

Cordesville First Baptist Church  
Cordesville, SC

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
July 2007

**Preamble**

For the more certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist Denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this constitution.

**I. Name**

This body shall be known as the Cordesville First Baptist Church, Cordesville, SC.

**II. Purpose and Mission**

**Section A. Purpose:**

The purpose of this body shall be to provide regular opportunities for public worship, to sustain the ordinances, doctrines and ethics set forth in the New Testament for the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to nurture its members through a program of Christian Education; to channel its offerings to the support of the objects of the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28:19-20, and to preach and propagate among all people the gospel of the Revelation of God, through Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

We accomplish this through:

- Magnification: To celebrate God's presence in worship and daily living.
- Membership: To incorporate God's Family into our fellowship.
- Maturity: To educate God's people through discipleship to mature Christian living.
- Ministry: To demonstrate God's love through service to one another and our fellow man thus ministering to their needs in the name of Jesus Christ. Each member having a place of service and ministry within the "Body of Christ."
- Missions: As ambassadors for Christ to communicate God's word through evangelism, mission support, church planting, and Christian Vocational Training. To "Go and make disciples."

**Section B: Mission**

The MISSION of Cordesville First Baptist Church is to bring people to Jesus Christ and membership in God's family, to develop them to Christ-like maturity, to equip them for their life mission in the world and their God appointed ministry within the church in order to magnify God's Holy Name throughout the world.

**III. Our Church Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, there, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to educate our children religiously; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **IV. Articles of Faith**

This church uses as its guide in its doctrines and practices the publication entitled "The Baptist Faith and Message" (Published by the BSSB of the Southern Baptist Convention, as revised). The following is based on that publication.

### **I. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

### **II. God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

#### **A. God the Father**

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

## **B. God the Son**

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

## **C. God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

## **III. Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherits a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

## **IV. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a

genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerated person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

## **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

## **VI. The Church**

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

## **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

## **VIII. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

## **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

## **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary efforts on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness under girded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

## **XII. Education**

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

### **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

### **XIV. Cooperation**

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian Denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

### **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

### **XVI. Peace and War**

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war. The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

### **XVII. Religious Liberty**

God alone is Lord of the conscience and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or

denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

## **XVIII. The Family**

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

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## **V. Character**

### **Section A. Doctrine:**

This church receives the Scriptures as its only authority in matters of faith and practice and embraces the verbal inspiration theory of the Holy Bible.

Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Baptist Churches as indicated in the publication entitled "The Baptist Faith and Message." (Published by the BSSB of the Southern Baptist Convention, as revised.)

### **Section B. Polity:**

The government of this church is vested wholly in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body. We recognize and sustain the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention of which we are affiliated but remain an autonomous body.

## **VI. Changes or Amendment**

This constitution and accompanying by-laws may be amended by 25 percent of active church members present at a conference especially called for that purpose; the proposed amendment being inserted in the call having two thirds 2/3 vote. The proposed change shall have been presented in writing to the review committee consisting of the Church Council and two (2) Trustees. Upon their acceptance and approval such change shall be placed before the church type written at a business meeting or special meeting called for that purpose not less than one month before the time of the

proposed action, and read from the pulpit three times preceding such meeting. The date of such amendment being noted underneath.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I. Membership**

#### **Section A. Qualifications:**

The membership of this church shall consist of such persons as confess Jesus Christ to be their Savior and Lord, and who:

1. after due examination by the church as to their Christian experience, and, coming from other churches, as to their letters of dismissal and recommendations or satisfactory substitutes thereof;
2. and have been accepted by vote of the church, and been baptized;
3. enter into its covenant.

#### **Section B. Reception of New Members:**

Candidates for church membership shall express their desire by presenting themselves to the church at any regular service.

#### **Section C. Acceptance of New Members: (How members are received)**

- Baptism – Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and assenting to the views of faith held by this church, after due examination by the church may be voted into the church as a candidate for baptism and after immersion, a member in full fellowship with the church. Persons coming from churches of other faiths and order must present themselves as candidates for baptism.
- Letter – Members of other Baptist Churches (like faith and order) in which they are members in good and regular standing may be received into membership by letter.
- Statement – Members may be received on their statement when, for any reason, it is impossible to secure a letter (due to records destroyed, etc.).
- Associate Member – Holds a dual membership in a church of like faith and order. Have all of the same privileges as other members except absentee voting rights.
- Restoration – When fellowship has been withdrawn from a member and the person desires to return to fellowship, he may do so by applying for membership as “By Restoration”. This includes any member who was placed in In-Active status by the church.

#### **Section D. Duties:**

Members are expected, first of all, to be faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life; and also to attend regularly the services of this church, to give regularly for its support and its causes, and to share in its organized work.

#### **Section E. Termination:**

A member's name shall remain on the church roll until removed by the congregation at a regular business conference for one of the following reasons:

- The name of any member in good standing whose letter is called for by another Baptist Church of like faith and order will be removed from church roll and a letter of recommendation will be sent to the receiving church.
- If a member requests to be released from his covenant obligations to this church, such requests may be granted, and his membership terminated. (no letter granted)
- The church may also, after due notice and hearing and kindly effort to make such action unnecessary, terminate the membership of persons for:
  - The space of one year nonresidence;
  - The same space of time not habitually worshipping with the church;
  - Joining himself to a church that is not of like faith and practice (no letter granted).

- Should a member become an offense to the church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his covenant vows, or non-support of the church may terminate his membership, but only after due notice and hearing, and after faithful efforts have been made to bring such member to repentance and amendment.

The membership of no person shall be terminated (except by letter) at the meeting when the recommendation for such is made. All requests for termination of membership or action looking thereto shall first be considered by the Deacons and Pastor who shall make recommendations to the church. They may also recommend that a member be moved to In-active status.

**Section F. In-Active Membership:**

An In-Active member is any person who has their names on the Church Membership roll and does not attend at least three (3) times a quarter unless providentially hindered, or any person who does not support the Church.

**Article II. Meetings and Quorums**

**Section A. Business Meetings:**

The regular conferences of the church for the transactions of business shall be held as voted on by church body, and the members who are present and in good standing shall constitute a quorum for such purpose. Such conferences shall be held at the place of worship. Any new business brought before the church will be type written before presented.

**Section B. Special Conferences:**

Special conferences may be called by the Pastor or Chairman of Deacons for any special purpose by notifying the congregation from the pulpit at least three (3) days prior to said conference or by notifying each family by mail, which will be postmarked at least two (2) days prior to said conference. Major items will be announced from the pulpit three (3) times, on separate occasions, before such special conference.

**Section C. Moderator:**

The Pastor or one appointed by him shall be the moderator, or in his absence, or in business pertaining to the Pastor, the Chairman of the Administration Council shall preside. In the event that both are absent then a Moderator shall be elected from the Administration Council.

**Section D. Character of Meetings and Conferences:**

All meetings and conferences will be conducted by Parliamentary Procedure as prescribed in "Robert's Rules of Order" unless special provisions are made herein.

**Article III. Church Officers**

The officers of this church shall be as follows:

**I. Pastor:**

**Section A:**

The Pastor shall be a duly licensed and ordained Baptist Minister of the Gospel. His election or dismissal shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week public notice shall be given.

A search committee shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable Pastor and their recommendations will constitute a nomination. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one man at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot and an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those with active membership present being necessary to a choice. If the Pastor resigns or is dismissed, thirty (30) days notice shall be given unless otherwise agreed upon by the Pastor and the Deacons and approved by the Administration Council.

**Section B:**

He shall be called for an indefinite period unless otherwise agreed upon at the time of the call and shall be paid such salary as may be set by the church at the time of the call and then set in the church budget thereafter.

**Section C:**

He shall have general supervision and oversight over all spiritual matters of the church, and all paid employees, and shall direct the administration of the ordinances. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and groups of the church and perform all other duties which pertain to this office.

**Section D:**

He shall have two (2) days each week free for his own use and be allowed two (2) weeks vacation with pay annually. For the Pastor's absence, he shall secure the supply to fill the pulpit. The Pastor will be responsible for the honorarium of a visiting supply while away in revival meetings. The church will be responsible for the honorarium of a supply when he is ill, or on vacation or church business.

**II. Deacons:****Section A. Number, Election, Terms of Service:**

There may be five active Deacons for the first 75 members and two additional Deacons for the next 125 members and one additional Deacon for each additional 100 members. It shall be pertinent for the church to promote to honorary life membership any Deacon who by reason of age or infirmities shall, after having given honorable service, be no longer able to render such active service.

The system of rotating Deacons in active service will prevail, and one-third (1/3) of the active Deacons shall retire from active duty each September in order to begin each new fiscal year with such Deacon board change of personnel. Where a problem should exist as regards of the fraction, 1/3, which would, of a necessity, grow out of the existence of an odd number of active serving Deacons, the fraction would be increased to include the odd number in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of proper rotation.

In August of each year an election will be conducted to choose from those men, properly qualified, successors to those Deacons retiring from active service as per the rules of the rotation system. Any Deacon, thus retiring from active service, must remain an inactive Deacon for the period of one year.

**Section B. Qualifications:**

A Deacon must be scripturally qualified as to 1 Timothy 3:8-16. He must, above that of being of good report be, unless providentially hindered:

1. An active member of Sunday School
2. One in regular attendance of both morning and evening Lord's Day services.
3. A tither of his gross income (these qualifications concur with the belief of this church that the "fruits" of a man of honest report and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom will meet the requirements of the New Testament Deacon, as related in Acts 6:3).

In case of death or removal or incapacity to serve, the church will elect a Deacon to fill the unexpired term.

We hold to no obligation, that we constitute as a Deacon, a brother who comes to the church from one where he has served as a Deacon.

**Section D. Duties:**

In accordance with the meaning of the Word and the practice of the New Testament, Deacons are to be servants of the church. They are to be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bonds of peace.

They shall serve as a council of advice and conference with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church.

With the Pastor they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians, and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God.

By proper organization and method among themselves, they are to establish and maintain fraternal relations with, and inspiring oversight of, all the membership of the church.

Especially are they to seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brethren and sisters, and to serve the whole church in relieving, encouraging, and developing all who are in need.

In case of the inability of the Pastor, subject to advice from conference with him, the Deacons will provide for pulpit supplies. In any period when the church is without a Pastor, unless the church shall otherwise provide, the Deacons will arrange the temporary ministry and take counsel with reference to securing a Pastor. It is not intended in any wise to prejudice herein the method by which the church shall proceed in securing a Pastor.

#### **Section D. Method of Procedure:**

The whole body of Deacons shall be organized as a unit for the consideration of all larger problems and general policies, and shall meet regularly each month as needed. They may organize themselves into such committees as their wisdom may direct for efficiency in service. They shall apportion the membership of the church among themselves and maintain the Deacon-Led Spiritual Growth Program so as to maintain regular spiritual contact with the entire membership.

#### **Section E. Junior Deacons: Qualifications and Apprenticeship**

In July of each year, an opportunity will be given to the church to present any man who has reached at least the age of 21 years, to affirm his personal qualifications for the office of Junior Deacon. Such men, desiring to qualify, will properly submit a church drafted pledge card. This pledge, when signed, would attest to the candidate's scriptural qualifications to serve in this church office. The pledge would demand the very same scriptural qualifications as that of a fully ordained Deacon.

An election, by secret ballot, would be conducted following the signing of these pledges and any number of Junior Deacons, deemed needed, would be thus chosen to serve a one year Deacon Apprenticeship.

These potential Deacon candidates may then be privileged to prove their individual qualifications through attendance at each Deacon meeting with the right to inquire of Deacon procedures and actions but without voting power.

Following a year of active apprenticeship, these men may then become eligible for full Deacon Candidacy to fill open positions and to be held for rotating purposes.

### **III. CLERK**

#### **Section A. Duties:**

The Clerk of the church shall keep in a suitable book a record of the actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. He shall keep a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, dismissal, death, together with a record of baptisms. He shall also notify all officers, members of committees, and delegates of their election or appointment. He shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the church, preserve on file all communications and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary, as indicated in these by-laws.

The clerk shall consider it a part of his responsibility to promote loyalty and efficiency in church life.

#### **Section B. Assistant Clerk:**

An Assistant Church Clerk shall also be elected annually to perform Clerk duties in the absence of the Church Clerk and will conform to this section.

## **IV. TREASURER**

### **Section A. Duties:**

The church shall elect annually a Church Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out upon receipt of vouchers approved and signed by authorized personnel all money, or things of value paid or given to the church, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. Payment of bills for local work and expenses shall be made promptly by check, and all funds received for denominational or other causes shall be remitted at least monthly by check. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting an itemized report of receipts and disbursements. Within thirty days after the end of each fiscal year, the Treasurer shall render to the church an annual report showing the total amount of receipts and statements of all disbursements.

All books, records, and accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be considered the property of the church. The books shall be open to inspection at all times by any member of the church. A yearly external audit shall be presented by Treasurer.

### **Section B. Records:**

Upon rendering the annual account at the end of each fiscal year and its acceptance and approval by the church, the same shall be delivered by the Treasurer to the church Clerk, who shall keep and preserve it as part of the permanent records of the church. The Treasurer shall, upon the election of his successor, at the completion of his fiscal report, promptly deliver all books, records, and accounts relating to, in any manner, the duties of the office he is relinquishing to his successor.

He shall consider it a part of his responsibility to promote in every proper way scriptural giving on the part of the entire membership of the church.

### **Section C. Assistant Church Treasurer:**

An Assistance Church Treasurer shall also be elected annually. The Assistant Treasurer shall be the second signer on the general checking account of the church and shall fulfill the obligations and duties of the Treasurer when the Treasurer is hindered from performing his duties.

## **V. MUSIC DIRECTOR**

### **Section A.**

The Music director shall be a participant in Sunday School, a regular attendant at the morning and evening services on Sunday and on Wednesday evening unless providentially hindered and sign a commitment card before his or her name can be placed before the church for election.

### **Section B.**

There shall be a Music Ministry under the direction of the Music Director. Such officers and organizations shall be included as needed. The basic tasks shall be to teach music and hymnody; provide music and musicians for the congregational services and the organizations of the church; lead persons to participate in hymn signing; train persons to lead, sing, and play music; provide organization and leadership for special projects of the church; provide and interpret information regarding the work of the church and the denomination.

## **VI. OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:**

All organizations of the church shall be under church control, all officers being elected by the church and reporting regularly to the church. It is understood that the Pastor is a member ex-officio of all the organizations named.

### **Section A. Sunday School Director:**

The Sunday School Director shall be a regular attendant at the morning and evening services on Sunday and on Wednesday evening unless providentially hindered and sign a commitment card before his name can be placed before the church for election.

The Director of the Sunday School shall have general oversight of the entire school, and shall administer its affairs in cooperation with, and according to, plans and methods subject to the approval of the local church.

He shall acquaint himself with the best methods of religious education and endeavor to adopt them in his school. It shall be his duty to counsel weekly or monthly with his teachers and officers through officers' and teachers' meetings in the work of the school, giving advice and receiving suggestions from his coworkers.

An Assistant shall be elected to aid, assist, and understudy the Director.

**Section B. Brotherhood Director:**

The Brotherhood Director shall be a member of the Sunday School, a regular attendant at the morning and evening services on Sunday, and on Wednesday evening unless providentially hindered, and sign a commitment card before his name can be placed before the church for election.

The Brotherhood Director shall promote the work of the Brotherhood, seeking to enlist the men and boys of the church in an active program for Christ.

He shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

**Section D. Women's Missionary Union (WMU) Director:**

The WMU Director shall be a member of the Sunday School, a regular attendant at the morning and evening services on Sunday and on Wednesday evening unless providentially hindered, and sign a commitment card before there name can be placed before the church for election.

The WMU Director shall seek to enlist all the women, young women, and children of the church in a program of missions, training, giving, and activity according to plans promoted by the WMU.

She shall see that a full and accurate report is given at the regular business meetings of the church.

**Article IV Administration Council**

**Section A.**

The Administration Council will consist of the Chairman of the Deacons, Church Clerk, Sunday School Director, Brotherhood Director, WMU Director, Music Director, and the Treasurer.

**Section B.**

The Chairperson shall be elected by a vote of the Council. The Council shall have the responsibility of preparing a church calendar which shall serve to coordinate the activities of all departments.

**Section C.**

In counsel with the Pastor, and by such methods as the Holy Spirit may direct in accordance with the New Testament teachings, they are to have oversight of the discipline of the church, in administering, and they are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. The Administration Council shall be free to call upon any member of the church to aid in disciplinary action. The Administration Council shall freely confer with the Pastor about all matters wisely and spiritually handled in private.

**Article V Committees**

The following shall be the standing committees of this church. On committees where the heads of departments or heads of organizations make up the members, they shall serve as Chairperson and in their absence their related Vice-Chairman, Vice-President, or Associate will serve in their place on these committees.

### **Section A. Nominating Committee:**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members at large elected by the church annually and the Chairman of Deacons.

Nominations shall be made in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the church year for members of this committee. The three receiving the highest number of votes and the Chairman of Deacons shall constitute the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate a Sunday School Director to the church at the business meeting and after being elected, he will become member of the Nominating Committee.

The Brotherhood Director and WMU Director, after being elected in May by their respective organizations will become members of the Nominating Committee.

### **Section B. Baptismal Committee:**

The Baptismal Committee shall consist of two men and two women. This committee shall assist the candidates at all baptismal services. They shall see that proper arrangements have been made for the service (pool filled, etc) and shall advise all candidates of the time of baptism and the proper clothing needed.

### **Section C. Lord's Supper Committee:**

This committee shall consist of three (3) persons and shall assist the Deacons in preparation of the Lord's Supper.

### **Section D. Building & Grounds Committee:**

The Building and Grounds Committee shall be composed of five (5) members elected annually by the church and at least one trustee.

This committee shall be responsible for seeing that the grounds of the church are kept in good repair and neat in appearance and will be responsible for maintenance and repair of all church buildings, structures, and grounds.

The Pastor shall be responsible for the general condition of the Parsonage and grounds thereof, fair wear and tear exempted, and shall report needed repairs to the Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee.

### **Section F. Usher Committee**

The Usher Committee shall be composed of at least six (6) members elected annually.

This committee shall see that there are a sufficient number to usher at all church services. The Ushers shall be at the doors of the church at all services to welcome and greet the members and visitors. They shall see that all are comfortably seated and assist the people to the vacant seats.

The Ushers shall give out the church bulletins, papers, envelopes, etc., when needed and collect the offerings.

The Ushers shall keep the doors closed during the prayer and reading of the Scripture, at Baptism, and the observance of the Lord's Supper.

They shall see that the offering plates are placed for all services. They shall be responsible for maintaining perfect order in and around the building during the services of the church.

The Ushers will elect their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

### **Section G. Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee shall be composed of the Administrative Council.

This committee shall be the Budget Committee of the Church with the responsibility of making up the proposed budget of the church each year.

#### **Section H. Trustees:**

The Board of Trustees shall consist of four (4) members of the church in good standing, and shall be elected by the church for an indefinite period of time.

Any vacancy that may occur on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by calling an election for that purpose, such election to be announced at least one week in advance of the balloting.

The church may vote the removal of any trustee at any time, and elect a successor to the board.

Nomination shall be made by the deacons, but additional nominations may be made from the floor.

They shall have care, custody and control of all properties of the church and administer the same under such rules as may be prescribed by the church.

#### **Section I. Teller Committee:**

The Teller committee shall consist of at least two (2) persons and one alternate of good character and able to keep the confidence of this office. They shall be appointed by the Nomination committee.

This committee shall be responsible to see that gifts, offerings and tithes are counted and the money turned over to the Treasurer for deposit; and the envelopes turned over to the Treasurer after due record has been made.

#### **Section J. Association Executive Committee**

Two (2) persons shall be elected to represent our church on the Associational Executive Committee in addition to the Pastor.

#### **Section K. Benevolence Committee**

The Benevolence Committee shall be elected by the church to see to the needs of the families of deceased loved ones (to provide food or other needs).

#### **Section L. Other Committees**

Other committees shall be determined by the needs of the church. Special committees shall be appointed by the Pastor. Standing committees shall be nominated by the nominating committee. Final approval of all standing committees shall be by vote of the church.

### **Article VI Resignation of Church Officers**

Resignations shall be voted on by the church, but upon request of the Pastor or Chairman of Deacons, such vote may be delayed for thirty (30) days after it has been filed in writing with the appropriate officer in order to give the above mentioned time to investigate the situation if they deem necessary.

### **Article VII Removal of Church Officers**

Any officer may be removed by written just cause by a vote of the church at any time after giving up to *thirty (30)* days notice of such contemplated action unless stated otherwise in these bylaws.

### **Article VIII Vacancy of Church Officers**

All vacancies shall be filled by the church in such manner as it may deem necessary if not otherwise stated herein.

## **Article IX The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper shall be observed by this church one Sunday of each quarter as a minimum. Apart from the regular observance, it may be observed whenever the Pastor deems the occasion of sufficient importance to ask for its being observed.

## **Article X Church/Fiscal Year**

### **Section A: Church Year**

The church year shall begin the first day of September and shall end the last day of August. All references made to annual or year in these bylaws shall conform to this period unless otherwise specified.

## **Article XII Distribution**

A copy of this Constitution and By Laws and established Church Policies shall be kept in the church clerk's current record book and at least one copy shall be kept in the church office.

These shall be made available to any member for inspection on request.

Each member shall be provided with one copy and each new member shall be presented one copy.

## **Article XV Marriage in the Church**

The Pastor, in cooperation with the Deacons, shall establish and administer a policy for marriages within the church.

The Pastor has the right to refuse to perform the Marriage Ceremony of any couple when he has reason to believe there is Biblical reason such marriage should not take place or that such marriage is not in the best interest of the couple or the church.

**END**