

## CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

The name of the church shall be New Hope Bible Church of Lewiston, Maine.

### ARTICLE II

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be to bring glory to God by conducting a local church in accordance with the Word of God, by promoting the worship of our God; edifying believers; teaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27); administering the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as explicitly described in the New Testament and carrying out biblical discipline/restoration of the members of this church (Matt 18:15-20); seeking to win the lost to Christ at home and abroad by establishing other New Testament local churches in this country as the Lord provides, and to send forth missionaries to establish local churches in other countries (Matt 28:18-20); earnestly contending for the Faith (Jude 3); and maintaining a good testimony for Christ in our community and abroad by godliness, good works, and support of church approved ministries (Matt 5:16).

### ARTICLE III

#### DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

New Hope Bible Church believes in a New Testament Christianity. The Word of God is accepted in its entirety as the final source of authority in matters of faith and practice.

#### **The Doctrinal Statement of New Hope Bible Church is as follows:**

1. We believe that the Bible is God's Word that it was written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, that it is absolutely trustworthy and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. We believe in the unity of the Godhead, eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
3. We believe in God, the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
4. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sin of the world by His death on the Cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into Heaven, His high priestly intercession for His people and His personal, visible return to the world according to His promise.
5. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.
6. We believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We believe, therefore, that those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God and suffer eternal torment in a lake of fire.
7. We believe in the church - a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all regenerated people are members (Eph 5:23-24). We believe that a visible church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, buried with Him in baptism and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these visible churches were committed, for observance "till He come," the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of persuading a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master. We believe that human betterment and social improvement are essential products of the Gospel.
8. We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith.
9. We believe that each church is independent and autonomous, and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority, that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**ARTICLES OF FAITH**

**SCRIPTURES:**

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God, and the supreme and sole authority of Christian faith and practice. The Scriptures were originally given through the Holy Spirit by plenary, verbal inspiration, infallibly true and free of error. No other writings, experiences, or traditions of any kind are inspired in this sense. Furthermore, since the Bible was written to be understood by all, it is to be interpreted in a straight-forward, literal manner; where symbols and figures of speech are used, these are made obvious from the context and are to be interpreted in a manner consistent with their use throughout the Bible.

**GODHEAD:**

We believe that God, the Supreme, Eternal, and Unchangeable One has revealed Himself in three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that these three are one God; having the same nature, substance, attributes, and perfections.

- A. God the Father- We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, He hears and answers prayer, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
- B. Jesus Christ- We believe in the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His Virgin Birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and propitious death through His shed blood on the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His present ministry in heaven for the believer, and in His soon return.
- C. Holy Spirit- We believe that the Holy Spirit, as Deity, is a Person and that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He is the Agent of the New Birth, that He baptized all true believers into the body of Christ, indwelling them securing them unto the day of redemption; that He endues, guides, teaches, and helps believers; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit for service. We do not believe that the evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence or power in a Christian's life will be proven by speaking in "tongues."

**CREATION:**

- A. Man, Animals, and Nature- We believe in the literal, Biblical account of creation, both of the universe and the earth with its complexity of living forms, and that all basic types of living things including man (in the image of God), were made by direct creative acts of God during the creation week described in Genesis. We do not believe in the theories of evolution in any of their forms.
- B. Satan- We believe that Satan, and angel created by God for His glory, sinned against God through willful self-exaltation, and was cast from his original position in Heaven. His province is the world-system of which he is prince. He is "that old Serpent called the Devil, and Satan which deceiveth the whole world."

**THE NATURE OF MAN:**

All things were created and are sustained by God; man, in particular, was created for the purpose of mutual love and fellowship between him and his Creator. Though created in the image of God man willfully sinned against God, bringing sin and death into the world. Through Adam, all men have inherited a sin-nature; this nature evidences itself in willful acts of sin. Therefore, all men are guilty sinners, under the just condemnation of a Holy God. We believe that the result of Adam's fall caused all mankind to become sinful and that sin is any act against or lack of conformity to the Word and will of God, whether by outright rebellion or by the inability to hit the mark of God's perfection. The secondary result of sin is the degenerating effect on creation causing death, decay, disease, weeds and strenuous labor. The result of sin is not limited only to those outside of Christ, but extends to the believer as well, for both continue to sin and the only remedy for sin for both sinner and saved is the blood atonement of Christ on the cross.

## **THE WORK OF CHRIST:**

The eternal Son became flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, who was born of the virgin Mary by miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a sinless human life, perfectly fulfilling the divine law, and then offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of every man, He died on the Cross, shedding His precious blood, in full substitution and atonement for the sins of all men everywhere. He was buried, and on the third day He arose bodily from the dead alive forevermore. He later ascended bodily into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Father, He now continually intercedes for those who put their trust in Him.

## **SALVATION:**

Man is utterly unable to save himself from the power or penalty of sin. Each man must be saved wholly on the basis of the work Christ has done in dying for his sins and rising for his justification. This salvation is received instantly and appropriated by simple faith in Jesus Christ as Son of God and personal Savior. A true Christian is one who has been "saved" or "born again," regenerated by the Holy Spirit when he truly believed in Christ. The reality of this experience, as well as one's personal assurance of salvation, will be evidenced by a genuine love for Christ and His Word and by a life characterized by Christ-like motives and his life's examples. Salvation thus includes deliverance from the presence of sin in heaven with Christ. All who are truly born again are kept by the power of God, and according to the proper teachings of the Scriptures can never lose that salvation. It is a free gift, no works bought it, and no lack of work can lose it. The believer is held in the Father's hand, he has an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and he is sealed by the Holy Spirit.

## **THE CHURCH:**

We believe in the church - a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all regenerated people are members (Eph 5:23-24). We believe that a visible church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, buried with Him in baptism and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these visible churches were committed, for observance "till He come," the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; and that God has laid upon these churches the task of persuading a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master. We believe that human betterment and social improvement are essential products of the Gospel.

## **THE PROMISED RETURN OF CHRIST:**

The Lord Jesus will physically return to the earth to establish His millennial kingdom. It is not possible to know the date of His coming; nevertheless, every Christian should live in earnest expectation of His coming at any time. When He comes in the air, both dead and living believers will be caught up to meet Him (I Thess 4:13-5:4, I Cor 15:51-53). At this time these believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to be judged, not for sins, but for rewards. Following this event there will be a time of judgment on the earth, in which the wrath of God will be poured out on unsaved men because of their rejection of God and His Son. God's wrath will **not** affect believers as the Church is exempt from the wrath of God (Romans 5:9, I Thess 1:10, 5:9). After these events, Christ will come to the earth in power and glory to reign for a thousand years.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

#### **Section 1- The Church**

The church shall be strictly self-governing in all matters, and shall never be under the control of any denomination or federation of churches. The church may seek fellowship with other congregations of like faith and practice.

#### **Section 2- The Board of Elders**

The Board of Elders shall constitute the governing body of the church, and shall conduct its spiritual and business affairs.

### **Section 3- The Congregation**

The congregation (herein defined as the membership of New Hope Bible Church) shall vote on all major decisions of the church (i.e. calling and/or dismissal of the Pastor/Teacher and Elders; any purchase over \$400 outside the budget, building, expansion, or sale of church buildings and land; and changes to the By-Laws, Constitution and Doctrinal Statement). All voting is restricted to members eighteen (18) years of age or older. Voting for major decisions must be by secret ballot. Decisions will normally require a majority of votes cast at the congregational business meeting (except when stated otherwise in the By-Laws). A voting quorum of 50% of the members is required. A member may vote by proxy, provided the member contacts an Elder prior to the said vote.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **OFFICERS, THEIR ELECTION/APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES**

The scriptural officers of the Church shall be Elders and Deacons. The Elders (including the Pastor/Teacher) and Deacons shall be nominated by the congregation, approved by the Board of Elders, and confirmed by the congregation.

#### **Section 1- Pastor/Teacher**

- A. Qualifications- The qualifications for Pastor//Teacher/Elder are set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-4.
- B. Election/Appointment- The candidate for Pastor/Teacher shall be carefully and prayerfully recommended by the Board of Elders and/or Pulpit Committee to the Congregation. He shall be elected by receiving at least two-thirds of the ballots cast by the voting members at the Congregational Meeting specifically designated for that purpose.
- C. Duties - The Pastor/Teacher-shall conduct the services of the church. He shall be a voting member of the Board of Elders and shall preside at their meetings. He shall preach the Word of God, administer the Ordinances of the New Testament, shepherd the Church and lead it in the fulfillment of its sacred task. He shall maintain at all times a godly deportment so that no reproach may come through him upon the Body of Christ.
- D. Removal- In the event that the Pastor/Teacher becomes disqualified for the office; he shall be removed only after a vote by a two-thirds majority of the congregation per requirements for a Special Meeting. (See section on Special Meeting).

#### **Section 2 - Elders**

- A. Qualifications- The qualifications for Elders are set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-4.
- B. Election- The election of Elders will follow these steps:
  - a. **Selection:** The Congregation shall recommend individuals they believe should be considered for the Board of Elders. At least 8 weeks before the yearly congregational meeting, the congregation and the present Elders and Deacons will be in earnest prayer concerning the nominations for the office of Elder. At least 6 weeks before the meeting, the Elders will be discussing the names of candidates who are already faithfully serving the Lord, and qualified. If anyone from the congregation would like to nominate someone, they must see the Elders personally between the 8th and 6th weeks before the meeting, as no nominations will be taken from the floor during the congregational meeting.
  - b. **Approval:** The Pastor/Teacher and current Elders shall review and discuss the nominees in light of their salvation experience, testimony, and fulfillment of the Scriptural qualifications in the spirit of I Tim 3:1, 10, 5:22. The Pastor/Teacher and current Elders shall visit the modified list of nominees and question them as to their call and willingness to serve. The Elders shall then vote by secret ballot, and those nominees unanimously selected shall be considered a candidate for the office of Elder.

- c. **Confirmation:** The names of the final nominees shall be placed on a paper ballot for secret vote at the congregational meeting, and they must be carried by a two-thirds majority vote. The term of office of an Elder shall be for life. In the case of Scriptural discipline, where he is found and proven guilty of Scriptural error and voted out by a two-thirds majority of the congregation, his term shall end immediately. (See Special Meeting Section)

### **Section 3 - Organization/Operation Procedures of the Board of Elders**

- A. The Elders shall number 3 or more as the needs and size of the congregation shall indicate as determined by the Board of Elders. They shall elect the Business Manager and their own secretary. The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church. The Pastor/Teacher shall be the Chairman of the Board.
- B. They shall hold monthly and called meetings. Two-thirds of the Elders must be present and a quorum will never be less than 3.
- C. Decisions involving major issues shall require the unanimous approval of the Elder Board. Major issues shall include but not be limited to: The recommendation of the Pastor/Teacher or Elder; the appointment of a Deacon; and annual budget approval. For decisions involving major issues, the Elders will communicate regularly with the church body in order to receive specific input to these decisions and to solicit prayer for these decisions. In the event that there are not 3 Elders, all decisions concerning the church shall be turned over to the congregation provided there are at least 15 members. If 15 members are not present, no decision may be made.

### **Section 4- Duties of the Board of Elders**

The Elders shall be the governing body of this Church. The specific responsibilities of the Elders shall include:

- A. Provide spiritual direction and oversight of the Church, communicating regularly what God has done and is doing through the church body, as well as the vision and direction for the future.
- B. Make provision for the supply of the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor/Teacher, and to take full charge of all services not conducted by the Pastor/Teacher.
- C. Cooperate with the Pastor/Teacher in the shepherding of the Church body and equipping the body for the work of the ministry.
- D. Be responsible for serving the elements of the Lord's Supper.
- E. Supervise and administer all ways and means of raising funds; receive and disburse the funds of the Church; authorize the hiring and discharge of personnel; appoint and remove those in leadership and teaching positions, including the Treasurer; authorize salaries and missionary allowances; acquire or dispose of any loans on behalf of this church; take all necessary measures for the protection, management and upkeep of all property; determine the use of the facilities of this church; render a written report to the Church at the Annual Meeting, communicating what God has done and the vision and direction for the future.
- F. Represent New Hope Bible Church in its legal responsibilities as "trustees" to the State, County and Town. They will acquaint themselves with the laws and ordinances that pertain to churches and ensure that such laws are faithfully obeyed in all matters affecting the Church.
- G. Interpret this Constitution.

### **Section 5-Deacons**

- A. Qualifications- The qualifications for Deacon are set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- B. The selection, approval, and confirmation shall be the same procedure as used in selecting Elders.

- C. Deacons shall serve a 2 year term which may be renewed by the same procedure outlined for a new deacon.
- D. Organization/Operating Procedures
  - 1. They shall elect their own secretary, who will be the Clerk of the Church, and the Elders shall appoint the Chairman.
  - 2. They shall hold monthly and called meetings.
  - 3. A majority of the Deacons shall constitute a quorum.
- E. Duties of Deacon
  - 1. Assist in the general visitation ministry of the Church.
  - 2. Minister to orphans and widows.
- F. Give special attention to those who are sick and those with other special needs (aged, shut-ins etc.).
  - 1. Administer the Deacons' Fund.
  - 2. Assist in maintaining contact with all Church members.
  - 3. They shall assist in other ministries as requested by the Elders.

#### **Section 6- Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall deposit the funds of the corporation in designated banks. He will not be an Elder. He shall be appointed by the Board of Elders annually, and may be re-appointed. He shall co-sign checks with the Business Manager, not the Chairman of the Board of Elders. Also, he shall assist the Business Manager in other ways as needed or requested. Another person may also be appointed co-signer of checks by the Elder Board.

#### **Section 7- Clerk**

The Clerk shall be elected annually from and by the Deacon Board, with re-election possible, and shall be responsible for keeping a careful and complete set of minutes for all congregational business meetings, as well as other clerical functions prescribed by the church.

#### **Section 8- Business Manager**

The Business Manager shall be elected by and from the Elder Board. He shall co-sign checks with the Treasurer. He will not be Chairman of the Board of Elders. He will be responsible for keeping the financial records of the church and providing the financial reports as needed.

### **ARTICLE VII**

#### **FINANCIAL POLICIES**

This church shall follow "faith" principles with reference to funds needed for support of its ministries, looking to the Lord to supply the needs through His people in the church. At no time will the amount of any individual's contributions be disclosed to other members. However, the church will keep a record of individual contributions, insofar as identifiable when made, and furnish statements of total contributions to each person at the end of each calendar year. The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31. Quarterly financial statements shall be available to all members. These quarterly reports will disclose all business transacted during that quarter and year-to-date information.

### **ARTICLE VIII**

#### **MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1- Congregational Meetings**

- A. Regular Meetings -
  - 1. The regular business meetings of the church shall be held after the Sunday service on quarterly basis and notice of such shall be given at least 2 weeks before the meeting.
  - 2. The purpose of the regular meetings is as follows:

- a. To conduct regular business and to approve church officers by ballot
  - b. To conduct regular church business
- B. Special Meetings -
  - 1. Special meetings may be held any time necessary, under the following guidelines; at least one week of notice must be given to the congregation before the proposed meeting is to be held, the notice shall include the reason(s) for the meeting, (i.e. topic(s) of discussion or action(s); however, a quorum must be present to conduct business.
  - 2. It may be called by the following:
    - a. Pastor/Teacher
    - b. At least 50% of the Elders
    - c. At least 50% of the Deacons
    - d. A petition containing signatures of at least 35% of the active members of the church over age 18. (This petition must be given to the Elders before the meeting.)
  - 3. The Pastor/Teacher must be present unless the discussion will center on his salary, or his removal.
- C. Moderator -
 

The moderator at all meetings shall be the Pastor/Teacher. Any meeting at which the Pastor/Teacher is not present shall not be considered an official meeting, except when he is unable to attend, then an Elder may preside, and it will be official.
- D. The order of a church business meeting -
  - 1. Prayer
  - 2. Minutes from previous meetings
  - 3. Reports from Elders, Deacons, and temporary committees
  - 4. Unfinished business
  - 5. New business
  - 6. Adjournment with prayer
- E. Robert's Rules of order shall serve as a guide to accomplish a business-like and orderly meeting. (I Corinthians 14:40). A majority of the Elders can override the Robert's Rule of order as they see fit.
- F. The quorum of this church shall be 50% of the local members (but never less than fifteen members) of this church at least 18 years of age. A quorum must be present to conduct business.
- G. Church business may carry with a simple majority vote, unless otherwise specified.
- H. Anyone considered "out of order" by the moderator, will not be permitted to speak again in the remainder of that meeting.
- I. Only members of this church may vote at business meetings. (However meetings are open to all others)
- J. Items to be placed on the congregational business meeting agenda must be given to the Elders at least one week before the congregational meeting.

## **Section 2- Elders' and Deacons' Meetings**

The Elders and Deacons shall have a meeting every month to pray, discuss, and plan how our church can best fulfill the job the Lord has given us to do. The congregation may submit items to be discussed at these meetings; and these meetings may be joint or separate.

- A. Joint Meetings -
  - 1. The Pastor/Teacher shall chair this meeting and the Clerk shall keep minutes.
- B. Separate Meetings -
  - 1. The Elders - The Pastor/Teacher shall chair this meeting and the Elder Board Secretary shall keep minutes.
  - 2. The Deacons - The Chairman of the Deacon Board shall be moderator and the Clerk and shall be

responsible for the taking of minutes.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1- General**

Members of this church shall have professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and shall have been baptized by immersion as a symbol of inward regeneration.

#### **Section 2- Admission**

Believing that the Lord adds believers to a church to serve Him through that local assembly, (1 Corinthians 12:14-31; Ephesians 4:11-12); we present the following for those who are led of the Lord to join this church:

- A. If after reading the church Constitution, one finds himself/herself in substantial agreement with the Doctrinal Statement, Articles of Faith, and Church Government, then the applicant must complete the application for church membership attached to this constitution and give it to the Elders.
- B. Meet with an Elder(s) personally at a time convenient to all for any discussion that may be helpful.
- C. Your name and the names of other current applicants will be brought forth at the next church business meeting and voted upon.
- D. As the congregation carries your request for membership, you will be received into the fellowship the Sunday following the business meeting.
- E. Miscellaneous- A husband and wife may join the church with their believing children (under age 18) as a family. Any child 18 years of age or older, should join individually.

#### **Section 3- Termination of Membership**

- A. Discipline (for Restoration) - Believing that the purity of the local assembly is of great importance in Scripture, (1 Cor. 5; Acts 5:1-11) it is necessary to establish a Scriptural disciplinary procedure.
  1. Personal, loving, private rebuke (Matt. 18:15). If a person is living in sin as a bad testimony, or has offended you, go to that person and ask him/her to repent, or make right the offense.
  2. The rebuke of two or three witnesses of which one should be an Elder or Deacon (Matt. 18:16). These witnesses go with you to ask him/her to repent or make right the wrong.
  3. The church rebukes him/her (Matt. 18:17). The church is asked to approach the wrongdoer for reconciliation.
  4. If he/she still does not repent, withdraw him from the fellowship and continue to pray that the Lord will change him (Matt. 18:17b, 1 Cor. 5:7-13).
  5. To be reinstated, the repentant believer would need to apologize to the church and ask the church to forgive them, then follow the steps of any new member.
- B. Absence –
  1. Any member who is continually absent from church services for 3 consecutive months will automatically be dropped from membership unless that absence is involuntary (illness, etc.).
  2. To be reinstated, a person would simply need to apply as a new member.
- C. Request -
  1. Any member requesting that his membership be dropped because of moving, etc. need to give his/her request in writing to the Elder(s) and his name will be dropped.
  2. To be reinstated, a person would simply need to apply as a new member.
- D. Death -
  1. If a member of the church passes on to Glory, they will of course, cease to be a member of the church.

## ARTICLE X

### MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Visiting Speakers- No preacher, pulpit orator, or musician will be permitted to preach or perform in this church who fails to confess clearly and thoroughly the Articles of the Faith. Any visiting speaker or musician must be approved by the Elders. (I Peter 5:2)
- B. Pastor/Teacher Salary and Vacation-
  - 1. Salary - The Pastor/Teacher's salary shall be reviewed at least once a year with consideration given to the average salary of the men in the church, and the rising cost of living.
  - 2. Vacation - The Pastor/Teacher shall have not less than two weeks paid vacation each year and he may attend conferences and seminars in addition to the vacation.
- C. Legal Provisions- This church shall have the right to own, buy, or sell tangible properties, both real or personal, in its own name and through properly elected officers when authorized by vote of the church, unless otherwise stated in this constitution. (Incorporation officers shall be legally responsible until Elders and Deacons are installed, then these Scriptural leaders will be the legal officers of the church.)
- D. Other Teachings of Scripture- With respect of doctrines and practices, not specifically referred to in the foregoing, the individual is at liberty to believe and practice in accordance with his own conscience and understanding of the Scripture, at the same time allowing others in the church the same liberty, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- E. Amendments- Articles of this Constitution, or a portion thereof, may only be amended by a two-thirds vote in a duly-called business meeting, and that only after careful consideration of all viewpoints and much prayer. Such amendments shall first be proposed to the Board of Elders who must unanimously agree to bring it to the congregation for a vote.
- F. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the organization is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes a specified in Section 501(c)(3) or corresponding provisions of any subsequent law.
- G. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by IRC 501(h)) or participating in, or intervening in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
- H. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, director, officer of the organization, or any private individual (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the organization), and no member, trustee, or officer of the organization or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the organization's assets on dissolution of the organization.

**ARTICLE XI**

**DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution, all of the remaining assets and property of the organization shall, after payment of all necessary expenses thereof, be distributed to organizations that qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws, or to the Federal government or State or local governments for a public purpose, subject to the Federal government or State or local governments for a public purpose, subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Maine.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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