

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

First Baptist Church
Brunswick, Georgia

PREAMBLE

The following principles, policies, and procedures are established for the guidance of the worship and activities of the First Baptist Church of Brunswick, Georgia. They are based upon Bible truth, past practice and present needs of the church. They shall be known as the Constitution and By-Laws of this church. These articles shall supersede any former practices and policies of this church.

CONSTITUTION

Article I - Name

The name of this church shall be First Baptist Church of Brunswick, Georgia.

Article II - Purpose

Unified in faith and worship of Jesus Christ, we meet needs and impact lives by teaching God's Word and equipping people to become devoted and effective Christians.

Article III - Articles of Faith

(As contained in the tract "The Baptist Faith and Message").

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of 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. 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. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ.

Ex. 24:4; Deut. 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34, Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36; Matt. 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; I Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal 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-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.

Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ex. 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Lev. 22:2, Deut. 6:4; 32:6; I Chron. 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isa. 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jer. 10:10; 17:13; Matt. 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; Rom. 8:14-15; I Cor. 8:6; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:15; I Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:6; 12:9; I Peter 1:17; I John 5:7.

B. GOD THE SON

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His 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, partaking of the nature of God and of man and 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.

Gen. 18:1ff; Psalm 2:7ff; 110:1ff.; Isa. 7:14; 53; Matt. 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, 16:15-15, 28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20, 28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24 7:55-56; 9:4-5; 20; Rom. 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3; 34; 10:4; I Cor. 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8; 24-28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2:9; I Thes. 4:14-18; I Tim. 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15, 24-28; 12:2; 13:8; I Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; I John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Rev. 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. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the redemption. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to 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.

Gen. 1:2; Judg. 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalm 51:11; 139:7ff; Isa. 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matt. 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; Rom. 8:9-11; 14-16, 26-27, I Cor. 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I Thess. 5:19; I Tim. 3:16; 4:1; 2 Tim. 1:14; 3:16; Heb. 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1-21; I John 4:13; 5:6-7; Rev. 1:10; 22:17.

III. MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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, and as soon as they are capable of moral action 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 man possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Gen. 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalm 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jer. 17:5; Matt. 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Rom. 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; I Cor. 1:21-31; 15:19; 21-22; Eph. 2:1-22; Col. 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

IV. SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

- A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior. 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 into a relationship of peace and favor with God.
- B. 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 perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
- C. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matt. 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22 to 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; Rom 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; I Cor. 1:8; 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:12-13; Col 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; I Thess. 5:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; I Peter 1:2-23; I John 1:6 to 2:11; Rev. 3:20; 21:1 to 22:5.

V. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, 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 a 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, bring reproach on the cause of Christ, and temporal judgment on themselves, yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-8; I Sam. 8:4-7, 19-22; Isa. 5:1-7; Jer. 31:31ff.; Matt. 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; Rom 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; I Cor. 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph. 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Col. 1:12-14; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10, 19; Heb. 11:39-12:2; I Peter 1:2-5, 13; 2:4-10; I John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. THE CHURCH

A new Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

This church is an autonomous body operating through democratic processes under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In such a congregation members are equally responsible. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages.

Matt. 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; Rom. 1:7; I Cor. 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 21; 5:22-32; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; I Tim. 3:1-15; 4:14; I Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2-3; 21:2-3.

VII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen 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.

Matt. 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; Acts 20:7; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Col. 2:12.

VIII. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, work of necessity and mercy only be excepted.

Ex. 20:8-11; Matt. 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; I Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev. 1:10.

IX. THE KINGDOM

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

Gen. 1:1; Isa. 9:6-7; Jer. 23:5-6; Matt. 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; Rom. 5:17; 8:19; I Cor. 15:24-28; Col. 1:13; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:28; I Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Rev. 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. LAST THINGS

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

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matt. 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; Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; I Thess. 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thess. 1:7ff.; 2; I Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; I John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1 to 22:13.

XI. EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary 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. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5-6; Isa. 6:1-8; Matt. 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:8-30, 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; 20:31; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10; 42-48; 12:2-3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 3:1-11; I Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:1-3; 11:39 to 12:2; I Peter 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17.

XII. EDUCATION

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 schools 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 an 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.

Deut. 4:15, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Neh. 8:1-8, Job 28:28; Psalm 19:7ff.; 119:11; Prov. 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7; 11; 15:14; Eccl. 7:19; Matt. 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; I Cor. 1:18-31; Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 4:8; Col. 2:3, 8-9; I Tim. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:14-17; Heb. 5:12 to 6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel; and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others.

According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Gen. 14:20; Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 8:18; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 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; I Cor. 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:15; Phil. 4:10-19; I Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. COOPERATION

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

Ex. 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judg. 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Neh. 4; 8:1-5; Matt. 10:5-15; 10:1-16; 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; I Cor. 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 1:6-10; Eph. 4:1-16; Phil. 1:15-18.

XV. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE SOCIAL ORDER

Every Christian is under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in his own life 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 Christ Jesus. The Christian should oppose in the spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice. He should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society under the sway of 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.

Ex. 20:3-27; Lev. 6:2-5; Deut. 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Mic. 6:8; Zech. 8:16; Matt. 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:19-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Rom. 12-14; I Cor. 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23 to 11:1; Ga. 3:26-28; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:12-17; I Thess. 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVI. PEACE AND WAR

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love.

Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Rom. 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Heb. 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Gen. 1:27; 2:7; Matt. 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Gal. 5:1, 13; Phil. 3:20; I Tim. 2:1-2; James 4:12; I Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

Article IV - Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and 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 expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid 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 remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article V - Character

Section 1. Polity: The government of this church is vested solely in the body of the members who compose it, subject to the Lordship of Christ. It shall be subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body.

Section 2. Cooperation: So far as may be consistent with principles and teachings of God's Word as set forth by the Articles of Faith (Article III), this church does and shall continue to cooperate with and have representation in the denominational causes sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Georgia Baptist Convention, and the local Baptist Association now represented by the Southeast Baptist Association.

Article VI - Amendment

This constitution may be amended in a regular business meeting of the church in which 25% of the resident church membership is present and 75% of those present vote for the amendment. All such changes shall have been offered in writing and read at a previous regular business meeting and not less than thirty (30) days shall have intervened before final consideration. During this period of thirty (30) days, the proposed amendment shall be read in each of the Sunday morning worship services of this church.

BY-LAWS

Article I - Membership

SECTION I QUALIFICATIONS

The membership of this church shall consist of persons who have made a public profession of their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord; who give satisfying evidence that they have been converted; who desire to be numbered among His disciples; who are in sympathy with and subscribe to the faith and practices of this church; who have experienced baptism by immersion in this church or in a church of like faith and order; who shall have been received into its fellowship by a majority vote of the congregation at any of its public services;

SECTION II ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Members may be received into this church by a majority vote of the congregation at any of its public services in the following ways:

- (1) By Baptism
Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and publicly declaring his purpose to follow Him as His disciple, may be received into full fellowship of this church, as a candidate for baptism, by the Membership Committee and the Pastor.
- (2) By Letter
A person may be received into the full fellowship of this church upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from a church of like faith and order.
- (3) By Statement of Experience
A person may be received into full fellowship of this church upon his statement that he has accepted Christ as his personal Savior and that he has experienced baptism by immersion as an act of obedience symbolizing his death to sin and burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life, and upon giving satisfactory evidence that he agrees with and will subscribe to the faith and practice of this church.

SECTION III DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

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

SECTION IV RIGHTS OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Such members as are in full and regular standing with this church, and such only may act and vote in the transactions of this church.

SECTION V TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Termination of membership in this church may be effected in the following ways:

(1) By Death

(2) By Transfer of Letter

A person's membership in this church may be terminated by a majority vote of the congregation at any of its public services upon receipt of a request for that person's letter of membership to be transferred to a church of like faith and order. In the event that a letter is requested in some other manner or for some other reason, this church and its pastor should endeavor with all Christian love to secure the members continuance in this or a like fellowship.

(3) By Erasure

A person's membership in this church is automatically terminated when unites with a church of a different faith and order. Such a person's name shall be removed from the church membership roll by erasure upon verification that he has united with a church of a different faith and order, and by the majority vote of the congregation at any of its public services. Letters of church membership shall not be granted to churches of a different faith and order.

(4) By Disciplinary Action or Exclusion

A person's membership in this church may be terminated by a majority vote of the congregation at a specified public service after it has been established that such a person has become an offense to this church and the cause of Christ by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of the church covenant. Such action shall not be taken until the method of restoration described in Matthew 18:15-17 has been carefully and prayerfully used to win the erring brother, but without success. No membership will be terminated by disciplinary action or exclusion at the same public service during which the initial recommendation is made.

SECTION VI

LICENSURE TO MINISTER THE GOSPEL

When properly requested by a "called out" member of the church, the church may from time to time grant a licensure to minister the gospel of Christ.

LICENSURE

Licensure for the ministry is a right and responsibility of the church. When one is "called out" by God from the church to service in the ministry, it is a time of honor and joy, but grave responsibility for the local church. Licensure is requested by one who believes he is "called out" for service in a ministerial capacity.

The purpose of the ministerial license is to express church support for the one who serves in a ministerial capacity.

Licensure means "we believe in this individual; we commend him to other churches; we wish him Godspeed as he exercises his gifts."

THE PROCEDURE

A formal request with detailed statement of intention is made in writing to the Pastor and Church Council. Following careful consideration, a recommendation is made to the Deacon Body by the Pastor and the Council. If a favorable reaction to license is given by the Deacon Body, a recommendation will be made to the church to grant the license. The same procedure would be used to revoke a license.

Article II - Church Officers

The officers of this church shall be as follows:

PASTOR

SECTION I QUALIFICATIONS

The Pastor of this church shall possess the Scriptural qualifications found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9.

SECTION II DUTIES

- (1) To lead this church to effectively propagate the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at home and abroad.
- (2) To give special attention to the spiritual needs of the members of this church, and provide spiritual guidance for them and for the community.
- (3) To preach statedly at the services of this church or be responsible for securing persons to fill the pulpit of this church on appropriate occasions..
- (4) To administer the ordinances of the New Testament, perform marriages and conduct funerals.
- (5) To serve as an ex-officio member of all organizations and committees of this church.
- (6) To act as chief administrator and chairman of the church staff. He shall be responsible for the coordination and planning of the staff to insure that a balanced and effective church program is set forth.
- (7) To act as moderator of the church except when otherwise directed.

SECTION III

METHOD OF ELECTION

The pastor of this church shall be called by a vote of the church upon the recommendation of a duly elected pulpit committee. The pastor, thus called, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by mutual consent. In the event the church becomes pastorless, the procedure for calling a pastor shall be as follows:

- (1) Upon resignation of the Pastor, the chairman of the deacons or vice-moderator shall preside at worship services, introduce guest speakers and guide the entire church program.
- (2) The nominating committee shall secure the agreement of seven church members to serve on the pulpit committee. Five of these shall be men, and two shall be women. At least two of the men shall be elected from the active, life, or reserve deacon list. The nominating committee shall specify the person to be chairman. It understood that during this time when the nominating committee is prayerfully deciding what names to place on the list of nominees, members of this church may suggest to the committee names of persons they feel should be considered. Qualifications for membership on the committee shall be:
 1. Demonstrated spirituality.
 2. Maturity
 3. The ability to devote the necessary time to the work.
 4. Ability in assessing the qualifications of other people.
 5. Must be at least twenty-five years of age.
 6. Regular in attendance, and active participation in the major facets of this church.

The election of this committee shall be in any regular or called business meeting after having been publicized at least one week. The nominating committee shall submit the names of seven persons for election. A motion to only accept or reject the names of the nominating committee list would be in order for election of the pulpit committee. The committee shall elect its own secretary. The committee may receive assistance from the church secretary in the matter of typing notes of their meetings and necessary correspondence. The committee shall report its progress to the deacon body at each regular deacons meeting. Reasonable expenses incurred by the committee shall be reimbursed by the church, with approval of the finance committee.

- (3) The pulpit committee shall present to the church for approval a description of provisions to be discussed with a prospective pastor. This shall include such matters as salary, participation in retirement plan, home utilities, allowances, moving expenses, vacations, time allowed for revivals and other speaking engagements, etc.
- (4) The function of the pulpit committee shall be to prayerfully investigate and recommend to this church the name of a person to this church at the time. No candidate shall be recommended to this church unless five of the seven members of the pulpit committee favor such action.
- (5) When the pulpit committee is ready to make its recommendation of the prospective

pastor, it will present its report to the deacons at a regular or called meeting. The deacons shall discuss the qualifications of the prospective pastor thoroughly and if the majority of the deacons present and voting concur with the recommendation of the committee, the church congregation will be notified at all Sunday worship services that on the following Sunday the pulpit committee will present to this church a prospective pastor. A letter to this effect shall be sent to all resident church member-families and other appropriate publicity shall be given the date on which such recommendation will be presented. On the designated Sunday, the recommendation of the pulpit committee shall be received together with the reasons for its recommendation. For purposes of discussion, a motion and second shall be made to call the person recommended as pastor, but the congregation will vote in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 hereafter.

- (6) After hearing the prospective pastor on the designated Sunday, not less than three (3) days or more than seven (7) days will be given the membership for prayerful consideration of the person presented before the Congregation votes on the pulpit committee's recommendation. After full discussion, the vote will be taken by secret ballot. If 80% or more of the members of the church present and voting shall cast their vote in favor of calling the person recommended, a call to the person recommended shall be extended forthwith by the Pulpit Committee. However, if there is negative sentiment of more than 20% of those church members present and voting, the recommendation shall be turned back to the Pulpit Committee for further prayer and investigation. In the event this church votes to call the recommended person as pastor an opportunity shall then be given for the members to make the call unanimous. At any rate, the recommended person who has been voted upon shall be notified upon his request of the outcome of the vote to call before the opportunity was given to make it unanimous.

SECTION IV

METHOD OF REMOVAL

The pastor of this church may be removed by reason of resignation or failure to sustain the above named qualifications, but when 70% or more of the members of the church present and voting shall cast their votes by secret ballot, in favor of removal. Removal for the latter reason may not be voted upon at the same public service during which the initial recommendation is made, and the membership of this church shall be advised in advance of such a matter in the same way prescribed prior to the calling of a pastor.

CALLED STAFF MEMBERS

Called Staff Members are those who shall be called, hired and released by a vote of this church upon the recommendation of the personnel committee.

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS

Other staff members of this church are those who shall be hired and released at the discretion of the personnel committee.

SECTION I PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

The need of each additional called staff member shall be verified by this church. Then, the personnel committee shall proceed in keeping with the description of its duties and the type of staff member desired.

SECTION II STATEMENT OF DUTIES

The personnel committee shall prepare a job description for each staff position which shall be adopted by this church and discussed with each prospective staff member prior to his being called or hired. Any necessary adjustments relating to staff members shall be recommended to this church by the personnel committee.

DEACONS

SECTION 1 Qualifications

A deacon of this church must have attained the age of twenty-five and been a resident member of this church for at least two years, who has been elected to serve as a deacon in this church, and who has been ordained to the office of deacon by this church or a church of like faith and order. In addition, he should possess the following qualifications:

- (1) He should measure up to the requirements given in Acts 6:1-4 and I Timothy 3:8-13.
- (2) He should live a consecrated Christian life, bringing no reproach by his conduct upon the church or the cause of Christ.
- (3) He should attend church every Sunday morning and Sunday night, every Wednesday night, and all special church meetings, unless hindered by some reason which is approved by a good conscience.
- (4) He should be a tither-bringing his tithe systematically to the church for the Lord's work.
- (5) He should be evangelistic and missionary in spirit, deeply interested in the salvation of souls at home and abroad.
- (6) He should be fully cooperative with the pastor and church on a great spiritual program of advancement.
- (7) He should be a man who refrains from destructive criticism of his pastor and church, willing to settle all differences and difficulties in a quiet and Christian manner.
- (8) He should be able to keep in secrecy those things which should not be discussed with others.
- (9) He should be a man about whom people say, "He is a good Christian man."

SECTION 2

Classification

There shall be three classifications of deacons in this church:

- (1) ACTIVE. This group shall consist of a number of ordained deacons, evenly divisible by four, presently serving a full or partial term of office on the active deacon body to which they have been duly nominated and elected under the terms and provisions of Section 3 hereof.
- (2) LIFE. This group shall consist of ordained men who have served a minimum of 15 years as active deacons either in this church or a sister Baptist Church and are at least 65 years of age. Election of life deacons shall be recommended to the church by the Committee on Deacons at the time of the annual election of deacons.
- (3) RESERVE. This group shall consist of all ordained deacons who are members of this church but are not classified as active or life deacons. All ordained deacons uniting with this church shall become members of this group.
- (4) LIFE deacons and RESERVE deacons are welcome to attend any and all deacons meetings. They may express their views on matters at hand but are not allowed to vote.

SECTION 3

METHOD OF ELECTION

- (1) Information will be mailed to each member 30 days prior to the date of election, to include the qualifications and duties of the office of deacon, as well as an official ballot for nominations. Those ineligible for a current election are life deacons, active deacons, and those rotating off the deacon body.
- (2) Each member of the church shall have the privilege of nominating one man for each vacancy on the active deacon body. Each member will be mailed a ballot, prepared in the church office, for nominating those qualified. Should a member lose or fail to receive a ballot he/she may pick up a reserve ballot at the office upon affirmation of having lost it or failed to receive one by mail.
- (3) Those nominations may be turned into the church office, mailed in, or dropped into the offering plate. Nominations will be considered closed at the end of the evening worship service on the deacon election date.
- (4) The Committee on Deacons shall carefully review the nominations that have been received from the church body, and determine those meeting all the qualifications for deacon, and nominate the men who will fill existing vacancies on the active deacon body.
- (5) Any vacancies occurring on the active deacon body after the regular deacon election, shall not be filled until the following regular deacon election.
- (6) On the second Sunday in August, the deacon election will be made known to each member in the church bulletin. On the second Sunday in September the deacon election will take place. At the regular church conference or a called conference in October the slate of names to fill deacon vacancies will be voted on by the church.

SECTION IV

ORDINATION

In the event this church shall elect a man who is not already an ordained deacon, the procedure shall be as follows:

- (1) After the un-ordained man has been elected to serve as an active deacon, the ordained preachers and deacons of this church and those invited from neighboring churches of like faith and order shall meet with the proposed deacon, choose a chairman of the ordaining council, and direct appropriate questions to the proposed deacon to determine his suitability for ordination.
- (2) If the ordaining council is convinced that the proposed deacon is suitable for ordination, they shall recommend to this church that he be ordained to the office of deacon.
- (3) At the appointed time and in the appropriate manner the proposed deacon shall then be ordained.

SECTION V

TERM OF OFFICE

- (1) The term of office for members of the active deacon body shall be determined by a four year rotation plan. That is, one fourth of the term will expire each year, thus completely rotating the entire deacon body every four years. The annual term of office for active deacons shall run from January 1 through December 31.
- (2) When a deacon's term has expired, by virtue of rotation or resignation, he shall not be eligible for re-election until at least one year has intervened.

SECTION VI

DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the deacons to:

- (1) Be zealous to guard the unity of the Spirit within this church in the bonds of peace.
- (2) Pray much for this church, the pastor, and this church's program of work.
- (3) Cooperate and assist the pastor in the promotion of the best interests of this church.
- (4) Devote themselves to the spiritual welfare of the members of this church and to their enlistment in active church service.
- (5) Use all proper efforts to reclaim such church members as may have neglected their obligations or may stand in need of discipline.
- (6) Visit the lost, prospects for church membership, sick, and church members.
- (7) Assist in the administration of the ordinances.
- (8) Make such recommendations to this church for action as seem expedient.

SECTION VII

ORGANIZATION

The officers of the deacon body shall be chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. These officers shall be chosen by the deacon body in its November meeting each year, with no man being elected chairman for more than two consecutive years. The ten deacons rotating off the active rolls as of December 31 will not vote for the new deacon officers while the ten deacons just beginning their term of office will be eligible to vote. All officers shall be active deacons. The committees of the deacon body shall be Baptism, Benevolence,

Constitution and By-Laws, Lord's Supper, Membership, Memorial and Special Gifts. These committees shall be appointed by the chairman following his election. There will be a Jekyll Mission Council of the deacon body and the members of this council will be appointed by the deacon chairman, following his election.

SECTION VIII

MEETINGS

- (1) The deacon body shall schedule and conduct periodic meetings. Said meetings are to be published beforehand in the church bulletin.
- (2) Called meetings of the deacon body may be held when deemed necessary by the pastor or the chairman of deacons, or by written request of at least ten members of the deacon body. The pastor shall be notified of all regular and called meetings and shall be eligible to attend all such meetings, except when he is personally involved and is requested to abstain from attendance by the majority of the deacon body present and voting. It is also understood that all pastoral, education, and music staff members of this church are welcome to attend meetings of the deacon body as they desire except when they are personally involved. When the agenda for a called meeting is known to include a matter or matters of unusual significance, all available active deacons shall be notified in advance of such a meeting.
- (3) A quorum of the deacon body shall consist of not less than a majority of the active deacons and the majority vote of those present and voting shall pass any matter voted upon.

SECTION IX

REMOVAL

Removal from the deacon body shall be for the following reasons:

- (1) Death
- (2) Transfer of membership to another church
- (3) Resignation
- (4) When any active deacon misses 4 (four) of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings without permission of the chairperson, in any one fiscal year (Jan-Dec), that deacon shall be dropped from the roll as an active deacon.

TRUSTEES

SECTION I

METHOD OF SELECTION

There shall be three trustees at all times, one shall be elected each year, and the term of office shall be three years.

When the term of a trustee has expired by virtue of rotation or resignation, he shall not be eligible for re-election until one year has intervened.

SECTION II

DUTIES

- (1) To execute all legal papers for this church upon appropriate action by this church.
- (2) To represent this church in all legal matters and to counsel donors in the preparation of wills and endowments.
- (3) To see that all legal papers and important documents are safely and conveniently stored.
- (4) To sign checks in the absence of the church treasurer.

MODERATOR

SECTION I

The moderator shall be the pastor and the vice-moderator shall be the chairman of the deacons.

SECTION II

DUTIES

- (1) The moderator shall preside at all meetings except when otherwise directed by the church.
- (2) The vice-moderator shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the moderator.

CHURCH TREASURER

SECTION I

METHOD OF SELECTION

A church treasurer shall be elected annually by this church. The member elected to this office shall not be elected to serve more than three consecutive years not be re-elected to this office until one year has lapsed since their last term of service.

SECTION II

DUTIES

The duties of the church treasurer shall be:

- (1) To serve as a member of the finance committee.
- (2) To supervise the payment of all accounts consistent with the budget of this church. Any exceptions shall be made on authority of the finance committee or the action of this church.
- (3) To make a monthly report of receipts and disbursements to this church.
- (4) To work in keeping with the financial policies of this church and under the general supervision of the finance committee.

CHURCH CLERK AND ASSISTANT CHURCH CLERK

SECTION I

METHOD OF SELECTION

A church clerk and assistant church clerk shall be elected annually by this church.

SECTION II

DUTIES

The assistant church clerk shall assist in all matters pertaining to the office.

The duties of the church clerk shall be:

- (1) To keep a correct record of all the official acts of this church.

- (2) To cooperate with the church office in keeping a correct roll of church membership.
- (3) To make monthly reports to this church consisting of the record of official acts and church membership statistics.
- (4) To cooperate with the church office in the preparation of the annual statistical report of this church to the local association.
- (5) To obtain complete records of public decisions made during any of the services of this church.

CHURCH MEDIA CENTER DIRECTOR

SECTION I METHOD OF SELECTION

A Media Center Director for the Church Media Center will be elected annually by this church.

SECTION II DUTIES OF MEDIA CENTER DIRECTOR

The Church Media Center Director shall work in cooperation with the media center staff to promote the development and use of the church media center. The specific duties of the media center director shall be the same as those set forth for the media center staff.

SECTION III DUTIES OF STAFF

Workers in the Media Center will be enlisted by the nominating committee, after consultation with the Media Center Director on a yearly basis.

CHURCH HISTORIAN

SECTION I METHOD OF SELECTION

An historian shall be elected annually by this church.

SECTION II DUTIES

The church historian shall gather all historical materials relating to this church, preserve the historical materials in a safe place and call them to the attention of the membership periodically.

SECTION III

Staff workers, not to exceed three (3), will be enlisted by the nominating committee, after consultation with the Church Historian, on a yearly basis to assist the Historian.

DIVISION DIRECTORS

SECTION I METHOD OF SELECTION

Division Directors shall be elected annually by this church to supervise the educational work of the various age-group divisions.

SECTION II DUTIES

- (1) To emphasize the necessity of spiritual development and proper influence on the part of every office and teacher in their division.

- (2) To aid in securing and maintaining an adequate and efficient staff of officers and teachers in their division.
- (3) To strive to attain the highest possible degree of quality in the work and activities of their division.
- (4) To correlate and balance the work and activities of their division.
- (5) To plan and promote effective soul-winning, visitation, and enlistment efforts for their division in cooperation with this church's policies and plans.
- (6) To give effective promotion within their division to the plans, programs, and activities of this entire church.
- (7) To survey the physical needs of their division and make appropriate recommendations concerning equipment and supplies.

CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION I COMPOSITION

The church council shall be composed of the pastor and ministerial staff members of the church; the heads of the organizations of this church; and the chairman of deacons. Election to any of these respective positions shall automatically constitute membership in the church council. The pastor will serve as chairman of this group.

SECTION II DUTIES

- (1) To recommend appropriate objectives and goals to this church.
- (2) To outline a church calendar of activities for accomplishing these objectives and goals.
- (3) To develop wholehearted cooperation between all of the organizations of this church.
- (4) To evaluate the results of the various meetings and projects undertaken by this church with a view to improved planning and work in the future.
- (5) To assist the pastor in recommendations, procedures, and follow up as they relate to licensure.

GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION I COMPOSITION

The General Church Officers are the Trustees, Treasurer, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Media Center Director, Historian and Representative of the Southeast Baptist Association Executive Committee.

SECTION II TERM OF OFFICE

The annual term of office for the General Church Officers shall run from January 1 through December 31.

SOUTHEAST BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

SECTION I METHOD OF SELECTION

The Nominating Committee will recommend a member to represent this church on the Executive Committee. The representative on the Executive Committee will be elected annually by this church.

SECTION II DUTIES

Attend appropriate meetings, represent this church and advise the church at least once a year and whenever necessary concerning matters of interest to the church.

OTHER NEEDED CHURCH OFFICERS

As need may arise or circumstances dictate, this church shall elect other church officers. In such instances, care should be taken to describe the duties of such an office in a way that would prevent overlapping with the responsibilities of others.

USHERS

The body of Ushers shall consist of a sufficient number to accomplish its task. New members will be elected annually so as to provide for a four year rotation.

The Ushers shall:

- (1) Greet the people as they arrive for each service.
- (2) Distribute the order of worship to be used during each particular service.
- (3) Assist the people in locating and reaching places of seating.
- (4) Regulate ventilation of the church building.
- (5) Distribute visitor's cards and other necessary materials.
- (6) Administer the receiving of the tithes and offerings.
- (7) Keep order in each service and meet any emergencies which may arise.
- (8) Prepare the church building for departure following each service of activity.

Article III - Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

SECTION I METHOD OF SELECTION

The required number of members for each standing committee shall be elected annually by this church. The names of these persons shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee, with the following exceptions:

- (1) The names of persons recommended for service on the nominating committee shall be decided upon by the pastor, chairman of deacons, and church clerk. In the event the church is without a regular pastor, the chairman of deacons will act in the place of the pastor, unless the moderator happens to also be the chairman of deacons or church clerk; in which case the vice-chairman of deacons will be the third party for nominating members of the nominating committee.

- (2) The Minister of Youth, in consultation with the Pastor, will annually select six adults to make up the Youth Committee. Three from the church at large and one from each of the following youth organizations: Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and Missions. The Youth Committee will consist of the Minister of Youth and the six adults selected.
- (3) The Church Treasurer, Chairman of Deacons, and Chairman of Properties Committee shall automatically serve as members of the Finance Committee along with six other persons who shall be elected in the usual manner.
- (4) The Missions Committee shall include the Woman's Missionary Union Director, the Brotherhood Director, the church representative to the Southeast Baptist Association, the Chairman of the Deacons in addition to other six (6) rotating members recommended by the Nominating Committee.

SECTION II

TERM OF OFFICE

The annual term of office for the members of standing committees shall run from January 1 through December 31. When a member of a church committee term has expired by virtue of rotation or resignation he shall not be eligible for election to any given church committee until at least one year has intervened. No member shall be elected to serve on more than one committee at any given time.

SECTION III

ROTATION

All standing committees of this church except Audio, Broadcast, Trust, Media, and Youth shall be maintained on a three year rotation plan. The Trust Committee shall be maintained on a four year rotation plan. However, the election of members to all standing committees each year shall be subject both to the desire of the nominating group and the agreement of each nominee involved. Each standing committee which is maintained according to this three year rotation plan shall consist of a number of members evenly divisible by three, one-third of whom shall automatically be retired from that particular committee each year, provided however, that additional members can be elected for a one year term to any standing committee if the members of that particular committee feel the need for an expanded committee. One year must elapse before a person who has rotated off a given committee may be re-elected to any committee.

SECTION IV

RESPONSIBILITY

All standing committees are responsible to the church and are therefore expected to make periodic reports and recommendations to the church as necessary. In addition, the Finance and Personnel Committees shall make reports to the active deacon body at each of their regular meetings. All other standing committees shall bring matters of major importance to the attention of the active deacons before they are presented to the church. The chairperson of each standing committee shall notify the chairman of deacons and/or the pastor when they have an item to be placed on the agenda for the deacons meeting. Each committee

member shall have one vote whether they are elected, appointed, or serve ex-officio. There will be no voting by proxy.

SECTION V

DUTIES

Audio Committee

- (1) Assume sole responsibility for the sound and lighting systems in the church auditorium.
- (2) Assist with special sound and lighting effects as needed.

Broadcast Committee

- (1) Supervise all broadcasts of worship events emanating from the First Baptist Church of Brunswick.
- (2) Enlist and assure the training of all personnel needed to provide for the operation of broadcasting equipment.
- (3) Promote and educate the membership on the utilization of broadcast media as a ministry tool for First Baptist Church.
- (4) Plan for any up-grading of equipment of operational procedures for future continuation of broadcast ministry.
- (5) Prepare annual broadcast budgets for presentation to the finance committee.
- (6) Supervise, protect, and maintain all broadcast equipment owned or operated by First Baptist Church.

Church Weekday Education Committee

- (1) To work with the personnel committee in enlisting persons to direct and lead the weekday educational program.
- (2) To assure compliance with necessary licensing qualifications.
- (3) To determine policies and procedures for the operation and administration of the weekday educational program.
- (4) Organize the involvement of church members and parents in the program.
- (5) To coordinate and work with related standing committees.
- (6) To lead in public relations efforts to publicize the program in the community.
- (7) To assist the director in developing a workable annual budget.
- (8) To keep church members informed and educated about the activities of the program and bring recommendations to the church concerning the work of the weekday education program.
- (9) To evaluate the operation of the program and the work of the committee as to meeting the church objectives.

Finance Committee

- (1) Strive to educate the people in the area of stewardship and the faithful giving of their tithes and offerings.
- (2) Plan, recommend and promote the annual budget.
- (3) Recommend financial policies to the church and administer the budget and all spending accordingly.
- (4) Supervise in the maintenance of an accurate system of financial records.
- (5) Consider all appeals for special offerings or expenditures not provided for in the budget, and

- make any necessary recommendations to the church.
- (6) Decide how various love offerings will be divided among the personnel involved and instruct the treasurer to issue checks accordingly.

Fleet Operations Committee

- (1) Establishment of driver qualifications
- (2) See that the vehicles are maintained in safe operating condition
- (3) Operate within the amount budgeted
- (4) Recommend to the church additions to, deletions from, and replacement of vehicles
- (5) Coordinate the use and scheduling of vehicles through the church office
- (6) Monitor the general cleaning by user parties upon each use and schedule thorough cleaning (washing, waxing, polishing, and vacuuming) on a periodic basis
- (7) Design and analyze user forms to ascertain the best operation of the fleet.
Forms required are: A. Van Reservation Request
 B. Van Use Checklist

Flower Committee

- (1) Provide floral arrangements for use in the church auditorium and in other portions of the building as needed.
- (2) Secure, arrange, and dispose of the flowers and give proper attention to all essential supplies.

Hospitality Committee

- (1) Supervise the food service operations of our church.
- (2) Plan, prepare, and promote all church-wide events involving a meal or refreshments.
- (3) Make appropriate arrangements for the comfort and entertainment of all guests invited to the church for service opportunities.

Media Center Committee

- (1) Recommend church media center policies, rules, and plans to the church for approval.
- (2) Select specific books and supplies, according to the amount allowed in the budget, in order to assure a well balanced media center.
- (3) Screen all media given to the media center to determine their suitability.
- (4) Promote the development and use of the media center.
- (5) Make recommendations to the church concerning audio-visual needs.
- (6) Assume responsibility for the use and condition of all audio and visual aid equipment.
- (7) Supervise the operation of all audio-visual aid equipment.

Missions Committee

- (1) The committee, in consultation with the pastor, shall co-ordinate the missions emphasis of the church.
- (2) The committee shall promote the growth and development of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood as they function in First Baptist Church.
- (3) The committee shall evaluate missions needs and recommend actions through appropriate church channels.

Nominating Committee

- (1) Abide by any church approved standard of essential qualifications.
- (2) Discover persons available, acceptable, and desirable for each church-elected position.
- (3) See that each prospective worker decided upon by the committee is interviewed, explaining all duties of the position involved and securing permission to present his name for election.
- (4) Recommend qualified and willing persons to the church for election.
- (5) Consider resignations and name recommendations to fill vacancies created thereby during the year.
- (6) Neither the church in a business meeting nor the Nominating Committee shall consider any immediate family member of an employee or staff member to serve on either the Finance or Personnel Committees. This exclusion would not extend to any ex-officio member of either the Finance or Personnel Committees. In the context, here set out, "immediate family member" is defined as a spouse, child, parent or sibling.

Pre-School Committee

- (1) Recommend Pre-School policies to the church for official adoption.
- (2) Publicize the policies of the Pre-School.
- (3) Consider and recommend the purchase of Pre-School equipment and supplies.
- (4) Strengthen parent-worker relationships.
- (5) make recommendations about cleanliness and care of the rooms and equipment.
- (6) Correlate the use of the Pre-School for various meetings and by various organizations of the church.

Personnel Committee

With the approval of the Pastor shall:

- (1) Recruit, interview, recommend to the church and place of the job all paid church workers, other than the pastor, who serve in the pastoral, educational, and music ministries of the church; working closely with the person or group who will supervise the worker.
- (2) Recruit, interview, hire, place of the job, and release all other paid church workers; working closely with the person or group who will supervise the worker.
- (3) Prepare job descriptions for use in interviewing, instructing, and guiding paid workers.
- (4) In conjunction with the Finance Committee, prepare the salary program, employee benefits, and work schedule of paid workers.
- (5) make decisions in the area of employee services.
- (6) When the pastor cannot perform his duty of securing a person to fill the pulpit of this church on appropriate occasions, the personnel committee will assume this responsibility.
- (7) When the church becomes without a pastor, the personnel committee shall obtain the services of a person or persons to fill the pulpit as needed, either on a temporary or interim basis. In the case of an interim pastor, the personnel committee, after proper prayer and consideration, shall submit the name of its selection to the church for election. An interim pastor is one who is not interested in becoming pastor of this church.

Properties Committee

- (1) Make decisions and recommendations necessary to maintain adequate and attractive church property.
- (2) Make decisions and recommendations concerning the purchase of equipment and maintenance supplies.
- (3) Supervise the maintenance of church buildings, equipment, and grounds.

Social Concerns Committee

- (1) To inform and educate the Church Congregation and/or the community concerning significant moral and cultural issues for which there is clear Scriptural guidance.
- (2) To suggest and provide tools for increasing Christian involvement in shaping public dialogue with respect to such moral and cultural concerns.
- (3) To focus on the the promotion and development of committed Christian citizenship.

Trust Committee

The Trust Committee shall consist of eight members. Members will serve for four years with two members being elected each year so as to maintain a four-year rotation of the committee.

Duties of Committee

- (1) To study plans and proposals for the management and expenditures of all funds bequeathed to the church except funds designated to be controlled by the church trustees.
- (2) Upon approval of any plan or proposal the committee shall bring their recommendation to the Deacon Body for approval. The plan or proposal as approved by the deacon Body will then be presented to the church in conference.
- (3) Upon approval by the church of any expenditures of trust funds all disbursements will be made by the church finance committee.

Youth Committee

The Minister of Youth shall be responsible for the youth program of this church and the youth committee shall work directly with the Minister of Youth and assist with developing, planning, conducting, and evaluating a youth program for this church. The committee shall be the decision making and coordinating body for all youth activities and fellowships of the youth of this church at large.

The Youth Council shall serve as an advisory body to the Youth Committee with both bodies working together to insure a comprehensive youth program for this church. The Youth Council will consist of the Youth Committee, Peer Elected Youth, and all other elected youth leaders.

Duties

The Youth Committee shall:

- (1) Study the needs of the youth of this church to determine and evaluate a program of continuing youth ministry that will enhance christian fellowship and growth commitment and discipleship.
- (2) Discuss, evaluate, and act upon all ideas, proposals, and activities suggested by the Youth Council.
- (3) Work with the Youth Council in planning a calendar of activities for the youth of this church that shall be coordinated with the youth music ministry.
- (4) Make certain that each activity is thoroughly planned and that the youth and youth leadership in Sunday School and Church Training are notified in advance of each activity.
- (5) Evaluate each activity after it is held in order that future activities may be improved.

Committee on Deacons

The members of the Committee on Deacons shall be:

- A. Chairman of Deacons

- B. Vice-Chairman of Deacons
- C. Church Clerk
- D. Senior Trustee in Service
- E. Director of Sunday School
- F. Director of Church Training
- G. Director of WMU
- H. Director of Baptist Men

By election to these offices these members shall automatically comprise the Committee on Deacons. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.

When any member of this committee is being voted on to become an Active Deacon, such member shall not take part in the vote counting process. The Deacon Chairman shall appoint a Life Deacon to replace such member of the Committee on Deacons for the purpose of the vote counting process only.

Duties

- (1) The chairman of this committee will be the chairman of the active deacon body.
- (2) This committee, in a regular meeting, shall determine the men to fill deacon vacancies.
- (3) This committee shall interview each of the selected men in the order of their numeric nomination. Each of these selected men shall be interviewed in detail regarding all the qualifications and duties as outlined in Section I, IV, and VI under Deacons, in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (4) Will present to the church body at the regular church conference, following the deacon election, the names of the men to fill existing vacancies on the active deacon body. The slate of names presented will be voted on at this conference.

Evangelism Committee

- (1) Shall consist of three members at least one of whom shall be an active deacon.
- (2) Together with the pastor and staff shall plan for and promote revivals.
- (3) Shall study and make recommendations to the church concerning any proposals for participation in joint revival efforts, area crusades, etc.

Long-Range Planning Committee

- (1) Develop and implement short, mid and long-range goals to insure maximum efficiency in utilization of our present church structure and properties and for such expansion as may be approved by the church.
- (2) The scope of this committee encompasses all church properties.
- (3) After careful study and planning, lead in establishing priorities to meet needs and accomplish special projects.

Recreation Committee

- (1) Recommend recreation policies to the church for official adoption.
- (2) Consider and recommend the purchase of recreation equipment and supplies.
- (3) Recommend the type of recreation in which the church will participate.

DEACON'S COMMITTEE

SECTION I

Method of Selection

The number of active deacons needed on the deacons' committees shall be appointed annually by the chairman of the deacons. The chairman of the deacons shall make these appointments as soon as possible following his election.

SECTION II

Term of Office

The term of office for members of the deacons' committees shall be from the time of their appointment until such a time as another set of deacons' committees is appointed or until such a time as their term as active deacons shall expire.

SECTION III

Responsibility

All deacons' committees are responsible to the church and are therefore expected to make periodic reports and recommendations to the church as necessary. In addition, each of the deacons' committees shall make reports to the active deacon body at each of its regular meetings.

SECTION IV

Duties

Baptism Committee

- (1) Assist the pastor in seeing that all candidates are notified, properly instructed, dressed, and prepared for the ordinance.
- (2) See that the baptismal pool, dressing rooms, and all equipment are prepared before the ordinance and properly cared for following the ordinance.
- (3) Assist the pastor in all details related to the actual observance of the ordinance.
- (4) Supply the church clerk with a record of those baptized.

Benevolence Committee

- (1) Be alert for opportunities to alleviate human suffering and need.
- (2) Assume the responsibility, to the limits of the amount allowed in the budget, for making decisions in all cases of need brought to the attention of the church.
- (3) Screen carefully those persons making appeals to the church in an effort to determine the worthiness of the appeal and the motive involved.

- (4) Communicate to all those receiving assistance the church's motive of Christian love and present a positive Christian witness.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

- (1) Make recommendations to the church regarding its Constitution and By-Laws.
- (2) Review the Constitution and By-Laws annually and recommend any changes deemed necessary.

Lord's Supper Committee

- (1) See that adequate equipment and elements are properly prepared for the ordinance.
- (2) Assist the pastor in all details related to the actual observance of the ordinance.
- (3) See that all cups are collected and entire service equipment is properly cleaned and stored.

Membership Committee

- (1) Recommend policies and plans designed to make church membership more meaningful.
- (2) Make specific efforts toward training and assimilation of new members.
- (3) Endeavor to decrease the number of non-resident members.
- (4) Seek and use ways to activate irregular members.
- (5) Assist in keeping membership records accurate.

Memorial and Special Gifts Committee

- (1) Assume sole responsibility for the maintenance of the Book of Remembrance.
- (2) Determine what gifts are to be entered in the Book of Remembrance.
- (3) See that such gifts are appropriately entered in the Book of Remembrance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees shall be elected by this church upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee or appointed by the pastor for service in matters of a temporary nature which are not included in the duties of the standing committees or deacons' committees. All special committees shall be discharged when the service they are elected or appointed has been completed.

ARTICLE IV - ORGANIZATIONS

This church shall maintain the following organizations:

Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music Ministry, Women's Missionary Union, and Baptist Men. This church shall be free to establish and maintain any other organizations which it deems advisable and necessary to fulfill its purpose as stated in Article II of its constitution. All organizations of this church shall be under church control, with all officers elected by this church and reporting regularly to this church. It shall be understood that the pastor is the ex-officio head of all church organizations and his leadership is to be recognized in them all.

SECTION 1

These organizations shall be directed by councils of their program leaders.

- (1) The Sunday School Council shall consist of the Minister of Education - Chairman, the Sunday School Director, Outreach Director, and the age group Division Directors.
- (2) The Discipleship Training Council shall consist of the Minister of Education - Chairman, the Discipleship Training Director, and the leaders of Discipleship Training.
- (3) The Baptist Men's Council shall consist of the Minister of Education - Chairman, the director of Baptist Men, and the directors of the men's and boys' missionary organizations.
- (4) The Music Council shall consist of the Minister of Music - Chairman, the directors of the Children's Choirs and Handbell Choirs, the Church Organist, Church Pianist, and the President of the Sanctuary Choir.
- (5) The Women's Missionary Union Council shall consist of the Women's Missionary Union Director - Chairperson, Mission Study Director, Mission Support Director, Enlistment Enlargement Director, Missions Action Personal Witness Director, Women's Missionary Union Secretary, and the leaders of the women's and girls Missionary organizations.

ARTICLE V - CHURCH MEETINGS

WORSHIP

SECTION 1 Public Meetings

Public meetings for preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be conducted as often as deemed necessary for the best interests of this church.

SECTION 2 BUSINESS

This church shall be regularly convened for the transaction of its business and affairs during services on Wednesdays or Sundays once each month.. unless such a meeting must be postponed for some obvious reason. At any of the regular meetings for worship, this church may act upon the reception of members.

SECTION 3 Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of this church may be called by the moderator. Notice of the time, place, and purpose of the special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit at least (3) days preceding such a meeting. Business at any special business meeting shall be limited to those items previously announced.

SECTION 4 Moderator (duties listed elsewhere in By-Laws)

SECTION 5

Parliamentary Procedure

In all questions of parliamentary procedure this church shall be guided by Robert's Rules of Order, except when the church constitution and by-laws set forth the approved procedure.

SECTION 6

Quorum

There shall be no set quorum for business meetings. In all committees of this church, a quorum shall consist of not less than a majority of the membership of such committee and the majority vote of those present and voting shall pass the matter voted upon.

ARTICLE VI - Church Finance

SECTION 1

Budget

- (1) This church shall operate its financial affairs in accordance with a unified budget to be adopted annually. The budget shall be prepared and presented to this church in accordance with plans recommended by the finance committee and adopted by the church.
- (2) Receipts from all sources shall be kept in one of two accounts, namely budget or designated. Any designated gifts other than to causes regularly supported by this church shall be subject to church acceptance.
It shall be understood that such designated gifts are accepted unless contrary action is taken by this church.
- (3) All funds received for this church or any of its organizations shall pass through the regular financial channels and be properly recorded on the books of this church.

SECTION 2

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for this church shall begin on January 1 of each year and continue through December 31.

SECTION 3

Policies regarding expenditures

- (1) All expenditures of budget monies shall be made in accordance with the current budget and policies of this church. Designated monies shall be dispersed for the purpose stated by the giver.
- (2) Any over-expenditures of budget monies may only be made upon the approval of the finance committee.
- (3) The operating expense of all the organizations of this church shall be paid by the church treasurer in accordance with the current budget and policies of this church.

SECTION 4

Special Offerings

- (1) Each year this church shall encourage contributions to two special mission offerings: one for foreign missions, and one for home missions. Additional special offerings shall be encouraged to cover the expenses during revivals, conferences, and similar meetings.
- (2) Other special offerings may be sought by this church or by any of its organizations only upon the recommendation of the finance committee.

Article VII - Amendment

These by-laws may be rescinded, amended, or altered by a majority vote of those present and voting at any regular business meeting of this church after such changes have been read at a previous regular business meeting.

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