

**CONSTITUTION
OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CACHE, OKLAHOMA**

Preamble

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and that this body may be governed in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual member of this church and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

Article I. Name

This body is incorporated under the laws of the State of Oklahoma, and shall be known as the "First Baptist Church, Cache, Oklahoma" and is listed as a 501(c)3 religious, not for profit organization.

Article II. Mission Statement

First Baptist Church exists as a group of Christ followers engaged in evangelism and discipleship by using their spiritual gifts to provide outreach, ministry, education, worship, and fellowship in a corporate setting as well as their personal lives. Acts 2:42-47 -- Proposed Mission Statement: We make it our mission to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We will love others as we would ourselves while showing such love through service and charity. We will give of ourselves to help meet the spiritual and physical needs of those around us. We will be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors, our community, our state, our nation, and our world. We will stand unified in our mission and will strive to advance the Kingdom of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Article III. Statement of Faith

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, as a faithful, but not exhaustive, statement of belief. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to a lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper.

THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men who were divinely influenced. The Holy Bible is God's explaining Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine teaching. God is the author. Salvation is its purpose. Truth, without any mistakes, is its substance. For these reasons, all Scripture is completely true. All Scripture is completely correct. It tells the main beliefs that God uses to judge us. It is the true center of Christianity. It will remain the center of Christianity until the end of the world. It is the most excellent ideal. It is with this ideal that all human behavior, all statements of belief, and all religious opinions should be tested. All Scripture is proof of the Christ. Christ is the center 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. He is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is never-ending in purity. God is perfect. God is all powerful. God is all knowing. He knows about all things in the past, present, and future. He knows about all of the future decisions that His free created beings will make. To Him we owe the highest love, respect, and obedience. The

never-ending God shows Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three have separate personal characteristics. There is no difference in their nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father rules with kind care over His universe, His creatures, and human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful. He is all knowing. He is all loving. He is all wise. God is Father to people 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 never-ending Son of God. In His life as Jesus Christ, He was brought into being by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus completely showed and did the will of God. He became a human being with all the stress and needs of human beings. He identified completely with humans. Even though He was human, He had no sin. He respected the divine law. He personally obeyed God. When He died for others on the cross, He made a way for the salvation of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body. He appeared to His disciples. They knew that He was the person who was with them before His death on the cross. He went up into heaven. He is now honored at the right hand of God. He is the One Mediator. He is completely God. He is completely man. In Him are God and man brought together. He will return in power and majesty to judge the world. When He returns, He will complete His work of salvation. He now lives in all believers as the living and always 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. The Holy Spirit is completely divine. He influenced holy men of Bible times to write the Scriptures. By explanation He allows men to understand truth. He honors Christ. He shows men their sin. He shows men the worthiness of Christ. He shows men their punishment. He calls men to the Saviour. He is the source of rebirth. At the moment of rebirth, He takes every believer into the Body of Christ. He grows believers into mature Christians. He comforts believers. He gives the spiritual gifts to believers. With these gifts, believers can serve God through His church. He keeps the believer safe until the day of the last salvation. His presence in the Christian is the promise that God will make the believer completely like Christ. He explains and gives power to the believer and to 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. Man is made in God's likeness. God created them as male and female. They are the greatest work of His creation. Being made male or female by God is a part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin. He was given the gift of freedom of choice by his Creator. By his free choice man sinned against God. Man brought sin into all people in the entire world. Through the temptation of Satan, man disobeyed the command of God. He lost his original innocence. Now all men inherit a life and a background willing to sin. As a result, as soon as they are able to make right decisions and actions, they become sinners. They are guilty of sin. Only the kindness of God can bring man into His holy fellowship. Only the kindness of God can let man complete the creative purpose of God. The godliness of all people is obvious, because God made man in His own likeness. The godliness of all people is obvious, because Christ died for all men. Now every person of every race should receive 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 includes the whole man. Salvation is given to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Jesus Christ by His own blood brought never-ending salvation to the believer. Salvation includes being accepted just as you are when you turn from your sin. Salvation includes being set apart for His work. Salvation includes being made to worship God. There is no salvation without personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's kindness. Believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart created by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit shows us our sin. The sinner begins by turning from sin and turning to God. The sinner has faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Turning from sin and turning to God and faith are experiences of God's kindness that are never separated. Repentance is a real turning from sin to God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the whole person to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's kind and complete pardon from sin of all sinners because of His righteousness. All sinners must turn from their sin and turn to God. All sinners must believe in Christ to receive justification. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and approval with God.

C. Sanctification is the way a believer is set apart for God's purposes. Sanctification begins with new birth. The believer grows toward moral and spiritual maturity. The believer grows because of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit living in him. Growth should continue throughout the believer's life.

D. Glorification is the result of salvation. Glorification is the last blessed condition of the believer. This condition never ends for the believer as he worships God forever in heaven.

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; 11:1-12,14; 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

Becoming one of God's children is the caring work of God. He accepts us just as we are. He sets us apart for His work. He wants us to be with Him and to worship Him forever. God's kind plan does not deny the free will of man. God's plan includes all the ways to accomplish this. God's plan is the great evidence of God's most excellent goodness. God's plan is very wise, holy, and cannot be changed. God's plan does not include boasting. God's plan encourages humility. All true believers continue forever. Believers that God has accepted in Christ and set apart for His work by His Spirit will never lose their salvation. They shall continue forever. Believers may sin because of neglect and temptation. Believers grieve the Spirit because they sin. Believers damage their graces and comforts because of sin. Believers bring criticism on the cause of Christ because of sin. Believers bring worldly judgments on themselves because of sin. Even though they may sin, true believers will still be saved by the power of God through faith in Jesus Christ. 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 independent local congregation of baptized believers. These believers are joined by shared agreement. These believers share in the same faith and fellowship of the gospel. This group of baptized believers observes the two ordinances of Christ. They are guided by His laws. They use the gifts, rights, and privileges given to them by His Word. They are trying to present the gospel to all people on the earth. Each congregation works under the Lordship of Christ by self-governing methods. In this kind of congregation, each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. The church's scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. Both men and women are given gifts by the Holy Spirit for service in the church. The office of pastor is limited to men that meet the qualifications found in Scripture. The New Testament describes the church as the

Body of Christ. This church includes all of the believers from throughout history. These believers come from every people group. They come from every language group. They come from all people from every country. 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. Baptism is the picture of the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. Baptism is a picture of the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in a new life in Christ Jesus. Baptism shows the believer's faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Baptism is required before church membership. Baptism is also required before taking the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a picture of obedience. Church members eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine. They remember the death of the Redeemer. They look forward to 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 custom to recognize this day regularly. On this day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ from the dead. This day should include worship and spiritual commitment, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should agree with the Christian's sense of right and wrong 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; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes His general rule over the universe. The Kingdom of God also includes His rule over men. These men of their own free will accept Him as King. The Kingdom is the area of salvation. Men receive this salvation by having trust like a child and making a commitment like a child to Jesus Christ. Christians should pray and work so that the Kingdom of God may come. Christians should pray and work so that God's will may be done on earth. The Kingdom of God will be complete when Jesus Christ returns to earth again at the end of this time. 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 right end. In keeping with His promise, Jesus Christ will return to earth in person. He will be seen in all His greatness by all people on the earth. The dead will be raised. Christ will judge all men with honesty. The unworthy will be sent to Hell, the place of never-ending punishment. The worthy, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward. They will live 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 job and honor of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to try to make disciples of the people from all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Winning the lost world to faith in Jesus Christ depends on all believers. Making disciples is a Christian duty for the person who has already accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Making disciples is clearly commanded many times 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 try always to win the lost to Christ by a spoken witness. The child of God should also present a Christian way of life. The methods used to witness should be in agreement 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 explanation and intelligence. In Jesus Christ are all the riches of understanding and learning. All good learning is a part of our Christian history. The new birth opens all human abilities. The new birth creates a desire for learning. The reason for education in the Kingdom of Christ is brought together with missions and general kindness to others. These should receive the generous support of the churches. A system of Christian education is necessary for a complete spiritual program for Christ's people. In Christian education, there should be a good balance between educational freedom and educational responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always incomplete and never final. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is controlled by the authority of Jesus Christ. The teacher is controlled by the power of the Scriptures. The teacher is controlled by the obvious purpose for which the school was started and continues. 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 giver of all earthly and heavenly blessings. God is the giver of all that we have and all that we are. Christians have a spiritual responsibility to the whole world. Christians have a responsibility to share the gospel. Christians have a duty to be good managers of their possessions. They have the responsibility to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions. Christians should know that all of these are given to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. The Scriptures say that Christians should give a percentage of their income cheerfully, regularly, carefully, and generously. Christians should give for the progress of the Redeemer's plan 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 time requires, plan associations and conventions that will best get cooperation for the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no power over one another or over the churches. These organizations are voluntary. They are to make suggestions planned to get, to join, and to direct the interests of our people in the most successful way. Members of New Testament churches should help each other to spread the missionary, educational, and kind ministries of Christ's Kingdom. This should be done together to add to Christ's Kingdom. The meaning of Christian unity in the New Testament is spiritual agreement and voluntary help by many groups of Christ's people to reach a common purpose. Cooperation is wanted between the many Christian denominations when the purpose is right. Cooperation is wanted when there is no ignoring of the sense of right and wrong. Cooperation is wanted when there is no giving up of loyalty to Christ and His Word as explained 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 have a responsibility to try to make the will of Christ first in our own lives and in the world. The ways and methods used to improve society and to create righteousness among men can be very helpful. These changes are helpful only if they come because of the rebirth of the person by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. Just like Christ, Christians should be against racial discrimination, every form of greed, self-interest, and evil, and all forms of sexual wrongdoing, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for orphans, the poor, the abused, the old, the weak, and the sick. We should speak for the unborn. We should insist on the holiness of all human life from its creation to natural death. Every Christian should try to bring business, government, and all people under the influence of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. To do this Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause. Christians should always be careful to act in love without giving up 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 try to find peace with all men. In keeping with the character and teachings of Christ, Christians should do everything they can to put an end to war. The true solution for war is the gospel of our Lord. The first need of the world is to accept His teachings in all the actions of men and nations. The world needs to apply His law of love to everything they do. Christian people all over the world should pray for the time to come when the Prince of Peace will be in control. 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 what is right and wrong. Man's sense of what is right and wrong is free from the rules and commandments of men. These rules and commandments may be different from His Word. They may not be found in His Word. Church and state should be separate. The state owes protection to every church. The state owes complete freedom to every church in seeking spiritual matters. In giving this freedom, no religious group or denomination should be given any special treatment by the state. The national government was planned by God. It is the duty of Christians to give faithful obedience in all things that are not against the known will of God. The church should not expect the national government to do its work. The gospel of Christ considers only spiritual methods to reach its purposes. The state has no right to require punishment for religious beliefs of any kind. The state has no right to require taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal. This suggests the right of free communication with God by all men. This also suggests the right to start and spread religious opinions without trouble from the government. 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 planned the family as the first institution of the world. It is made up of persons joined to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman with the promise of being faithful to one another for a lifetime. Marriage is God's special gift. Marriage shows the union between Christ and His church. Marriage gives the man and the woman the way for intimate friendship. Marriage is the way of sexual expression according to the main beliefs in the Bible. Marriage is the way for increasing of the human race. The husband and wife are of the same worth before God. Both are created in God's likeness. The marriage relationship shows the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given duty to provide for, to protect, and to guide his family. A wife is to submit herself with kindness to the servant leadership of her husband. A wife submits just as the church willingly submits to the leadership of Christ. She is made in the likeness of God. Her husband is also made in the likeness of God. This makes the wife and husband equals. She has the God-given duty respect her husband. She is to serve as his helper in running the household and supporting the next generation. Children, from the moment of creation, are a blessing and inheritance from the Lord. Parents are to show to their children God's example for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and right values. Parents are to guide their children to make choices based on truths in the Bible. Parents are to guide their children by living a life faithful to God. Parents are to guide their children with loving discipline. Children are to respect 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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Article IV. Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and 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, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, 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 expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in biblical truths; 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, to be an example in our behavior; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage; 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 one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian 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 move 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.

Article V. Polity, Relationships - Church Government

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action. This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognized and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common amount Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

VI. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

It is the biblical position that marriage involves the union of one man and one woman in permanent sacred fidelity. Though various cultures and customs have evolving definitions of marriage, it is God alone who has ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1-9, Mark 10:1-12).

Furthermore, sexual intimacy is only properly exercised and pursued within the confines of this marital relationship. Sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man and one woman, is clearly and expressly prohibited by the Lord (Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4).

As a consequence, the Church regards any and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or even lustful intent toward such, as sinful and ultimately unsatisfying. Moreover, the Church also regards as sinful the intent or desire to surgically alter one's biological sex to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to biblical standards. Disagreement with one's biological sex only leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos (Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

In order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to the Church Members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity or united to the Church in membership should abide by and agree to this Article VI, "Statement on Marriage and Sexuality" and conduct themselves accordingly.

Though sinful sexual expression is egregious (as is all sin), the gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-7).

Furthermore, there is a difference between temptation and unrepented sin. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet He never sinned. Members, employees, volunteers and attendees of the Church wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find a Church ready to point them to Jesus and join with them to fight for their obedience to Christ. Jesus called the weary and heavy-laden to Himself. As a church desiring to follow Christ fully, the Church will be a safe place for men and women fighting sexual temptations of all kinds. For those fighting temptation and repenting of sin, the Church will provide love, care and direction (Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16).

The Church's Statement on Marriage and Sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity, regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures, nor the doctrines of the Church.

This Article VI specifically gives the Pastor and Deacon Body the right and authority to prohibit acts or omissions, including but not limited to (a) permitting any Church assets or property, whether real property, personal property, intangible property, or any property or asset of any kind that is subject to the direction or control of the Church, to be used in any manner that would be—or, in the sole determination of the Pastor and Deacon Body, could be perceived by any person to be—inconsistent with this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality; and (b) permitting any Church facilities to be used by any person, organization, corporation, or group that would or might use such facilities to convey, intentionally or by implication, what might be perceived as a favorable impression about any definition of marriage other than that contained in this Section.

The Church's Statement on Marriage and Sexuality is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this Article VI shall not be subject to change through popular vote; referendum; prevailing opinion of Members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

BYLAWS

Article I. Church Membership

Section 1. - General

- This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

Section 2. - Candidacy

- Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership in this church.
 - Any person may offer himself as a candidate for membership after attending the church membership orientation class. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular worship service by any of the following:
 - By profession of his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and following Him in baptism by immersion.
 - By transfer of his letter of membership from another Southern Baptist Church.
 - By statement of his faith in Jesus Christ and that he has been baptized by immersion after salvation.
 - Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to the pastor and the deacons for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A three- fourths vote of those members present and voting shall be required to elect such candidates to membership.

Section 3. - Rights of Members

- Every member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for elective offices in the church per the terms of offices sought.
- Every member of the church may participate in the Lord's Supper as administered by the church.
- Every member of the church who is 16 years of age and older is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present.

Section 4. - Termination of Membership

- All terminations of members shall be presented at a regular church business meeting. Membership shall be terminated in the following ways:
 - Death of the member.
 - By Letter of Recommendation to another Southern Baptist Church.
 - Withdrawal upon a written request of the member or by verbal documentation by church committee.
 - Written proof of membership in a church of another denomination.
 - Exclusion by action of this church.

Section 5. - Discipline

- It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor, other members of the church staff, and deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment.
- Should some serious condition exist, which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the church. The pastor and the deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accord with Matthew 18:15-20:
 - *¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*
- If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, upon a recommendation of the Deacon body, a three-fourths vote of the members present is required; and the church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the church. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance.
- The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

Article II. Organization

Section 1. – Officers

Pastor

- Responsibilities
 - The pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church.
 - The pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their tasks.
 - The pastor is leader of pastoral ministries in the church. As such he works with the deacons and church staff to:
 - proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers
 - lead the church in the achievement of its mission
 - care for the church's members and other persons in the community
- Qualifications
 - A pastor candidate must be at least 21 years of age, must have been active in a Southern Baptist Church for at least 5 previous years, must show evidence of leadership ability, and a willingness to work with the deacon body and congregation. Any person being considered for the position of pastor must have the calling of the Holy Spirit as displayed in Ephesians 4 and should meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- Calling
 - A pastor shall be chosen and called by the church whenever a vacancy occurs. The election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given.
 - A pastor selection committee shall be elected by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. Any church member has the privilege of making other recommendations to the selection committee. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by ballot; an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for a choice.
 - The pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his request or the church's request.
 - He shall preside at meetings in keeping with the rules of order authorized within these bylaws.
- Termination
 - The pastor may relinquish the office as pastor by giving at least two weeks' notice to the church at the time of resignation within 30 days of last day in office.
 - The church may declare the office of pastor to be vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's notice has been given. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a majority of the personnel committee and the deacons or by written petition signed by not less than one-fourth of the resident church members. If possible the moderator for this meeting shall be the Director of Missions. If the Director of Missions is not available, the moderator shall be designated by the members present by majority vote, and shall be someone other than the pastor. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot; an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present being necessary to declare the office vacant. The compensation conditions shall be recommended by the Personnel Committee and Deacons and determined by majority vote of the church with due consideration for fairness. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered in no more than thirty days.
 - The pastor will have forty-five calendar days from the day of termination to vacate the parsonage.

Deacons

- Qualifications
 - A deacon candidate must be at least 21 years of age, must have been active in a Southern Baptist Church for at least 2 previous years, must show evidence of leadership ability, and a willingness to work with the people, pastor, and other deacons. He must be willing to be a servant of the church, accepting the call to special ministries as dictated by the times and needs of the church, must possess the qualifications as provided in the New Testament (Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3), and must have been a member of this church for one year prior to his nomination.
- Responsibilities
 - In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church.
 - The task of the deacon is to:
 - serve with the pastor in performing pastoral ministries tasks

- proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers
 - care for the church members and other persons in the community
 - lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application
 - lead the church in performing its tasks.
- Ordaining Process
 - The chairman of deacons will recommend to the church the number of deacons needed, with the general guidelines under the family ministry plan of one deacon for each 10 active families.
 - Prospective deacons will be elected during a regular business meeting. Any church member 16 years of age and older present at the meeting may vote. The pastor, chairman, and vice-chairman of the deacons will be responsible for counting the votes and administering the ballot.
 - The men receiving 40% of votes will be contacted by the screening committee, which consists of the Pastor, Chairman, and vice-chairman of the deacon body. Any man who desires to continue the process will be tested by the deacons.
 - The pastor and the deacons may eliminate as a candidate for deacon anyone who is not qualified, without public notice.
 - After the period of testing, the Deacon Body will recommend those who qualify for church vote.
 - If any of these men have not been ordained by a Southern Baptist Church, a service will be planned for their ordination in the near future by the pastor and ordained deacons.
- Activating Ordained Deacons
 - Any Southern Baptist ordained deacon joining the church maybe activated after one year upon recommendation of the deacon body and vote of the church.
- Deacon Officers
 - The elected offices will be a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary. Officers will be elected by the deacon body.

Section 2. - Personnel

Ministerial Staff

- Calling
 - The ministerial staff shall be called and employed as the church determines the need for such offices.
 - An updated job description and pay package will be recommended for church vote by the Personnel Committee.
 - A minister selection committee shall be elected by the church to seek out a suitable minister, and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. Any church member has the privilege of making other recommendations to the selection committee. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the church only one name at a time. Election shall be by ballot; an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for a choice.
- Termination
 - At the time of resignation, at least 30 days' notice shall be given to the church.
 - The church may, by a two-thirds vote, vacate such positions upon recommendation of the personnel committee and the deacons, such termination being immediate and the compensation conditions shall be recommended by the Personnel Committee and Deacons and determined by majority vote of the church with due consideration for fairness.
 - The staff member has forty-five calendar days from the day of termination to vacate the parsonage.

Nonministerial Staff

- Nonministerial staff members shall be employed as the church determines the need for their services.
- An updated job description and pay package will be recommended for church vote by the Personnel Committee.
- Employment and termination of a nonministerial staff member shall be determined by the pastor and the Personnel Committee and reported to the church. Vote of the church is required, with the recommendation of the Pastor and Personnel Committee, to hire and dismiss.

Clerk

- The church shall elect annually a clerk as its clerical officer.
- Responsibilities

- The Church Clerk shall keep a suitable record of all the actions of the church, except as otherwise herein provided. Business Meeting minutes shall be filed in the church office no more than one week from the date of the business meeting.
- The clerk is responsible for keeping a register of the names of members, with dates of admission, of dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptisms.
- The Clerk 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 the Bylaws.
- The clerk may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a ministry assistant.
- Record Keeping
 - All original church records are church property and shall be filed in the church office when an office is maintained.
 - A corporation shall keep the following records at its principal office:
 - its articles or restated articles of incorporation and all amendments to them currently in effect;
 - its bylaws or restated bylaws and all amendments to them currently in effect;
 - resolutions adopted by its board of directors relating to the characteristics, qualifications, rights, limitations and obligations of members or any class or category of members;
 - all the minutes and financial statements of all meetings of members and records of all actions approved by the members, and all written communications to members will be kept for an indefinite amount of time.
 - a list of the names and business or home addresses of its current directors and officers.

Treasurer

- The church shall elect annually a church treasurer as its financial officer.
- Responsibilities
 - 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 and reconciled bank statements.
 - The treasurer shall be a member of this congregation in good standing, recommended by the Nominating Committee, and approved by the church on an annual basis. The treasurer will serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee to lead it in fulfilling its duties.
 - It shall be the duty of the treasurer to render to the church at each regular business meeting a report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding month.
- There shall be an annual internal audit overseen by the Finance Committee. The treasurer shall be bonded, the church paying for the bond.
- The treasurer may delegate some of the clerical responsibilities to a ministry assistant.

Financial Secretary

- The Financial Secretary shall receive the empty collection envelopes and shall be responsible for preparing and distributing or mailing annual records of contributions to all contributing contributors.

Trustees

- The church shall elect three or more trustees to serve as legal officers for the church and shall be bonded, with the church paying for the bond.
- Responsibilities
 - They shall hold in trust the church property.
 - They shall evaluate and recommend action on insurance for building, vehicles, worker's comp, officers' liability, and bonding of the Treasurer.
 - Upon a specific vote of the church authorizing each action, they shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any church property.
 - When the signatures of the trustees are required, they shall sign legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property or other legal documents related to church-approved matters.

Section 3. – Committees, Ministry Teams, and Programs

Committees

- The church shall organize committees for the proper functioning of the church. Each committee shall perform their recommended duties as commissioned by the church. These committees shall perform tasks specifically granted to them in a constituting charter and in accordance with the duties, powers, and length of tenure specifically granted to them by that charter.
- Only church members who are in good standing with the church and have been a member for one year may fill positions open on committees.
- Only one member of a household may serve on the same committee.
- Each committee is responsible for choosing their chairman (unless noted otherwise within these bylaws) and will choose a secretary that will record minutes for each meeting. Minutes will be kept on record in the church office.
- Current Established committees include
 - **Finance Committee**
 - 5 member committee that will consist of the Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer.
 - Other 3 positions will serve on a 3 year rotation.
 - Nominating Committee will present individuals to the church for approval as needed to fill positions vacated.
 - **Personnel Committee**
 - 5 member committee that will serve on a 5 year rotation.
 - Nominating Committee will present individuals to the church for approval as needed to fill positions vacated.
 - **Nominating Committee**
 - 5 member committee that will consist of the Minister of Education/Educational Director and the Children's Minister.
 - Other 3 positions will serve on a 3 year rotation.
 - Vacancies will be filled by nomination and vote of the church body during regular business meeting.
 - **Special Called Committees**
 - Under special circumstances the church may choose to establish special committees (i.e. search committees, vision to reality committee, etc.). These committees will function within the authority given them by the church.
 - These committees will consist of 5 members (unless otherwise designated by the church during a business session) and must be made of church members in good standing who are 16 years of age and older.
 - All members will be nominated and approved by the church during a business session.

Ministry Teams

- Under the vision and leadership of the church, the church may establish area, age and group specific ministry teams that will function to carry out the mission of the church (i.e., Fellowship Team, Women's Ministry Team, Buildings and Grounds Team, Children's Ministry Team, Senior Adults Ministry Team, Worship Team, etc.)
- Organization
 - Each team shall be led by established Ministerial staff and/or 3 church appointed Team Leaders.
 - Team Leaders will serve on a 3 year rotation
 - The Nominating Committee will present individuals to the church for approval in order to fill vacated Team Leader positions.
 - Team Leaders are responsible for establishing a chairman and a secretary, who will keep record of meetings that are held. Meeting records shall be kept on file in the church office.
 - Team Leaders will work with the Ministerial Staff and Church Leadership to carry out the mission of their respective Team. Under times where a consensus cannot be reached within a team, Team Leaders will vote amongst themselves, with the careful advice of the Ministry Staff, in order to reach a conclusive direction.
 - In addition to the Ministerial Staff and/or Team Leaders, each Ministry Team may be comprised of church members who are in good standing with the church and willing to serve on designated teams.

- These Ministry Team members will work with their Team Leaders to accomplish the mission of the Ministry Team.
- All teams will give an annual report of those team members who comprise their ministry team.
 - In the event that an individual joins a Ministry Team mid-year, that Team must report to the church its addition at the next regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

Programs

- Under the vision and leadership of the church, the church may establish and approve programs.

Article III. Operation

Section 1 - Church Meetings

Worship Services

- The church shall meet regularly for the worship of Jesus Christ and may include prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism.
- The pastor shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

Special Services

- Revival services and any other church meetings essential to the advancement of the church's objectives shall be placed on the church calendar.

Regular Business Meetings

- The church shall hold regular business meetings monthly on the second Sunday of each month. In the case that there is a conflict with the Church Calendar, the office will reschedule the regularly scheduled business meeting.
- The pastor shall serve as moderator and shall preside at all regular and special meetings, except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws. In the event he is not present, the chairman of the deacons shall preside; in his absence, the chairman of the trustees shall preside. In the event of the vacancy of all three, the clerk will call the church to order and an acting moderator shall be elected by the majority of the membership.
- "Roberts Rules of Order, Revised", is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.
- All items for new business must be submitted to the moderator no less than one week prior to the date of the business meeting.
- All votes shall be cast by show of hands, unless a ballot vote is deemed appropriate by the moderator, and recorded in the minutes. In the case of opposing votes, the number of opposing votes shall be recorded in the minutes.
- The moderator may appoint a person to help count the votes.
- The church will provide a sign-in roster and all members shall sign in.
- Only members who are 16 years of age and older may vote.
- **Quorum (The number of people necessary to hold a business meeting). In all business meetings the voting members present shall constitute a quorum.**

Special Business Meetings

- The church may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance.
- A one week notice must be given for the specially called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical.
- Only the advertised subject will be addressed.
- All votes shall be given by a ballot vote, and shall be counted and listed in the minutes with a yes or no vote, i.e. 27 yes, 4 no and 2 abstained. This number count shall be recorded for all motions and/or ballot votes made at any special business meetings.
- The church will provide a sign-in roster and all members shall sign in.
- **Quorum (The number of people necessary to hold a special business meeting). In all special business meetings the voting members present shall constitute a quorum.**

Section 2 - Church Ordinances

Baptism

- This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professed Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.
- Baptism shall be by immersion in water. Baptism shall be administered by the pastor, ordained staff, deacons or whomever the church shall authorize. The deacons shall assist in the preparation for, and observance of, baptism.
- Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service.

The Lord's Supper

- The deacons will prepare the elements and the equipment for the observance of the Lord's Supper, do the preparatory and maintenance work needed to observe the memorial service, and prepare the elements on a schedule approved by the church.
- Frequency of the Lord's Supper will be determined and scheduled by the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 3. – By-Law Procedures

Amendments

- Changes in this constitution and bylaws may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided such amendments shall have been presented in writing at a previous meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment made available to each resident church member.
- CONSTITUTION - Amendments to the constitution shall be by three-fourths (75%) vote of all members of the church present at the meeting.
- BYLAWS - Amendments to the bylaws be by three-fourths (75%) vote of all members of the church present at the meeting.

Interpretations

- Questions may arise regarding the interpretation and administration of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Procedure
 - Questions regarding the interpretation and administration of the Constitution and Bylaws will be referred to the pastor and deacons.
 - The pastor and deacons shall study the question at their earliest convenience. They shall submit an interpretation as soon as possible.
- Resolution
 - The church will have final authority regarding interpretation of the matter.

Temporary Waive of Bylaw Requirements

- It is understood that upon occasion, unforeseen circumstances will arise which prevent the church from being able to completely follow the established Bylaws, and schedules and procedures therein. The following sections provide direction regarding the procedure to follow for a temporary waiver of Bylaw requirements.
- Procedure
 - Any church member, at a regular business meeting, may initiate a motion for a temporary waiver of the requirements of the Bylaws. The following conditions must be met:
 - The proposed waive cannot pertain to church constitutional requirements.
 - Bylaws Article III, Section 3, Amendments, cannot be waived.
 - The motion to temporarily waive the Bylaw requirements must state the reasons that the normal procedures cannot be followed.
- Church Action
 - The church will take appropriate action on the matter. If the motion is voted on, an affirmative vote from three-fourths (75%) of those present and eligible to vote is required for passage of the motion.

Section 4. – Church Properties

Statement

- The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian charity, and as a means of demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practice.
- But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.
- This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice. (2 Cor 6:14; 1 Thess 5:22.)
- Second, it is very important that the church present a consistent message to the community, and that the church staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.
- Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Col 3:17.)

Approved Users and Priority of Use

- The pastor and/or deacons must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. Church facilities and equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups meeting the following qualifications:
 1. Groups or persons requesting facility use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.
 2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form.

3. The group or person seeking facility use must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the church's rules of conduct for facility use, as stated in the Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement form and any additional instructions by church staff.

Facility Use Hours

- Facilities are available between the hours of 8:00 AM and 11:00 PM. Use outside these hours may be approved by the pastor and/or deacons.

Scheduling Events

- Facility use requests shall be made to pastor and/or deacons by submitting the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the pastor and/or deacons approve the use.

Fees

- Use of the church facilities is subject to a use and maintenance fee to be determined in written detail in the Church Facility Reservation Request Form. This money is collected to help with the upkeep of church facilities. Church members are not required to pay a fee for usage because maintenance of the facilities is derived from member tithes and offerings. All outside groups will be required to pay, in advance, a refundable security deposit to pay for any damages to the facilities.

Facility Use Guidelines

- Alcohol Policy: No alcohol may be served in the church facilities and/or on the premises.
- Smoking Policy: Smoking, chewing tobacco, e-vapors, e-cigarettes and any type of drugs are prohibited on the church grounds on inside any of our facilities.
- Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
- Any person or group must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.

Insurance

- Church members who want to have an event in our church facilities that is not church related, our church insurance will cover them. If a family or individual wants to rent our facilities for a personal event they have to sign a belief statement form (form states that they adhere to what our church believes) and they must sign a "Hold Harmless" agreement form (states they will not hold the church liable for anything that occurs during the use of the facility).
- If an organization or outside individual/group wants to rent our facilities they must sign our belief statement form, and a hold harmless form, along with showing proof of their organization or individual/groups liability insurance. If they do not have liability insurance they must obtain a policy in the amount of \$1,000,000 to cover the replacement cost of our facility.