

# CONSTITUTION OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

## PREAMBLE

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It is the intent of this constitution to uphold, promote, and illuminate the fundamental principles of our faith and to protect equally the rights and privileges of the individual church member, as well as the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other Baptist churches and Baptist organizations.

## ARTICLE I NAME

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The name of this church shall be TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Gainesville, Texas, a Texas Corporation located at 1811 East California Street.

## ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

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To exalt the Savior by providing an attractive place and a proper form for the worship of God, thereby leading our fellowship to experience an awareness of God, to recognize His person, and to respond in obedience to His leadership.

To equip the saints by providing a fellowship which will help people grow toward Christian maturity by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

To evangelize the sinner by bearing witness of God's love for humanity and of the saving power of Jesus Christ to those in our church, community, and throughout the world.

## ARTICLE III DECLARATION OF FAITH

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The church recognizes the Holy Bible as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Our understanding of the Scriptures is in essential agreement with the most recent edition of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to a lost humanity.

As a local fellowship of believers, we at Temple Baptist Church hold to the following doctrinal beliefs and expect that all incoming members agree with the following statements of belief:

## **The Godhead (Trinity):**

We believe in the one true and living God, the Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things. God is Holy and in Him there is no sin. He is totally worthy of our worship and service. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable and is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **God the Father:**

God, as Father, reigns over His entire universe with providential care. He is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-wise. He is fatherly in attitude toward all men but is Father, indeed, to those who have become children of God through Jesus Christ, who will deliver them into the Father's hands.

*Genesis 1:1; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9; Acts 1:7; 1 Corinthians 8:6, 15:24; Ephesians 4:6*

### **God the Son, Jesus Christ:**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus, while upon the earth, was God revealed in the flesh. He was both fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life, died a substitutionary death on the cross, was resurrected bodily from the grave, ascended to heaven, and currently sits at the right hand of God. He is coming again personally and visibly to claim His bride, the Church, and will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. *Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 52:12-53:12; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 20:28; 26:37-39; John 1:1-18; 1:29-34; 10:30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14*

### **God the Holy Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with the power for living, understanding spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift(s) when they are saved to be used in ministry to others. As Christians, we seek to live daily under His control. *John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:12, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18*

### **The Bible:**

We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men were "moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. The Bible is therefore without error (inerrant) in its original manuscripts. God has supernaturally preserved the Bible and it is the sole and final authority for faith and life, providing encouragement, guidance, comfort and instruction for training in righteousness. *2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*

### **Man:**

We believe that man is made in the spiritual image and likeness of God, to be like Him in character. Man is the special creation of God. However, through the original disobedience of the first humans, mankind fell from His creator and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death. He became corrupt in his whole nature through an attitude of disobedience God calls sin. Because every person is marred by sin, all of mankind is therefore separated from God and without hope apart from salvation in Jesus Christ. *Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21*

## **Salvation:**

We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for forgiveness of sins and salvation, which is the free gift of God's grace. Salvation is affected by the regeneration work of the Holy Spirit and cannot be secured by man's works or personal merit. Salvation is only appropriated by a person placing his faith in the finished work of Christ. Once a person has trusted Christ, they are "sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption" and the Lord continually works out His salvation in Him by making them more like Himself. Salvation will, one day, be culminated when we are in Heaven with Christ. *Ephesians 1:7, 13-14; John 1:12-13; 3:1-7, 14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 1:16; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10, 4:30; Romans 8:14-17, 31-39; John 10:27-29, 14:6; Acts 26:20; 1 Peter 1:3-5*

## **The Church:**

We believe that the church (composed of all believers throughout the world) is the spiritual organism of which Christ is the Head. The local church (a portion of the body of Christ) is an autonomous (self-ruled) group of believers who have organized themselves to do the work of God's ministry. The church exists to worship God, disciple and care for believers, and to evangelize a lost world. The two church ordinances in which all believers are to participate are water baptism (by immersion) and the Lord's Supper. *Matthew 3:13-17; 16:13-19; 28:18-20; Mark 14:22-26; Acts 2:38; 8:38-39; 18:8; 20:17-18,28; Romans 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:17; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Peter 5:12*

## **Statement of Marriage and Sexuality:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **ARTICLE IV POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS**

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The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received and accepted by vote of the members shall constitute the membership. This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Cooke County Association of Southern Baptists, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## **ARTICLE V CHURCH COVENANT**

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A church is a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ joined together to exalt the Savior, equip the saints, and evangelize the sinner. In order to help us accomplish these tasks we resolve, by the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit, to:

Put Christ first in all areas of our lives by yielding totally to His Lordship and seeking His will in all that we do;

Indicate a desire to grow spiritually by learning and applying the Word of God as we maintain public, private and family times of devotions. Show our love for one another by setting a Godly example of Christian living, never involving ourselves in actions that will cause a brother or sister to stumble, governing our tongues so that they will be used for encouragement, edification and exhortation of our fellow believers and interceding for one another in prayer;

Show our love for the lost by living in such a way that they can see the Lord Jesus reflected in our lives and by sharing the gospel with them as the Holy Spirit gives us opportunities;

Show our love for our church by our faithfulness in attendance in worship and Bible study and by supporting the work of our church through our tithes and offerings;

Show our concern for the destructive nature of intoxicating drinks by discouraging excessive use.

## **ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

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Amendments to the Constitution may be presented in written form at any regularly scheduled business meeting. Once amendments have been presented in the above manner, they will be discussed in the business meeting the following month and voted on one month later without discussion. It shall take a two-thirds majority vote for the amendment to take effect.

*Revised 07/2016*

# BYLAWS OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

## ARTICLE I NAME

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The name of this church shall be TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Gainesville, Texas, a Texas Corporation located at 1811 East California Street.

## ARTICLE II POLITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

---

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received and accepted by vote of the members shall constitute the membership. This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Cooke County Association of Southern Baptists, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

## ARTICLE III CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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### *Section 1. General*

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

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership.

### *Section 2. Candidacy*

Any person may offer herself/himself as a candidate for membership in this church. All such candidates shall be presented to the church at any regular church service for membership in any of the following ways:

- 1) By profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and for baptism according to the policies of this church;
- 2) By promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church; and
- 3) By statement of prior conversion experience and New Testament baptism when no letter is obtainable.

Should there be any dissent as to any candidate, such dissent shall be referred to a membership committee appointed by the Senior Pastor for investigation and the making of a recommendation to the church within thirty (30) days. A two-thirds vote of those church members present and

voting shall be required to elect such candidates to membership.

### *Section 3. New Member Orientation*

New members of this church are encouraged to participate in new member orientation conducted by the church.

### *Section 4. Designations of Membership*

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, a roll shall be maintained under the supervision of the Church Clerk. This roll shall be updated periodically. The roll will include and designate:

- 1) Active/Resident Members: All members who reside within the Church's ministry area or are currently active in the Church. Home-bound members who are still participating in the Church's ministry through prayer and giving will be considered Active.
- 2) Inactive/Non-resident Members: Members who have not participated in the Church's ministry for a period of 1 year or more, or reside outside the Church's ministry area.

### *Section 5. Rights of Members*

- 1) Every member of the church may participate in the ordinances of the church as administered by the church.
- 2) Every Active/Resident member of the church is eligible for consideration by the membership as candidates for volunteer service in the church.
- 3) Every Active/Resident member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in conference, provided the member is present. The church may provide for absentee balloting, provided the member requests it.

### *Section 6. Termination of Membership*

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

- 1) Death of the member;
- 2) Dismissal to another Baptist church;
- 3) Exclusion by action of this church; or
- 4) Erasure upon individual's request or proof of membership in another church.

### *Section 7. Discipline*

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Senior Pastor, other members of the pastoral staff, and deacons are available for counsel and guidance.

The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment.

When a member of the church family deliberately and continuously pursues an activity such that the cause of Christ is hindered by their identification with the local church, the church will exercise New Testament discipline. The pastoral staff and the deacons will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5, and Galatians 6:1. If it becomes necessary for the church to take action to exclude a member, a two-thirds vote of the members present is required; the church may then declare the person to no longer be in the membership of the church. The church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by a two-thirds vote of the church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

The action to exclude or to restore will take place at any regularly scheduled business meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and love.

## **ARTICLE IV CHURCH OFFICERS**

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### *Section 1. Senior Pastor*

The Senior Pastor serves as the spiritual leader of the church under the headship of Jesus Christ. The Senior Pastor is responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament Church. The Senior Pastor will lead the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their tasks. Additionally, the Senior Pastor is the leader of pastoral ministries in the church, and as such, he works with the deacons and church staff to: (1) lead the church in performing her tasks, (2) lead the church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry, and application, (3) proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, and (4) care for the church's members and other persons in the community. His specific responsibilities are contained in the Personnel Policies as adopted by the church.

### *Section 2. Deacons*

The office of Deacon is one of honor and responsibility and should be considered and accepted with great seriousness and awe. The Deacons shall be considered as a "fellowship of spiritual advisors and servants of the church". Their principal position is to advise and serve. The responsibilities of a Deacon are threefold. They are as follows:

- 1) To assist the Senior Pastor in ministering to the needs of the people through concerned action as evidenced by their involvement in the Deacon Family Ministry Plan;
- 2) To advise, counsel, and support the church concerning spiritual matters; and
- 3) To advise, counsel, and support the church staff, and the church on the functional aspects of church programs.

There shall be two classifications of Deacons: Active and Emeritus

The Active group shall consist of those Deacons elected by the church to serve. To be an active Deacon, a man must indicate a willingness to serve by his involvement in the Deacon Family Ministry



Plan. The Emeritus group shall consist of those Deacons who have faithfully served and, due to age, health reasons, or personal reasons request retirement from the Active group.

In order to minister to the needs of the church effectively the Deacon body shall consist of one Deacon for every twenty to thirty church members. This number shall be maintained in the following ways:

- 1) A man who has been ordained a Deacon in a previous church and has been a member of Temple Baptist Church for one year, shall be interviewed by a screening committee consisting of the;
  - a) Senior Pastor
  - b) Deacon Chairman
  - c) two Deacons appointed by the Senior Pastor and approved by the church.

The purpose of this interview shall be to determine the qualifications and willingness of the man to serve as a Deacon.

- 2) As needed, new Deacons shall be selected according to the following manner. The Senior Pastor, in consultation with the Deacon body, shall determine the number of Deacons the church needs to select. The church body will then be asked to submit the names of four men, not presently serving as a Deacon, they consider qualified to serve as a Deacon. The qualifications for Deacon shall be those listed in Acts 6: 1-6 and I Timothy 3:8-13. This submission will be done by secret ballot. To assist the church body a list of all men serving as either Active Deacon or Deacon Emeritus shall be given to the church members. The counting of the ballots shall be done by a committee appointed by the Senior Pastor at the time of election.

The names of the men nominated will be submitted to the above listed screening committee to determine their qualifications and willingness to serve. The man receiving the most nominations shall be interviewed first and then the man with the second most nominations. This process shall be repeated until the number of Deacons needed have been selected. Those men selected shall then be presented to the church for ordination. A date for ordination will then be set by the church.

### *Section 3. Moderator*

The moderator of the business meetings shall be the Senior Pastor. When the Senior Pastor is absent he will appoint a member of the pastoral staff to serve as moderator. In the absence of all pastoral staff, chairman of the deacons shall serve as moderator.

### *Section 4. Trustees*

A minimum of three (3) trustees shall be elected by the church from the church body. Authority shall include signing legal instruments affecting the church and its property. Such signatures shall be as trustees, and not as individuals. Form and content of the documents shall be the responsibility of the trustees. All acts of the trustees relating to the church shall be only as properly directed by the church membership.

### *Section 5. Clerk*

The church clerk, elected annually, shall keep a written record of all church business actions including but not limited to supervising the maintenance of the church membership lists. The church moderator may appoint a temporary substitute in case of absence from a church business session.

### *Section 6. Treasurer*

Financial Secretary shall serve as Church Treasurer and will establish and maintain the accounting records of the church. This person will supervise the distribution of funds according to church policy and budget guidelines. The treasurer will supervise the development of all financial reports and statements, and will keep the church mindful of its financial condition. The complete treasurer job description shall be maintained by the Personnel Committee as approved by the Church.

## **ARTICLE V CHURCH PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

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### *Section 1. Senior Pastor*

The Senior Pastor may relinquish the office of Senior Pastor by giving at least two weeks-notice to the church before terminating his responsibilities as pastor.

The church may declare the office of Senior Pastor to be vacant. Such action will take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's written notice has been given to the Active/Resident membership. The meeting may be called upon the recommendation of a two-thirds majority of the active deacons or by a written petition signed by not less than one-tenth of the resident church members. The moderator for this meeting shall be the chairman of deacons or in his absence shall be designated by the members present by majority vote, and shall be someone other than the Senior Pastor. The vote to declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of the majority of the members present shall be necessary to declare the office vacant. The Senior Pastor so excluded from office will be compensated by the church for not less than one-twelfth of his annual total compensation. The termination shall be immediate, and the compensation shall be rendered within thirty (30) days.

When the office of Senior Pastor becomes vacant a five (5) member Pastor Search Committee consisting of three (3) men and two (2) women or three (3) women and two (2) men shall be elected by the church. This committee shall be responsible for recommending a pastoral candidate to the church.

When the committee is ready to make its recommendation, a two (2) weeks-notice shall be given to the church stating that a pastoral candidate is coming to preach in view of a call on the specified date. The pastoral candidate invited to come shall preach at both the morning and evening worship services. The pastoral candidate shall be voted upon at time specified by the Pastor Search Committee not exceeding one week after the Sunday evening service. The vote shall be by secret ballot with an eighty-five percent (85%) affirmative vote required to constitute a call. Those church members not able to be present for this business meeting may obtain an absentee ballot from the church office.

## *Section 2. Associate Pastoral Staff*

Associate Pastors such as Education, Worship, Youth, Senior Adults and other pastoral staff will be recommended by a search committee, consisting of three (3) men and two (2) women or three (3) women and two (2) men who shall be elected by the church.

The vote on a candidate recommended by the search committee, shall be by secret ballot with an eighty-five percent (85%) affirmative vote required to constitute a call. Those church members not able to be present for this business meeting may obtain an absentee ballot from the church office.

The personnel committee will perform annual reviews of all pastoral staff members. The purpose of the reviews is to discern both excellences and discrepancies in performance. In the event of a performance discrepancy, prayerfully the personnel committee, in coordination with the Senior Pastor, will establish goals and/or corrective actions to be implemented with the affected staff member.

If the Senior Pastor identifies an incident of non-compliance or violation of church policies by a staff member, he will request the wisdom and guidance of the deacon body. The Senior Pastor will ask them to council with said staff member and recommend a corrective action up to and including a recommendation of termination of employment.

If the Senior Pastor becomes aware of a sinful activity committed by a pastoral staff member such that the cause of Christ is hindered by their identification with the local church, the Senior Pastor:

- 1) May suspend the staff member and restrict said staff member from access to the church facility. Until final resolution, staff member will receive regular pay and benefits.
- 2) Shall notify the Chairman of the Deacons and establish a committee of deacons to address the issue. The committee of deacons will investigate the offending act, attempt to meet with the staff member and will report back to the full deacon body within one week. Following this report, the deacon body will:
  - a) Determine that the alleged act of the staff member was not true or not in violation of church policy;
  - b) Determine that the alleged act of the staff member was an act in violation of church policy and recommend immediate corrective action to prevent further violations; Or
  - c) Determine that the alleged act of the staff member was an act in direct conflict with church policies and recommend to the church body that the staff member be terminated from employment.

## *Section 3. Other Church Staff*

Other church staff, as necessary to fulfill the churches function, shall be employed, terminated, or granted leave of absence upon recommendation of the personnel committee or the Senior Pastor and appropriate supervising staff member.

#### *Section 4.*

Church personnel shall be governed by a personnel manual developed by the personnel committee and approved by the church. The personnel manual shall conform to the Constitution and Bylaws. Where any conflict between the personnel manual and Constitution and Bylaws exists, the Constitution and Bylaws shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES**

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The church shall maintain the necessary standing and special committees to conduct the ministry of the church. The committee members shall serve on a three (3) year rotation basis with approximately one-third of the members elected each year. Committee members will normally serve one three-year term. However, if the need arises, members may be recommended for reelection to one subsequent term. After two consecutive three year terms, the member is not eligible for reelection until after one year of absence from the committee. Committee members who are elected to fill an unfinished term may be recommended for reelection to a full three-year term. All Standing Committee members shall be recommended by the Committee on Committees and elected by the church, with the exception of the Committee on Committees which shall be recommended and elected by the church. The committees shall function within the church calendar-year except for the Committee on Committees which shall function according to the Sunday School year. The committees shall operate according to the guidelines and job descriptions established by the Committee on Committees and approved by the church.

## **ARTICLE VII CHURCH PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS**

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The church shall maintain programs necessary to fulfill the church's objectives. The church shall provide the human resources, the physical resources and the financial resources for the appropriate advancement of these programs.

## **ARTICLE VIII CHURCH ORDINANCES**

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#### *Section 1. Baptism*

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who professes Him publicly at any worship service, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

- 1) Baptism shall be by immersion in water.
- 2) The Senior Pastor, or whomever he authorizes, shall administer baptism.
- 3) Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the church.
- 4) Any person who professes Christ and is not baptized after a reasonable length of time shall

be counseled by the Senior Pastor and/or pastoral staff. If negative interest is ascertained on the part of the candidate, he or she shall be deleted from those awaiting baptism.

### *Section 2. The Lord's Supper*

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper at least quarterly. The Senior Pastor or a member of the pastoral staff and the deacons shall administer the Lord's Supper.

## **ARTICLE IX CHURCH MEETINGS**

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### *Section 1. Worship Services*

The church shall meet each Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening, for the worship of Almighty God. Prayer, praise, preaching, instruction, and evangelism shall be among the ingredients of these services. The Senior Pastor or pastoral staff shall direct the services for all the church members and for all others who may choose to attend.

### *Section 2. Special Services*

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

### *Section 3. Regular Business Meetings*

The church shall hold regular business meetings monthly on a designated Wednesday night.

### *Section 4. Special Business Meetings*

The church may conduct called business meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. A one-week notice must be given for the specially-called business meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. The notice shall include the subject, date, time, and place; and it must be given in such a manner that all active/resident members have an opportunity to know of the meeting.

### *Section 5. Quorum*

The quorum shall consist of those members who attend the business meeting provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called.

### *Section 6. Parliamentary Rules*

Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the church.

## **ARTICLE X CHURCH FINANCES**

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The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff, department heads, committee chairpersons, and others having budget requests, shall prepare and submit to the church for approval a budget, indicating by items the amount needed and sought for all local and other expenses. The proposed budget is to be distributed to the church members no later than the 1st Sunday in November. Discussion concerning the proposed budget is to be held at the regularly scheduled November business meeting. The proposed budget is to be voted upon, without discussion, following the morning worship service of the next Sunday.

The Finance Committee shall assure a system of accountability for the receipt of all contributions. The committee will arrange for an audit of financial records at least once every three years.

## **ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS**

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Amendments to the Bylaws may be presented in written form at any regularly scheduled business meeting. Once amendments have been presented in the above manner, they will be discussed in the business meeting the following month and voted on one month later without discussion. It shall take a two-thirds majority vote for the amendment to take effect.

*Revised 07/2016*