

**Constitution and By-Laws
of the
Good Samaritan Haven**

PREAMBLE

We, the body of believers of Jesus Christ, in order to meet the basic human needs of those who are homeless and without any other resource, to have compassion for and give encouragement to the destitute, to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to provide for the poor, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, do hereby adopt this Constitution.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this group shall be: "Good Samaritan Haven."

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The desire of the Good Samaritan Haven is that each man, women, and child who comes to us might not only have physical needs met, but would be enriched in their knowledge of God's love and find hope and peace within our doors as well. It is our goal that in each volunteer, a resident see the reflection of Christ, and that the Good Samaritan Haven be a witness to the community of God's power and compassion.

ARTICLE III: TENETS OF FAITH

- A. We believe that sin, which is inherent in all humanity, separates us from God, our neighbor, and our "selves" as God intended them to be: but through the gracious and loving incarnation work of Jesus Christ the Son of God, which culminated in His death on the cross and in His resurrection from the dead, the barrier of sin was removed, giving all humanity the potential of eternal life upon acceptance of His free gift.
- B. We believe that love is the chief evidence of spiritual rebirth. "We love, because He first loved us: (John 4:19). Therefore, having been reconciled to God through Christ, we now are guided by love to our task: that by word and deed we will share with all people the Good News of Christ as recorded in the Bible, God's inspired word, "that believing they may have life in his name " (John 20:31)
- C. We believe it is the response of love to minister unreservedly and unconditionally to the needs of the whole person-physical as well as spiritual, and that we are specifically called of God to "the least of these our brothers"(Matthew 25:40). Therefore, we accept others wherever they are, their situations of life, their faith, their lifestyles, and reach out in love to meet their need, open to share Jesus Christ with them if they so choose.

ARTICLE IV: VOLUNTEERS

Each volunteer must have sincere concern for the welfare and needs of all residing at the Good Samaritan Haven. Each volunteer must be a responsible member of the community and will be approved, oriented or dismissed by the Good Samaritan Havens board or its representative(s).

ARTICLE V MINISTRY GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Good Samaritan Haven is to witness in a positive way for Christ. However, we recognize it is counter productive to force our belief on another; therefore, we do not believe our guest should be required to listen to sermons nor take part in any religious service, in order to be welcomed. Guests will be given an opportunity to contact the church of their choice should they wish.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A.** There shall be an official board of not less than seven(7) and not more than fifteen(15) members which shall be committed to the management, support, direction, coordination, of the Good Samaritan Haven and the governing of its ministry. Board members shall be elected for three year terms with at least two members being up for election each year.
- B.** The Board shall elect from among its members one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson, one (1) Treasurer, and one (1) Secretary.
- C.** There shall be a Director of the Good Samaritan Haven approved by the board, who will also serve on the board as a non-voting member.
- D.** Each member of the board of Directors, as well as the Director of the Good Samaritan Haven, must profess faith in Jesus Christ and ascribe to the Good Samaritan Haven's tenets of faith. Each member shall serve as an individual, and not as a representative of an individual church or agency.
- E.** Board members will be encouraged to either volunteer and/or visit the Good Samaritan Haven on a routine basis.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

- A.** The Board of Directors shall meet monthly, with cancellations and extra meetings at the discretion of the officers. The January meeting is designated as its annual meeting.
- B.** A quorum of fifty-one percent (51%) or greater of the Board members shall be required, and no official action may be taken or voted by the Board with less than a quorum.

C. All votes will be determined by the majority vote by the members present, unless otherwise noted in the Constitution or By-Laws. Proxy votes may be called in on agenda items defined at previous meetings, except as otherwise provided.

D. Meetings are to be conducted by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

A. Various committees shall be established by and are directly responsible to the Board for individual attention to various needs.

B. Committees shall be formed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

C. The Chairperson of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

All finances received shall be reinvested into the Good Samaritan Haven for furthering the ministry. At no time shall financial aid that would compromise our purpose and ministry be taken or solicited from Local, State, or federal governments or their agencies.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended or changed only by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total Board of Directors. Any amendment must be proposed at least one month prior to an official vote. A written proxy vote will be accepted.

ADOPTED: 1988

AMENDED: November 11, 1996

REVIEWED: April 19, 2010