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# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELTON

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Constitution and By Laws



NEW LIFE  
*Christ*  
Baptist Church

OCTOBER 20, 2024

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Belton Texas

# **CONSTITUTION of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST OF BELTON TX**

## **PREAMBLE**

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to unite His servants in 2024 for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and He has sustained and prospered this work to the present day, the members of New Life in Christ Baptist Church, for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of the church and the freedom of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this to be the constitution of New Life in Christ Baptist Church.

## **ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

The name of this congregation of believers shall be NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELTON, TEXAS ("the church").

## **ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE**

United by the Grace of God in Christian experience, the members of this church recognize and receive the Bible as the inspired, inerrant word of God and agree to accept it as their only rule of faith and practice. The church shall adhere to the teachings of Christ as set forth in the New Testament. Its objects and purposes are and shall be:

1. To maintain the public worship of God and the observance of the Christian ordinances of the Lord's Supper and baptism,
2. To nurture and educate individuals through the study of Christian doctrines and principles and the practice of the Christian life as revealed and taught in the Bible,
3. To advance the cause of Christ by actively seeking the salvation of the lost and promoting His kingdom in all the earth through missions at home and abroad,
4. To encourage biblical fellowship among believers by serving other individuals, families, and churches by providing for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **ARTICLE 3 - GOVERNMENT AND AFFILIATION**

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation that is common among the churches of like faith. It receives the Scriptures as its only authority in matters of faith and practice.

We shall affiliate with churches of like faith in the Southern Baptist Convention, as it now stands. We shall also affiliate with the churches of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, as it now stands.

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

## ARTICLE 4 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

### 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.

### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 Savior, 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.

### 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 inherit 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.

### IV. Salvation

A. Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, 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. 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 Savior.

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 regenerate person's life.

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

### 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.

## 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 that includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

## 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 Savior, 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.

## 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.

## 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. Christian's 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.

## 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.

## 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 effort 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

#### Authority of Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement accurately represents the teaching of the Bible. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

#### ARTICLE 5 - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended at any regular or called business meeting of the church in accordance with Article 12 of the bylaws.

### **BYLAWS of NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELTON TX**

#### PURPOSE OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELTON TX

The specific purposes for which this corporation is formed are exclusively religious and charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue. No part of the 501(c)(3) organization's net earnings can inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual."

#### ARTICLE 1 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1.01 - Nature

Church membership, as used here, signifies an individual commitment to become a part of a body of believers who have been brought together at a certain place and time for the purpose of worshipping God in the company of one another (Heb. 10:24-25). To enter church membership is to enter into a covenant with the other members and is a commitment to being meaningfully involved in the lives of other members and to serve this local church.

All Christians secure membership in the body of Christ at the time of conversion. Local church membership is a commitment to serve and to have mutual accountability as prescribed in scripture.

##### Section 1.02 - General



The membership shall have the right to determine who shall be members of this church, and the conditions of such membership, as stipulated in these bylaws. Except as specifically prohibited by these bylaws, the membership shall also have the right to delegate the responsibilities of the membership to the church officers, the church staff, the Deacons, the committees of the church, or other church members.

#### Section 1.03 - Qualifications for Membership

A person, who has had and whose life evidences a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounces sin; who has been baptized in obedience to Christ following his or her regeneration; who endeavors to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; and who agrees to submit to the authority of the church as set forth herein, may be presented to the church for membership in any of the following ways:

A. By profession of faith in Jesus Christ and identifying with Him in baptism.

Profession of faith in Jesus Christ involves:

1. Personal conviction of sin and the need for forgiveness (Rom. 10:9-10).
2. Repentance (turning away from sin) and asking Christ for forgiveness (I John 1:9).
3. Receiving Christ as personal Savior and Lord (Rom.10:9-10).

B. By way of transfer of membership through a letter of recommendation from another scriptural New Testament church of like faith.

C. By statement of personal faith in Christ, when it is impossible to obtain a letter from another scriptural New Testament church, this church being satisfied that the baptism of the candidate is scriptural and valid

Any person offering himself or herself as a church member must then be counseled/mentored by the pastor, or by another church member, provided the pastor has delegated the counseling/mentoring for this specific candidate. In the case the counseling/mentoring is delegated by the pastor, the counselor/mentor must have previously received training on the counseling process.

The counselor, being convinced of the qualifications of the candidate, will present the candidate to the church membership during a worship service being conducted by the pastor. The church being satisfied as to their qualifications, and having voted by those present to receive them, the candidate shall be a member in good standing with all privileges of the church, unless and until their membership is terminated. They shall at that time relinquish their membership in other churches.

#### Section 1.04 - Duties of a Member in good standing

Members are expected to be faithful in the observance of duties essential to the Christian life as set forth in the biblical principles of the Holy Scriptures, to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church, to support the church in prayer, to regularly attend the services of the church, to contribute to the church's support, to observe the principles contained in this constitution and bylaws, to share in the church's organized work, and in accordance with biblical commands, to support through a lifestyle walk affirming the beliefs and practices of the church.

Each member should recognize the authority of the pastor in the spiritual affairs of the church. Knowing that no pastor, however consecrated and faithful in labor and conduct, can possibly please every member of the church, let it be urged upon all members to remember that whoever our pastor may be, he is a man called of God to be the under-shepherd of our church. Therefore, all members of this church shall support him in his ministry of this body of believers, personally abstain from gossip about him, and should they hold anything against him, go directly to him and seek reconciliation as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17.

#### Section 1.05 - Rights and Privileges of Membership

This church shall expect its members to live exemplary lives in accordance with the teachings of the HOLY BIBLE. The following privileges are available to members of the church in good standing.

A. All resident members who are eighteen (18) years of age or older are “voting members” and hereafter will be referred to as such.

B. Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church’s worship services, the church property remains private property. The Church council has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the Church Council be treated as a trespasser.

C. A member, upon ten business days prior written request made upon the church, may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church business meetings.

1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.

D. Every voting member of the church in good standing is eligible for consideration by the membership as a candidate for committee membership and elective office in the church, except for the office of Deacon.

E. Every member of the church in good standing may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.

#### Section 1.06 - Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated in any of the following ways:

A. Any member may transfer their membership through a letter of recommendation to another scriptural New Testament Church of like faith upon request of said church.

B. The membership of any member shall be automatically terminated upon the death of that member.

C. No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.

D. A member in good standing may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation.

E. Church Discipline – The Scriptures admonish us to exercise church discipline as we seek to restore any professed brother or sister in Christ who has strayed from the truth and is in sin (Matthew 18:15-35; 1 Corinthians 5:1-12; Galatians 6:1 II Cor 2: 6-7).

The desired result of church discipline is always repentance and the restoration of the offender. Our private and public disciplinary measures should always be undertaken in a spirit of love, gentleness, and humility as we seek to bring about this positive end. When restoration does not occur and expulsion becomes necessary, we are glad to see the purity of Christ and the church upheld, but we should be grieved, individually and corporately, to lose someone we loved as an apparent brother or sister in Christ.

Along with flagrant acts of commission, persistent and willful non-attendance is also a sin requiring church discipline (Hebrews 10:24-25). It is also an indication of a member's renunciation of their part of the covenant with the church. Except where persistent non-attendance is the result of unavoidable circumstances (e.g. extended illness, shut-in, or military service), it will be considered a public offence and addressed accordingly. Those who persist in their non-attendance without a legitimate cause, even after exhortations and warnings from the church, bring harm to the evangelistic ministry of this church, discourage those members who attend and serve faithfully, and contribute to confusion of new believers.

1. If a member is non-resident of the local area and not supporting and worshipping with the church for a period of five years and that member has not indicated his or her return, and after multiple attempts of contact. Then the church may vote to terminate that membership.

2. If a member is in the local area but not supporting and worshipping with the church, and that member is not making a good faith effort to rejoin the membership within a five-year period, the Church Council shall attempt to restore the member to full attendance or obtain a satisfactory reason for his or her absence and non-support. Should such attempt fail, they shall recommend to the church at a regular business meeting that the membership of that person be terminated. However, this may occur only after all exhaustive attempts are made for restoration.

3. Should a member become an offense to the name of Christ and the church by violation of the commands of Christ, or who becomes a liability to the general welfare of the church because of immoral or illegal acts, the Church Council shall make an effort to restore him or her to a proper walk with Christ and complete fellowship with the church, in accordance with Galatians 6:1 and Matthew 18:15-17. If restoration is not possible, the matter shall be reported to the church with the recommendation that their membership be terminated, and it shall be the duty of the church to terminate the membership. In such case, no letter of recommendation will be granted to another church and any request will be answered by the pastor and cosigned by at least two members of Church Council in the form of a letter to the requesting church stating the exact reason for termination.

## Section 1.07 - Restoration of Membership

Any membership that has been terminated may be restored upon the recommendation of the pastor and Church Council. Before making such recommendation, the pastor and Council shall ensure that the situation causing the termination has ceased to exist.

## Section 1.08 - Human Sexuality

We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of marital sexual intimacy. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. Based on Scripture we exclude from membership homosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals, or man and woman cohabitating without the benefit of marriage. Church membership and our pastor cannot be compelled to conduct or allow the use of Church property for any activities related to homosexual, transgendered or lesbian couples such as marriage or special events etc. (Rom 1; 24-32)

## ARTICLE 2 - CHURCH OFFICERS – GENERAL

### Section 2.01 - Officers of the Church

The pastor and Deacons are the scriptural officers of the church. In addition, other general officers the church shall elect are a church clerk, a church treasurer, and trustees. Furthermore, the church may elect other organizational officers as needed to carry out the work of the church. A person, other than the pastor may hold more than one office.

All officers and leaders shall be members of this church and shall deserve and command the respect of the membership of the church in the fulfillment of their respective duties.

### Section 2.02 - Designation of Corporate Officers

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation; the church clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the church treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the Church Council shall serve as vice president of the corporation. The trustees shall act as directors of the corporation and as such the President of the Corporation reports directly to the trustees. Deacons are also considered as officers of the corporation.

### Section 2.03 - Eligibility for Office

- A. Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or organization position.
- B. The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the principals set forth in the Church's constitution and bylaws.
- C. Additional requirements for eligibility may be imposed for specific officers. These are given in Article 3 of these Church Bylaws.

### Section 2.04 - Terms of Office

A. Pastor - The call of the pastor shall be made in accordance with the written terms in the covenant agreement between the pastor and the church. The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of at least two weeks and not more than four weeks' notice, or less by mutual consent. The procedure for the calling of a pastor is specified in Article 5 of these bylaws.

The severance of the relationship between the pastor and the church may be considered at any church business meeting, provided notice to that effect shall have been given to the church two Sundays prior to said church business meeting. A two thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members, present and voting, shall be required to sever the relationship between the pastor and the church. A vote for church-initiated termination must be by secret ballot. Grounds for termination shall include but shall not be limited to such unacceptable behavior as refusal to comply with the expressed decisions of the church, repeated absence or tardiness without reasonable excuse or continuous unsatisfactory work performance. Further grounds shall include theft or destruction of property, violation of established safety procedures and practices, continued abuse of alcohol or drugs, conviction for a felony or misdemeanor or moral turpitude, falsifying personnel or church records, intimidation of or interference with the rights of other employees, sexual harassment or conduct inconsistent with the purposes, objectives and principles of the church as set out in the constitution and bylaws of the church.

Disciplinary removal of the pastor from church membership automatically terminates his office. A restoration to church membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 1.07 of these bylaws.

B. Deacon - The relationship between a deacon and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party. The procedure for the appointment of a Deacon is specified in Article 3, Section 3.02.

A Deacon may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct. Any charge against a deacon for unbiblical behavior must be investigated by the remaining deacons. Should a deacon become an offense to the name of Christ and the church by violation of the commands of Christ, or who becomes a liability to the general welfare of the church because of immoral or illegal acts, the pastor and/or deacons shall make an effort to restore him to a proper walk with Christ. If restoration is not possible, the matter shall be reported to the church with the recommendation that his office be terminated.

C. Other Officers - The term of service for all other officers in the church shall be indefinite. Officers may resign their office at any time. The pastor, in consultation with the Church Council, may recommend to the church at a regular or special business meeting that the officer, other than that of deacon, be terminated and upon majority vote of voting members present, that officer will be removed from office immediately.

D. A vacancy occurring in any office, except in the case of the pastor or deacon may be filled at any regular or special church business meeting.

### ARTICLE 3 - CHURCH OFFICERS - RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS -SPECIFIC

#### Section 3.01 - 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 shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall administer the ordinances of the church. He shall tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally ascribed to such a position.

He shall make himself available, whenever possible, to minister to the needs of the membership of the church during times of crisis.

He shall conduct wedding ceremonies and funeral services.

He shall work closely with the deacons in their training and performance in their work of proclamation, ministry, caring, and building up of the fellowship.

He shall be active in all aspects of the visitation of the church and promote the membership to visit.

He shall make arrangements for all pulpit supply preachers while he is away from the church. (In an emergency, the Church Council shall have this responsibility.)

The pastor shall be in charge of all services and ordinances and be moderator of all business meetings, unless he is physically or providentially hindered or has charges pending against him or the church is considering his call or dismissal.

He shall be, ex officio, a messenger of the church to associations in which the church is a participant.

He shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees with voting entitlement only in cases of tie votes within the committee. When the Personnel Committee meets for pastor review and evaluation, the pastor shall not be an ex officio member of the committee.

If for any reason the pastor is unable to fulfill any of the afore-mentioned duties or responsibilities, he is to directly communicate to the chairman of the Church Council what those reasons are. If he is to be out of the immediate area, he is to provide the church secretary with a means of contact.

Qualifications - The Scriptural qualifications of a pastor are set forth in the Holy Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7.)

“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

(1 Timothy 3:1-7 KJV)

The office of pastor is restricted to men.

## Section 3.02 - Deacons

Qualifications - The Scriptural qualifications for a deacon are described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13:

“Likewise, must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:8-13 KJV)

Duties - The deacons shall be charged with the responsibility of zealously guarding and promoting unity and spirituality of the church. They are to serve in an advisory, counseling, and recommending capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the ministerial work and welfare of this church. They shall also perform such other duties as benevolence, ordinances, visit the sick and perform other ministries that are required and are the custom of deacons of Southern Baptist churches. They shall make themselves available to the pastor for any services that might be helpful to him or useful to the church.

Number - The number of deacons shall be perpetually determined by the church according to the needs of the church.

Officers - The deacons shall assemble annually to elect, from their own number, a chairman, a vice chairman, and a secretary.

Election - The election of deacons shall be as follows:

Ordination:

1. Resident voting church members shall nominate men of the church (Acts 6:3) who conform to the scriptural requirements for a deacon and who is at least eighteen (18) years old, at any regular business meeting or by submitting a written nomination request to the pastor or the chairman of deacons.
2. The pastor and active deacons then interview the nominee to ensure that he meets the scriptural requirements.
3. Candidates for the office of deacon shall be observed, and prayerfully considered, for a period of time by the pastor and the deacons prior to election by the church. The recommended period of time is at least six (6) months.
4. After the observation period the deacons will make a recommendation to the membership at a regular business meeting. If the candidate meets the requirements, a vote for election will be scheduled no sooner than two weeks after. This will give time for the candidate's name to be published and notice of vote to be made available to the church body. The vote shall be by secret ballot.
5. Any deacon elected, requiring ordination, shall be ordained at a time determined by the chairman of the deacons and the pastor

Acceptance from other Baptist churches -There shall be no obligation to recognize a deacon who comes to this church from another church of like faith and order. A deacon who has been ordained in another

Southern Baptist church, who joins this church, and is given a recommendation from his former church, after six months in this church, may be recommended to the church by the deacons to become an active member of the deacon body. The recommendation must be acted upon and approved by the church at a regular business meeting.

Meetings - The deacons shall meet regularly at least one day per month. The chairman of the deacons may call a special meeting whenever the need arises.

Pastor - The pastor shall be considered an ex-officio member of the deacons and shall enter into discussions and make recommendations but shall not be entitled to vote.

### Section 3.03 - Trustees

This church shall have a minimum of three Trustees, and they shall be custodians of the church property and buildings. The Trustees shall be responsible for reviewing and signing legal documents affecting the church and its property. Such signatures shall be in their capacity as Trustees, and not as individuals. All acts of the Trustees relating to the church shall be only as properly directed by the church membership.

Trustees may be nominated by the nominating committee or any voting member in good standing and elected by a majority vote of the church during a regular or special business meeting.

The trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers, upon authorization by a majority vote of the voting members present at a duly called church business meeting:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church.
2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
3. Evaluate the insurance needs and coverage annually to provide protection for the church from disasters and/or litigation.
4. A minimum of one Trustee must be a signatory on any bank accounts of the church and dictate all bank account signatories.
5. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation if necessary. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of IRC Section 501(c)(3), or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

### 3.04 - Church Council

The Church Council shall be made up of the chairpersons of each standing committees, the pastor, youth minister, music director, Sunday School Director, and the Children's Director. The Council will be responsible for the church calendar and all other responsibilities outlined in the byelaws.



1. The Chairman of the Church Council will be elected by the council members. The pastor and paid staff are not eligible to be officers in the church council.

#### Section 3.05 - Church Clerk

The church clerk shall keep an accurate record of all business and membership transactions of the church. All records of the clerk shall be considered the property of the church. In the absence of the church clerk, the assistant church clerk will take the minutes of the business meeting. If neither is present, the moderator may appoint any member in good standing to record the minutes of any business meeting. Such minutes must be promptly given to the church clerk.

The church clerk, upon recommendation of the nominating committee, shall be nominated by any voting member in good standing, and elected by a majority vote of the church during a regular or special business meeting.

The church clerk shall:

1. Record minutes of each regular business meeting or other special called meetings and prepare them for the following regular meeting.
2. Keep membership records of resident and nonresident members with dates of admission to and termination from membership with a record of all baptisms of the church.
3. Prepare and issue all official communications and reports of the church including the annual church letter, which is to be submitted to the appropriate affiliated organizations.
4. Coordinate with the church secretary to ensure data is retrievable and that hard copies of important data are kept in a secure location.
5. Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

#### Section 3.06 - Church Treasurer

The church treasurer shall hold all monies received by the church and pay them out as the church directs. The church treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions of the church. These records shall include but are not necessarily limited to the following: all tithes and offerings received, and all expenditures. All records of the church treasurer shall be considered the property of the church.

The church treasurer shall be a proven faithful member of the church. The church treasurer, upon recommendation of the nominating committee, shall be nominated by any voting member in good standing, and elected by a majority vote of the church during a regular or special business meeting.

The church treasurer shall:

1. Keep account of all funds of the church, make authorized disbursements, and keep various funds separated as designated. Receive, preserve and pay out all money or things of value paid or given by the church.
2. Keep accurate records of receipts and disbursement for preceding month and give detailed financial report at a regular church business meeting. Reconcile monthly bank records on all financial accounts.

3. Present a copy of the monthly financial report to the church membership on the Sunday prior to the regular business meeting.
4. Serve as a member of the budget/finance committee and have signature authority on all accounts. Help to make all preparations for the annual budget.
5. Keep all documents relating to the property, any trust funds, and insurance of the church.
6. Prepare payroll and end of year records or forms for all paid employees. Prepare W-2, W-3, and W-4 forms on all employees. Maintain I-9 immigration forms on all staff.
7. Maintain old receipts, bank statements and cancelled checks, which are kept yearly.
8. Submit church books for audit as requested.
9. Attend any tax seminars that may be conducted at the local association office.
10. Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

#### Section 3.07 - Duties of All Officers

Any general officer, or person in a position of responsibility, who neglects their duties as outlined in the bylaws may be removed from their office, or position, and another may be appointed by the church to serve the un-expired term.

#### Section 3.08 - Records

All officers, staff members, or committee members shall surrender any records in their possession to the Church Clerk at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work or the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.

#### ARTICLE 4 - COMMITTEES

The following Standing Committees will be perpetual.

1. Budget/Finance
2. Building and Grounds
3. Church Council
4. Nominating
5. Personnel

The Church may create other committees as needed to carry out specific tasks within the church.

All standing committees and other committees as designated by the church except ad hoc, shall have a job description defining the purpose, duties, requirements for committee membership, and meeting requirements. The job description shall be maintained in the Church's Administrative Manual.

Any member may request the formation of a temporary (ad hoc) committee with a single specified assignment and a limited time of existence. Upon the consent of the congregation, the committee will be formed by nominations from the floor, or by recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

The members of all committees must be qualified voting members of the church. The members of each committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the church at a duly called business meeting.

## ARTICLE 5 - PASTOR SELECTION PROCESS

### Section 5.01 - General

In the event the pastor position is vacant, or notice has been given, the church shall establish a pastoral search committee as soon as practical.

### Section 5.02 - Pastoral Search Committee

A. Purpose: To assist the church in the selection of a pastor.

B. Duties: The pastoral search committee shall have the following duties:

1. Screening, evaluating, and initiating contact with potential pastor candidates.
2. Making recommendations to the church regarding a potential pastor.
3. Assembling and documenting the terms of the covenant agreement, as directed by the church, to present to the pastor candidate.

C. Membership: The pastoral search committee shall be selected as follows:

1. The committee shall consist of five (5) members, one of which shall be an active deacon selected from within their body.
2. The church shall be duly notified that balloting for nominees will take place during the following Sunday morning worship service. During that service, a nominating ballot shall be distributed to allow the church members, eighteen years of age or older, the privilege, via secret ballot, of naming four (4) additional church members as nominees for the pastoral search committee. The two (2) men and two (2) women receiving the highest number of votes after the ballots have been counted shall constitute the remaining nominees for the pastoral search committee. The ballot shall not include the name previously submitted by the deacons, nor immediate family members of that person. The ballots may name a deacon other than the one previously submitted as the designated member. All ballots must be cast prior to the close of the worship service during which they were issued. No proxy or absentee balloting will be allowed. The deacons of the church shall act as tellers. Tellers shall secure and retain the ballots for at least ninety (90) days after the election.
3. The two (2) men and two (2) women receiving the highest number of votes, along with the selected deacon shall constitute the pastoral search committee. The man and woman receiving the next highest number of votes will be the alternate members who will be called upon should a member of the committee not be able to fulfill their commitment. The nominated person receiving the highest number of votes shall act as chairman of the committee.
4. Not more than one member of an immediate family within a household shall serve on the committee.

5. At the discretion of the church, the Minister of Youth may be added to the committee and would constitute a sixth member.

6. Should the pastoral search committee resign, or should the church deem it necessary, during a regular or special business meeting, to appoint a new committee, a new committee shall be selected in the same manner as the original committee. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting members present will be required to replace the existing pastoral search committee.

7. After submitting a candidate for pastor and obtaining approval of the candidate from the church, the pastoral search committee shall disband.

8. Upon the call of the pastor, the covenant agreement between the pastor and the church shall be given to the church clerk and made part of the church record.

#### Section 5.03 - Church Review of Pastor Nominee

A. Only one candidate at a time shall be considered.

B. The pastoral search committee shall notify the church at least one week in advance of presenting a candidate for pastor to the church. At such time the committee will give a brief report about the candidate.

C. A published notification shall be printed in the church bulletin the week prior of the presenting service.

D. The candidate must come before the church and deliver a sermon during the Sunday morning worship service before the church votes on him. Ballots will be distributed during the worship services.

E. Each church member, eighteen years of age or older, shall have the privilege, via secret ballot of either affirming or rejecting the pastoral search committee's nominee. All ballots must be cast prior to the close of each worship service during which they were issued. Each qualified church member may cast only one ballot. No proxy or absentee balloting will be allowed. The Church Council will count the ballots at the end of the voting.

F. If the prospective pastor does not receive affirmation from at least three-fourths (3/4) of all the ballots cast, the pastoral search committee shall continue to pursue candidates for the position of pastor.

#### ARTICLE 6 - EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF

##### Section 6.01 - Ministerial Staff

Upon recommendation of the personnel committee, the deacons, and the pastor, the employment and/or termination of all ministerial staff shall be approved by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the membership present and voting at a called business meeting.

##### Section 6.02 - Other Staff

All other staff may be employed subject to the approval by majority vote of the voting members present at a regular business meeting upon recommendation of the personnel committee.

### Section 6.03 - Duties

All paid employees shall have a job description defining their principal function, responsibilities, and who is responsible for supervision. The job description shall be provided and maintained by the personnel committee and kept in the Church's Administrative Manual.

### Section 6.04 - Personnel Policy

The Church shall maintain a written personnel policy in the Church's Administrative Manual.

## ARTICLE 7 - CHURCH ORDINANCES

### Section 7.01 - Baptism

This church shall receive for baptism any person who repents of sin and has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly and who indicates a commitment to follow Jesus as Lord. (Romans 10: 9-10) (Acts 8: 36-38)

A. Baptism shall be by immersion in water as an outward expression of faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

B. The pastor, or any other ordained person the church shall authorize, shall administer baptism.

C. Baptism may be administered during any worship service of the church.

### Section 7.02 - The Lord's Supper

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper quarterly, unless otherwise scheduled by the church.

The pastor and deacons shall oversee any Lord's Supper observance conducted at the church.

The pastor will explain the biblical requirements for participation in the Lord's Supper, and will point out the biblical consequences of not heeding these requirements.

## ARTICLE 8 - CHURCH MEETINGS

### Section 8.01 - Worship Services

The regular times of worship shall be Sunday, morning and evening, and Wednesday evening for Bible Study and prayer. The Church shall also conduct worship services at such other times and places (e.g. cell groups, other sister churches, etc.) as shall meet the needs of the church body. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of worship services. The pastor shall be responsible for the conduct of all worship services.

### Section 8.02 - Business Meetings

A. The moderator of the business meeting shall be the pastor. In the absence of the pastor, the chairman of the Church Council. In the absence of both the pastor and the chairman of the Church

Council, the church may elect a moderator by a majority vote of voting members present; otherwise no regular or special business meeting shall be conducted.

B. The church shall hold business meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. Starting in January.

B. A quorum for church business meetings consists of those members who attend the business meeting, provided it has been properly called.

C. All minutes shall be read and approved and reports received and approved by the church at a regular business meeting.

D. All church business meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

E. For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may call a vote with the church body present and a two thirds majority vote in attendance, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises and treat the person as a trespasser.

#### Section 8.03 - Special Meetings

A. The pastor (or deacons, or Chairman of Church Council, if the office of pastor is vacant or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting.

B. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 2.04(A).

C. Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial.

#### Section 8.04 - Voting

A. Except as otherwise specified, all members of this church eighteen years (18) of age and older (voting members), shall be entitled to vote on all matters, unless charges are pending against them.

B. Except as otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, a simple majority of voting members present and voting shall be required for adoption of any question.

C. Except as otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws voting shall be as follows: voting shall, at the moderator's discretion, be by the show of hand, by standing, or by secret ballot, except that a secret ballot may be ordered on any question by two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting.

D. Proxy voting is prohibited.

E. Absentee voting is prohibited.

F. Matters pertaining to fellowship, matters legally binding the church, the ordination of members to the ministry or to be deacons, changing associational fellowship, shall require two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

#### Section 8.05 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st. The fiscal year may be changed by a vote of the church at any church business meeting under the provisions of these bylaws. A motion to change the fiscal year must originate from the budget and finance committee.

### ARTICLE 9 - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Meetings shall be conducted in a manner that reflects the principles of generally accepted parliamentary practice to provide fairness to the individual; the minority, the majority, and the entire church body, with the objective of facilitating the orderly conduct business and promoting cooperation and harmony.

The moderator shall, in an impartial manner, use his best effort of good judgment and common sense in interpreting the above standard as it applies to any item of parliamentary procedure. Two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting shall be required to overturn a parliamentary ruling of the moderator.

### ARTICLE 10 - ORDINATION (MINISTRY)

#### Section 10.01 - Ordination Qualifications

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

A male member of this church or its mission churches; who is eighteen (18) years of age or older; who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry; and who possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3: 1- 7 and Titus 1:6-9; may, at the sole discretion of the pastor and the deacons, be considered as a candidate for ordination as a minister of the Gospel.

#### Section 10.02 - Ordination Procedure

A. Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor and deacons have approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall recommend the candidate to the church at a duly called business meeting. Upon approval of the candidate by the church by a majority of those present and voting, the pastor shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers and deacons of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

B. If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.

C. The church may, at any time, withdraw consent for ordination; and may subsequently revoke the ordination, of any candidate.

D. The pastor and the chairman of the deacons shall arrange for the ordination service.

#### ARTICLE 11 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Designated funds given to an outside entity shall be sent within 30 days from the collection of the offering.

B. From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may wish to designate their gifts toward a specific use. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain exclusively as designated. The church may vote to use designated funds in case of emergency situations only, but must return those funds to where they were originally designated at the earliest possible opportunity. An accounting of any fund used for emergency is mandatory and must be reported during the church treasurer's report at the regular business meeting.

#### ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS

Changes in the constitution and bylaws may be made at any business meeting of the church, provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous business meeting, and copies of the proposed amendment shall be made available to the members present at the earlier meeting, which must have been held at least 14 days previously, and the later business meeting has been announced on at least 2 consecutive Sundays at all worship services prior to the later business meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present.

#### ARTICLE 13 - REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The pastor, deacons and church council shall appoint a special committee to review, and recommend revisions to, the constitution and bylaws every 5 years or sooner.

#### ADOPTION

This constitution and these bylaws were adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church on October 20, 2024.