has reached the age of maturity and responsibility and is on his or her own, then and only then, are we free from the task of raising them. Until that time, we must consider heaven’s order in this manner: “Train up a child in the way he **should** go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

This being our basic standard, we henceforth admonish the saints to consider what the Church teaches on this matter:

1. Children are not senior citizens. They will and must play. Playful activities which are positive, wholesome, directed, and clean violate no standard (holy) of the Church.
2. It is not recommended that our youth be exposed to worldly atmospheres such as clubs and foolish worldly parties, or the like. However, they may participate in these activities among themselves.
3. Regarding amusement parks: If children are allowed to ride bicycles then they should be allowed to ride amusement park rides. If parents decide to take their children to amusement parks, let them be mindful not to gamble for toys and trinkets, through activities such as pitching pennies. Also, it should be noted that while children may be allowed to attend amusement parks, not all rides are appropriate for children who are in the Way of Holiness. For example,

children should not ride on attractions such as the “Love Tunnel” or on water rides where their clothes may become clingy after becoming wet. Let parents exercise discretion and good judgment on such outings.

4. Girls may jump rope and partake in the basic feminine games that the average girl plays. However, at no time are the girls to wear shorts or sweat pants.
5. Our children may wear short-sleeved shirts or blouses to the elbows until they are of a mature age. Subsequently, they must follow the standard dress code for the church.
6. Children and youth have the option of viewing parentally guided educational programs via public media- with the widely expressed exception of sexually oriented programs which have a strong tendency to promote promiscuity.
7. Girls are asked to keep their heads covered when in public.

## **ARTICLE XXI THE DEACONSHIP**

### **SECTION 1 QUALIFICATIONS OF A DEACON**

“Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:2-3).

I Timothy 3:8-13

“Likewise must the Deacons be”:

- a. Grave:
  - sincere and deeply rooted in the Word of God
- b. Not double-tongued:
  - not a liar

- c. Not given to much wine:
  - not a drunkard
- d. Not greedy of filthy lucre:
  - not a lover of money
- e. Holding the Mystery of the Faith:
  - must be able to rightly divide the Word of Truth in a pure conscience
  - his life is not condemned
- f. And let these also first be proved:
  - let these qualifications be made manifest in his holy life
- g. Then let them use office of a Deacon:
  - once these qualifications are made manifest in his life, then let him exercise  
“Office of Deacon”
- h. Being found blameless:
  - no fault found in him
- i. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things:
  - wife must be sincere
  - wife does not speak evil against God’s people and is not a liar
  - wife must be stable minded
  - wife is obedient to her husband and to all of the Apostles’ Doctrine
- j. Let the Deacons be the husbands of one wife:
  - having one wife only and no second companion while the first one lives
- k. Ruling their children and their houses well:
  - the Deacon must have his children and whole household under subjection
  - he must not permit anything to continue in his home that is contrary to the  
Word of God
- l. For they that have used the office of deacon well purchase to themselves  
a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## SECTION 2

### DEACONS PERFORMING THE LORD'S SUPPER

All Deacons must teach and preach the same things which were preached by the Apostles. It was previously stated that Deacons could not serve The Lord's Supper. However, there is no scriptural law against such. It is for this reason that we cannot make it a transgression. As such, a brother who is appointed by the General Overseer may serve The Lord's Supper.

## ARTICLE XXII

### WOMEN PREACHERS

We believe of a truth that God has never called or sent a woman to preach the Gospel and it is certain that he never will. The Bible says, "Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; **BUT A WOMAN AMONG ALL THOSE HAVE I NOT FOUND**" (Ecclesiastes 7:28). If Solomon did not find a woman in his day, then God has not sent any in our day. Isaiah declared, "As *for* my people, children *are* their oppressors, and Women Rule Over Them. O My People, They Which Lead Thee Cause Thee to Err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

From the scriptures, you can plainly see that if a woman leads you, you are in error. Women of today address themselves as Bishops, Apostles, Pastors, Evangelists, and Deacons. This has been ordained by the Devil. It is the Devil, and him alone, who sponsors such foolishness. Be reminded that God has nothing to do with this in any manner. Anyone who follows after women preachers or supports them in any way, must be labeled as hypocrites and are most assuredly Hell-bound.

The Bible states, "Let your women keep silence in the Churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also said the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is shame for women to speak in the Church" (I Corinthians 14:34-35).

Paul says again in I Timothy 2:11-12, “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer **NOT** a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.” When a woman tries to talk as loud as a man, she is out of place. The Holy Women of God have a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God a great price.

Let it be firmly known: First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. Does Not Have, Nor Endorse Women Preachers, and We Never Will!

**V. RELIGIOUS SERVICES RENDERED**

## **RELIGIOUS SERVICES RENDERED**

### **BAPTISMAL SERVICE**

Be it known, that all that is required for the rite of baptism is for the Minister or Brother to say, "Sister/Brother \_\_\_\_\_, I therefore baptize you in the Name of Jesus Christ." The candidate is then taken down in the water (complete submersion) and straightway comes out of the water.

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper is to be administered in the following manner:

The Minister, after reading the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of I Corinthians, verses 20-34 and St. John 13:14-15, shall bless the bread and then serve in like manner, and shall bless the wine and then serve (St. Mark 14:22-23).

After the consecration of the elements, the Minister may first receive the communion in both hands himself, and then proceed to deliver the same into the hands of the other members of the body in like manner.

When he delivers the bread, he shall say, "This is my body which is given for you: This do in remembrance of me." The Minister that delivers the one cup may say, "This is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you. Drink ye all of it."

When all have partaken of the Lord's Supper, the Minister then pours water into a basin to wash the feet of those who have taken the Lord's Supper. The towel which he has girded himself with, shall be used to dry the feet of those who have had their feet washed. After this has been completed, a hymn may then be sung according to St. John 13:14-15.

When it is time for feet washing, the brothers are to be separated from the sisters at all times. “Let all things be done decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:40).

## **MARRIAGE CEREMONY**

The parties who are to be united will stand before the Minister; the man will stand to the right of the woman. After a prayer, the Minister shall say:

“The ordinance of marriage is an institution of God. God saw in the Garden of Eden that it was not good for man to be alone, so he gave him a help-meet. As it is an appointment of God, it is to be entered into soberly and discreetly, as in His sight. In the eternal living Word of God, you will find counsel which you will need in this mutual relationship. The vows are broken only by death itself. Therefore, having chosen each other as partners for life, you may join your right hands.”

The man then takes the woman’s right hand. The Minister shall continue:

To the man: “Do you ‘A’ take ‘B’, whom you hold by the right hand, to be your lawful and wedded wife? Do you promise to love, to honor, to cherish, to protect; forsaking all others, in sickness, as well as in health, in adversity, as well as in prosperity; to cleave only unto her so long as you both shall live?” (The man shall answer, “I Do”.)

To the woman: “Do you ‘B’ take ‘A’, whom you hold by the right hand, to be your lawful and wedded husband? Do you promise to love, to honor, to cherish; forsaking all others, in sickness, as well as in health, in adversity, as well as in prosperity; to cleave only unto him so long as you both shall live?” (The woman shall answer, “I Do”.)

The Minister shall then pray.

After prayer, the parties join hands again. The Minister shall then say:

“And now by the virtue of authority vested in me by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is Almighty God of heaven and earth; and by the laws of this State, I pronounce you husband and wife. What God hath joined together let not man put asunder.”

The Minister shall then ask the congregation to stand for the closing prayer and benediction.

## **BURIALS**

Be it known that First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. does not have funerals. Neither the prophets nor the apostles had funerals, only burials. Whenever a servant of the Lord died, they were simply buried. When Moses died, he was buried by the Lord: “So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab according to the Word of the Lord. And he (the Lord) buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: But no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day” (Deuteronomy 34:5-6).

When Jesus died, he also did not have a funeral; he was simply buried. “This *man* (Joseph of Arimathaea) went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid” (St. Luke 23:52-53). We are not greater than Jesus. If he was simply buried, everyone else can be done so likewise. “And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him (Jesus), they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre” (Acts 13:29). Likewise, when Deacon Stephen died, he too, was simply buried. “And devout men carried Stephen to *his burial*, and made great lamentation over him” (Acts 8:2).

When a member of the Body dies, he or she will NOT be funeralized. The Church will bury the deceased if the deceased did not have adequate finances to be buried. If the

family wishes to have a funeral for the deceased, then the body of the deceased will be completely turned over to the family. The Church will NOT be responsible for the deceased in any manner. It is written, “But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead” (St. Matthew 8:22). It is advised that members inform their families of the Church’s policy in writing while they live, to avoid any undue misunderstanding upon their death.

If a member leaves or is disfellowshipped from the Church and dies while he or she remains out, then the Church will not be responsible for that individual at the time of their death. It is written, “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (I John 2:19).

#### **Burial Service:**

After the coffin is carried to the burial place, it is to be lowered into the earth. Afterwards, prayer is to be made for them that are alive and remain. “God is not the God of the dead, but of the living” (St. Matthew 22:32).

## **VI. MORAL STANDARD**

## **MORAL STANDARD**

### **MORAL STANDARD FOR THE SAINTS OF GOD**

We are to honor and give glory to God because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost (Romans 12:1-2; I Corinthians 6:19-21; 10:31). If we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the works and lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). The works of the flesh that do not glorify God are found in several passages of Scripture (Romans 1:24; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8).

The works of the flesh that are condemned and named include: homosexuality, adultery, worldly attitudes, evil communication (gossip, angry outbursts, profane and filthy words), murder, drunkenness, stealing, and witchcraft.

When we respect the liberty in Christ which is ours as a benefit, it should not be an occasion for one to slip back under the dominion of the power of Satan (St. John 8:32, 36; Romans 6:14; 8:2). We are not to become entangled again under the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1). In light of this God given liberty, it is imperative that the saints refrain and abstain from all alcoholic beverages and any habit forming or mood-altering substances. Chemical substances are forbidden for the saints of God. These vices are out of character and do not perpetuate a positive, moral ethic for those who are sanctified. Saints must never participate in activities such as gambling or playing the lottery. These things will corrupt the temple of God and enslave the Spirit that had once made us free (Isaiah 28:7; James 1:21).

The foundation of First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. is built upon the timeless truths found in the inspired Scriptures. The "Holiness of God" is our creed (the basic essential tenets of our faith, which is supported and undergirded by the authority of God's Word) in and for our daily living. Our theology is the study of God's discipline for holy living and views that certify our doctrine as written in the Scriptures. This theology is rooted and grounded in our knowledge and comprehension of the mystery of the Oneness in the Godhead; and the repentance for sins, the water baptism in the Name

of Jesus Christ and the receiving of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. Our theology also goes on to include the living of a holy life in this present evil world until Christ comes for His Church, whether we be alive or asleep. There are many who had once loved and held the Truth of God dear to their hearts and maintained the faith in its orthodox perspective in principles, and have now let down the standard, giving heed to many seducing spirits.

It is the goal and objective of this body, with God as our helper to:

- hold to and stand for Truth which the devil has obscured from the eyes of many in these last and evil days;
- hold Scripture as the ruling guide for our conduct; and re-affirm our standard of holiness in doctrine, principles, and conduct;
- have its Ministers and members reflect this standard of holiness in their daily walk with God;
- have Ministers and members prayerfully guard their lives and not be conformed to this world in selfish gain, willful pride, worldly appearance, worldly attitudes, nor to associate with those who are deliberate in their attempt; and
- not attack the Church, which Jesus Christ has purchased with His blood.

## **VII. EPILOGUE**

## EPILOGUE

The rules and by-laws established for First Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Inc. are done so in accordance with the infallible Doctrine that God revealed to His Holy Prophets and Apostles. Consequently, our rules and by-laws **must not** contradict these Holy Precepts, but rather coincide with them.

Nevertheless, let us always be mindful that rules and by-laws are **not** equivalent to Doctrine, and as such may warrant revision and modification as the need arises. Furthermore, God has granted us the understanding that the Holy Scriptures are not to be taught from a “Westernized” point of view. Neither then should our by-laws take on a similar bias.

As the work of the Lord continues to grow, brothers and sisters are being drawn from all corners of the earth. While we are of yet One Body, we are represented by many different languages, cultures, and economic backgrounds. It is not our desire to needlessly burden the Holy People of God, particularly those with little means. For this cause, the rules which are established must take into consideration even the least fortunate amongst us.

**Peace Be Unto You and With Your Spirit**