

# The Church

We believe that a New Testament Church is a visible, local, organized body of born-again believers, who have been scripturally baptized, and who have voluntarily associated and covenanted together to carry out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry organized the first church. He called unto Him whom He would from the saved and baptized followers of John the Baptist and ordained them to be His twelve (12) Apostles. We also believe that John the Baptist received the authority to baptize from God, and we believe our Lord gave his disciples the authority to baptize. (**Mark 3:13-19; 1 Cor. 12:28; Matt. 3:1-17; 4:12-25; Mark 1:1-22; Luke 3:2-18; John 3:23-36**). Jesus and all the apostles including the successor to Judas Iscariot (**Acts 1:21-22**) were baptized by John.
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught, and defined in the New Testament Scriptures ( **Acts 14:27; 20:17; 28:32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11**).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church therefore, it is to be free of any external authority or control (**Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16, 5:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4**).
4. We believe in two Ordinances of the Church: (a) Baptism by immersion administered by a scriptural New Testament church and (b) The Lord's Supper which we believe consists of two elements: unleavened bread, and the fruit of the vine (grape juice). We also believe in a closed communion of which active church members partake (**Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26**).
5. We believe that the New Testament Church today will believe the same doctrines as the first church. We also hold that true believers in Christ and scriptural churches of all ages were bound together in scriptural ties, through fellowship in a common faith and doctrinal unity.